

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022
GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM

The Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Lisa Uribe Harbeck at 6:04 p.m.

Committee members present: Trustee Lisa Uribe Harbeck, Trustee Dave Antoine, Trustee Jim Miller, Jeff Thoma, and Bob Wolf

Staff present: Police Chief Jeff Caponera, Assistant Chief Emmett Grissom, Fire Chief William Rice, and Administrative Assistant Clarissa Allen

Others present: Police and Fire Commission President Paul Moroder, Kristyn Halbig Ziehm of Ozaukee Press

APPROVAL OF MAY 10, 2022 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to approve the May 10, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Trustee Harbeck read a letter to the committee from Trustee Amy Luft, which was addressed to Chief Caponera and Chief Rice, stating:

“Dear Chief Caponera and Chief Rice, On behalf of the Sweat4Vets committee, I would like to express my gratitude for all that your teams did to make our walk on May 21st a success. It is reassuring to know that our 500+ participants were kept safe during the event and that groups like yours are supporting this great cause. This was our 5th event and we have now raised more than \$80,000 for veterans since our inception in 2016. This is especially noteworthy considering we have not had an event the last two years. The mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support our veterans, military and our community. None of this would be possible without your partnership. Thank you again for all that you do for our veterans and our community. Signed, Amy Luft, Sweat4Vets Coordinator, Grafton American Legion Auxiliary”

Susan Katzban, 1987 Cedar Drive, Susan Katzban advised she would like to discuss safety concerns at the crossing of Cedar Drive and Falls Road. Ms. Katzban advised that very little has been done to address this issue. Last year new crosswalk lines were painted, but have since faded. There is more traffic in the area due to new home building. All the neighbors have experienced problems with crossing safely, with cars speeding down the hill, making it almost impossible to cross safely. Some residents no longer cross the street, and choose to only walk on Cedar Drive. Ms. Katzban advised that last year a sign was supposed to be placed in the middle of the roadway bringing attention to the crossing, which has not been installed yet.

Deanne Gehrke, 1976 Cedar Drive, Deanne Gehrke came to a meeting several years ago regarding this problem, advising that the crosswalk has been painted with poor paint, and crosswalk signs were installed but are behind trees. Ms. Gehrke has called to have the tree trimmed or removed but is experiencing resistance to solving the problem. Ms. Gehrke advised that when standing at the end of Cedar Drive, you cannot see beyond 16th Avenue which means that cars cannot see people standing in the crosswalk to cross.

Michelle Rindt, 1956 Cedar Drive, Michelle Rindt advises she has grandchildren and uses a wagon to cross them in which is very dangerous and difficult to do. There is no sidewalk on the south side of the street, so you need to cross over to the other side of Falls Road to use the sidewalk when walking across the bridge. Vehicles are always speeding. Ms. Rindt has noticed the police monitoring the area, but knows they cannot be there all the time.

Nadine Butler, 1977 Cedar Drive, Nadine Butler crosses Cedar Drive frequently with her dog, and has experienced vehicles speeding in the area. She has also had to wave at cars so they can see her crossing.

Aimee Lempke, 1998 Cedar Drive, Aimee Lempke advised that she has lived in the area for 15 years, and this has been an issue since they moved into their house. When her son was younger he fell from his bicycle in the roadway, and cars did not stop, they drove around him as he was lying in the road. Ms. Lempke advised that she has almost been rear-ended on several occasions while turning onto Cedar Drive by vehicles speeding down the hill on Falls Road. Ms. Lempke stated that the crosswalk is an issue, speeding is an issue, and the yield sign in the area is ineffective. She does not feel that it is safe for her children to be driving in this area. Ms. Lempke asked what it will take for something to get done about this, advising that she has been told by Village officials that solutions were cost prohibited.

John Katzban, 1987 Cedar Drive, John Katzban advised there are a number of safety items that could be installed at this intersection, such as solar powered lights to draw attention to the crosswalk, better grades of paint, and numerous ways to upgrade the intersection.

Trustee Harbeck advised that Police Chief Jeff Caponera will put this item onto the agenda for the July 12, 2022 Public Safety Committee meeting, where it will be discussed. Chief Caponera advised that a speed recording device has been installed in this area which will report trends of traffic in the area, such as speeds of vehicles and when the busiest traffic times are. Chief Caponera also advised that he has already contacted Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Amber Thomas to discuss the situation. Additional information will be provided at next month's meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Police Chief Jeff Caponera indicated he was requested by Trustee Antoine to bring additional information to the committee regarding requested building improvements, and also what the priority of these requests are, specifically inquiring about the locker room improvements. Chief Caponera advised that since last month's discussion on the Capital Improvement Plan, Village Administrator Jesse Thyges and Finance Director Paul Styduhar have made decisions on moving forward with the CIP. The locker room was pushed back to 2024; however, during the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting the possibility of using ARPA funds for this project will be discussed. Chief Caponera also had Pete Knauer from Department of Public

Works inspect both locker rooms with Pete Knauer advising that the \$50,000 estimated on the CIP for the upgrade to the locker rooms was greatly under estimated.

Other items requested for building improvements are \$16,100 for building structural repairs, and \$50,000 for renovation of the firing range. \$25,000 of the \$50,000 needed for the firing range renovation has been donated. The cost of the firing range renovation would be split between 2023 and 2024. Chief Caponera advised he is also looking into possible grant opportunities through organizations such as the National Rifle Association. Chief Caponera advised that the priority of these projects are as listed in the IFC. Trustee Harbeck pointed out that her CIP list shows that the locker rooms were moved from 2023 to 2027; Chief Caponera was not aware of this.

Trustee Harbeck questioned if the \$25,000 donation for the firing range would be about half of the cost, with Chief Caponera advising yes. Trustee Harbeck asked if the remaining \$25,000 would be split over two years, \$12,500 for each year. Chief Caponera advised that the remaining \$25,000 due would come out of one year. Chief Caponera also advised that the Department Firearms Instructor had received the quotes for this renovation; however, they were rough quotes for the project, so dollar amounts could change.

Trustee Harbeck is concerned about the sewer gas and drainage issues in the locker rooms. Assistant Police Chief Emmett Grissom advised this has been a problem for many years. Pete Knauer from Department of Public Works does come in about once per month to do maintenance on the sewer to try to keep the sewer gas smell down, adding that there is not a lot of water flow in the drains, so the pipes dry out. There is also a lack of hot water to the locker rooms. Trustee Harbeck advised that possibly a plumber should be contacted to analyze the problems with the sewer and drains. Chief Caponera advised that there is also a concern of bacteria building up in the locker rooms due to poor ventilation. The locker rooms are used to store body armor and bacteria can be harmful to the armor plates. Trustee Harbeck asked if the vests could be placed in the sun to cut down on any bacteria that may form, with Chief Caponera advising that heat can damage the armor and the vests, so that is not recommended.

Trustee Antoine inquired what the cost of cleaning the firing range is. Chief Caponera advised that it costs approximately \$2,500 every two years. The Police Department is also working with area agencies who use the range, to establish fees which would help offset this cost.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION

Chief Caponera advised that there is a small fitness room in the Police Department, which contains used workout equipment which was donated over the years. Recently staff members who were using the treadmill, indicated that it was no longer safe to use. Chief Caponera reached out to Dick's Sporting Goods to gather cost estimates for a commercial grade treadmill which would be included in the upcoming budget process. Subsequently, Dick's store manager reached out to Chief Caponera advising that Dick's was offering to donate a treadmill to the department. The treadmill is valued at \$2,000.00.

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded by Trustee Miller, to recommend the Village Board approve the acceptance of the donation of a Nordic Track treadmill to the Police Department from Dick's Sporting Goods. Motion carried.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

Trustee Miller requested Chief Caponera to provide information on the potential for an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) position. Chief Caponera advised that the Department is applying for a grant through the COPS office, for an additional SRO that would be dedicated solely to the elementary schools, as well as the parochial schools. The grant application needs to be filed by June 17, 2022, with the outcome not being known until August or September of 2022. The grant will pay 75% of the salary for three years. The Grafton School District would contribute 10% of the remaining salary and the Police Department would pick up the difference. The National School Resource Association recommends one SRO for every 1,000 students and staff. With this added SRO, Officer Tony Alfonsi would maintain the SRO position at the high school. School Superintendent Jeff Nelson advised there are 2,500 children within the school district. Trustee Miller questioned if this included the children at the private schools, with Chief Caponera advising it does not.

Trustee Harbeck inquired where this would fit into the budget after the initial three years is completed. Chief Caponera advised that he spoke with Administrator Thyges and Director Styduhar regarding the funding, advising that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would be entered into with the Grafton School District, as well as a separate MOU with the parochial schools. The Grafton School District has agreed to move forward with another SRO with the same understanding as the current SRO MOU.

Trustee Harbeck asked if the private schools have security, with Chief Caponera advising that this is a question to be answered by those schools. Chief Caponera does have a meeting set up next month with St. Paul's School to discuss school security. Sergeant Lawrenz and Officer Alfonsi have also worked with the private schools, providing active shooter training.

Trustee Harbeck inquired if the Police Department gets to utilize the SRO during the summer months. Chief Caponera explained that the SRO can assist on the patrol schedule during the summer when there are no students. Due to the SRO's schedule during the school year, the SRO does tend to use accumulated comp time and vacation during the summer since he is required to be at school during the school year.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FOR GRAFTON K9 FOUNDATION

Chief Caponera advised that a \$10.00 check was received by the Police Department, with a note attached that it is a donation to the K9 program. Because the check is endorsed to the Police Department, approval is needed to be able to transfer it as a donation to the K9 Foundation. Trustee Harbeck advised that it seems like the foundation has been raising funds for a year now, and requested to know what the status of the program is. Chief Caponera advised that the K9 Foundation recently was granted 501(c)3 status, so some donors have been waiting to donate until this occurred. The Grafton K9 Foundation has a meeting this Thursday, June 16, 2022 at the Police Department. All interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

Motion by Trustee Miller, seconded by Trustee Antoine, to recommend the Village Board approve the acceptance of the donation of \$10.00 to be applied toward the Grafton K9 Foundation. Motion carried.

KITCHEN REMODEL UPDATE

Fire Chief William Rice distributed a quote that was just received yesterday, June 13, 2022, from Fein Brothers. Chief Rice advised that the back page shows the diagram of the proposed kitchen, which does not resemble what was discussed with the designer. Chief Rice is very frustrated with the process, as he does not have the needed time to put into this project. Chief Rice advised he will probably be looking for another company to provide a quote for the project. The quote from Fein Brothers is for \$83,318, which was more than anticipated. Trustee Harbeck inquired if this quote included the alarm system, which Chief Rice advised did not. The alarm system would need to be quoted by another company, and is anticipated to be just under \$100,000. Chief Rice advised that the current project design provided by Fein Brothers does not include any cabinets, and only offers stainless steel tables. Chief Rice advised that unfortunately the current alarm system cannot be updated due to the age of the system; a whole new system is needed. The hood vent that is needed would resemble a restaurant hood, having an exhaust system that vents through the roof. Trustee Miller inquired if Chief Rice will be looking for another vendor, which Chief Rice advises he will be. There is another vendor right here in Grafton; however, that vendor is advising there is a year and a half wait for an estimate. Chief Rice advised that a project manager on staff would help to expedite this project; however, he and Assistant Chief Matt Karpinski are trying to handle it on their own.

CURRENT PARTNERSHIP WITH SAUKVILLE AND POSSIBLE CONSOLIDATION

Chief Rice advised the day to day operations with Saukville Fire Department are steady and largely working out well. There are small problems from time to time, but they are making great headway. All training between the two departments is done jointly. Regarding the 2022 budget for Saukville Fire Department, they are committed to two fulltime Firefighter / Paramedic positions, but are struggling to staff the ambulance. One person has already resigned; however, another was hired last night to fill that vacancy.

Chief Rice reported that there was a recent consolidation meeting that Trustee Harbeck and Trustee Delorit attended with him. The meeting was with the Village of Grafton, Village of Saukville, City and Town of Cedarburg, and Port Washington. This was the second meeting of this group, with more elected officials attending this meeting. A lot was accomplished in the 40 minute meeting. Challenges that lie ahead, as well as differences of opinion are more apparent, with each community having its own priorities. Chief Rice does not know where the consolidation will go, or what staffing will look like for the Fire Departments. It is likely that this will need to go to referendum for staffing of the future departments. It is still unclear what the use of county ARPA funds will look like, as the Sheriff discussed hiring staff to staff the central departments. If departments combine, they can qualify for more funding, some of which can be used for building improvements. Chief Rice advised that there is now a deadline in place for the planning, which will likely result in a MOU between the Village of Grafton, and three other departments, saying that they intend to consolidate; however, Chief Rice is still waiting for these details.

Trustee Antoine inquired about the new Firefighter position for the Grafton Fire Department, and if someone would be hired in July. Chief Rice advised that the hiring process for the Saukville Fire Department took a lot of his time, and there were not a lot of people who applied for that position. Trustee Harbeck asked if the lack of interest was due to the pay, with Chief Rice advising that pay may be related to the problem, as well as the younger generation having different priorities, and possibly not willing to work 24 hour shifts.

REPORT OF MAY ACTIVITY AND BENCHMARK SUMMARY, HOUR OF DAY REPORT, AND OVERTIME – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Caponera advised there are not a lot of changes, calls for service have increased over last year, with officer initiated calls being lower, and citizen initiated calls increasing. There were 1,270 calls for service in May of 2022. Response times are still under two minutes, at 1.58 minutes. NIBRS reporting is now being used for reporting crimes, which is a different type of reporting method, which can show difference between last year and this year. Trustee Antoine requested that the prior year's year to date comparison be added to the benchmark report. Chief Caponera went over the hour of day report, noting daytime is the busiest call for service time. Chief Caponera advised there has been a small uptick in overtime in the training category, as in-service training has begun. Manpower shortage year to date is at 95 hours, versus 339 hours last year. The 12 hour schedule has contributed to decreased overtime. A new policy allowing officers to increase the amount of time accumulated in comp banks, has also reduced the amount of pay overtime. Trustee Miller questioned what the training overtime was for, which Chief Caponera explained was for succession planning and professional development, FBI LEEDA classes for supervisors, and the annual in-service training. Trustee Miller asked if the 2020 overtime hours were relevant, and Chief Caponera advised they were as that would show what overtime was at prior to the inception of 12 hour shifts.

REPORT OF MAY BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS – FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Rice summarized that compared to last year, fire calls are currently up by 23, EMS calls are up by 68, and motor vehicle crashes are down by four, with overall calls being increased by 83. Chief Rice advised that there continues to be an increase in call volume on the Fire Department. Chief Rice also summarized the mutual aid responses listed on the benchmark report. Trustee Miller inquired if the Fire Department responded to Milwaukee for any calls recently, with Chief Rice advising they are usually not requested to respond to Milwaukee for calls. Jeff Thoma inquired about the types of calls the fire department responded to for the 23 additional fire calls in May. Chief Rice advised they were not working fires, but could have been for a grill smoking, or fire alarms. Not all fire calls are working fires.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Caponera advised there is a lot going on at the Police Department and wished to share a Flock Safety Camera success story. Chief Caponera explained that about a month and a half ago, prior to Port Washington having Flock cameras installed, there had been a Silver Alert issued for an elderly female. It was found that she had traveled through Port Washington undetected, entering I43, and getting into a serious accident. Fast forward to now, when Port Washington had Flock cameras installed. Another Silver Alert was received from the Department of Justice for an elderly person from Brookfield who was missing. The Grafton Police Department crime analyst was able to enter the license plate of the vehicle being driven, into the Flock Camera System, locating the vehicle and tracking it to a location in Port Washington. Port Washington Police were notified of this and located the vehicle, reuniting the elderly subject with their family. This is made possible by a large network now utilizing the Flock Camera System. Chief Caponera recognizes that Grafton was the starting point for the Flock Camera System here in Wisconsin, and in Milwaukee alone there are

now more than 200 cameras that users can share. This effort has made a significant difference in crime prevention and locating missing persons.

Chief Caponera updated the committee that there is a K9 meeting scheduled for Thursday at 5:00 pm, which is open to the public. It will be held in the training room at the Police Department. There will be a treasury report update, and discussion about website development for the K9 Foundation. Chief Caponera has been working with several agencies to develop a position announcement for internal posting, which lists the requirements and commitment to the position, which is a seven year commitment. Chief Caponera is also working with the Villages employment law attorney to discuss FSLA requirements, as well as the upcoming bargaining agreement. Progress is being made to ensure that the program will be successful and sustainable. CKC Graphics located in Grafton, has donated posters for the K9 Foundation, which may be seen in the upcoming weeks, around Grafton. Trustee Miller asked if there is a target date for obtaining the K9, with Chief advising he hopes to have the program in place by the end of the year, but it will depend on the financial status of the program, as well as having the handler and supervisor in place.

Chief Caponera was asked to update the committee regarding the department's accreditation goals. Chief Caponera advised that there is a grant available through the COPS Grant for an accreditation manager which he will be applying for. This person may be hired from outside, or could be an internal candidate. Chief Caponera has decided that the Department will also become nationally accredited along with being state accredited. The benefits of accreditation are increased recruitment and retention, as well as public trust, legitimacy of programs that we implement, and decreased insurance premiums. Some insurance carriers will also cover the cost of the dues for accreditation. As part of President Biden's police reform measures, it will become necessary to be nationally accredited to be able to receive federal grants. The accreditation process takes 18-24 months, with one large aspect of the process being completed already which was developing and implementing all new policies.

Chief Caponera updated the committee that the evidence room update will be brought back to the Finance Committee, requesting reallocation of capital funds for this project. Initially the request was for \$55,500, and has now been revised to \$41,700. There are requirements for storage of sexual assault kits, as well as other evidence items that require a refrigerator and freezer. These items have been revised into the new requested amount for the upgrade. Also added is an incinerator that will allow evidence to be purged on site, where in the past it would need to be transported by two employees, to an offsite location for destruction. Chief Caponera also advised that the HVAC system in the evidence room is also recommended to have its own ventilation system under the guidelines of the International Association of Property and Evidence. It would need to be vented directly outside with independent heating and cooling units from the rest of the building. Also revised were the storage cabinets for drugs. Trustee Antoine asked if all this was for the price of \$41,700, with Chief Caponera advising yes. Trustee Harbeck asked if this will come back to the committee, with Chief Caponera advising that it will after Finance approves the reallocation of the funds.

Chief Caponera updated the committee regarding the crosswalk complaints on Cedar Drive, advising that he will be following up with Director Thomas. Chief Caponera will see that the trees get trimmed, and has also set up the radar box which will analyze the area.

Chief Caponera advised that the Giro D' Grafton is this Saturday. He wishes to commend the staff who worked on organizing the security for this event, especially Sergeant Eernisse, who is planning this event for the first time. The security plan for the event is solid, and will be followed for years down the road. There will be a debriefing after the event to discuss any changes for future years. Trustee Harbeck inquired if there was any grant money for this event, with Chief Caponera advising no. Chief Caponera advised that area Departments are assisting the Grafton Police Department during the event, and this will be reciprocated when they have events. Also, the Holiday event is coming up in a few weeks, with Sergeants Eernisse and Morton organizing this event as well. There will likely be a similar security plan in place as for the Giro D' Grafton.

Chief Caponera advised that the grants he is working on currently are for the School Resource Officer, Accreditation Manager, Firehouse Subs for a driving simulator, and WE Energies for a treadmill which was withdrawn once the treadmill was received from Dick's Sporting Goods.

Chief Caponera advised that there was just an article in the News Graphic regarding fuel consumption. As of May 31, 2022 approximately 54 percent of the Department's fuel budget has been used. During the 2022 budget process the Department had requested \$44,000 for fuel for 2022, with finance cutting it back to \$38,000. The Department is currently on pace to exceed this amount by \$10,000. Chief Caponera has asked officers not to let squads idle unless necessary. Chief Caponera advised that on the table for discussion is the possibility of having two officers patrol in one squad, which would affect call response times. Trustee Miller asked if he sees two squads parked somewhere meeting, are their squads still idling. Chief Caponera advised that they likely would be to keep air conditioning running, and also as a safety mechanism while they occupy the squad. The no idling recommendation is meant for when they are not in their cars. Trustee Miller advised that the fuel prices are affecting all departments, and inquired about the fuel mileage of the Tahoe's versus the Explorer. Chief Caponera advised that when the Tahoe's are not being driven heavily, the engine will only utilize four cylinders instead of all eight, which does cut back on fuel usage. Chief Caponera advised that the Department will now be tracking fuel mileage by having the officers enter the mileage when fueling up the vehicles. Trustee Miller advised that the article quotes Chief Caponera as saying that we are at the mercy of failed policies at the federal level and must adapt; Trustee Miller advised Chief Caponera that this was an inappropriate comment and that Chief Caponera should stay out of the politics of things. Chief Caponera advised that his statement was true, and that he is being transparent. Again, Trustee Miller advised that he felt the comment was inappropriate and political.

Chief Caponera advised that the alarm ordinance is currently at the Village Attorney for review. Panhandling was added to the solicitor ordinance as well. Both of these revised ordinances should be ready for the committee to review in the near future.

The annual crossing guard appreciation breakfast was yesterday which went well. The crossing guards wished to thank the board for their recent pay increases.

Chief Caponera also advised that on today's date, himself, Detective Justin Gehm, and Neighborhood Services Liaison Bill Schmitz attended a Senior Citizen event held at the Grafton High School. A booth was set up for the Department which talked about crime prevention measures for the seniors.

Chief Caponera reminded the committee that tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at the Police Department is the quarterly business crime watch group meeting.

Trustee Harbeck advised Chief Caponera that she frequently notices a vehicle that parks fairly close to the new crosswalk installed on 17th Avenue at Centennial Park. Chief Caponera advised that he has also noted this and has already reached out to Director Thomas to have a sign posted regarding the parking restriction for the crosswalk. Trustee Harbeck also commented that she was recently at Family Sharing and the new parking restriction in that area seems to be working out well.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Nothing to report.

ADJOURN

Motion by Trustee Antoine, seconded Jeff Thoma to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.
Motion carried.