MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 5, 2015
GERMANTOWN VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. by Chairman Hughes.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Hughes, Trustees Daniels, Miller and Warren were present.

Also present were Police Chief Hoell, Fire Chief Weiss and Deputy Fire Chief Maury.

PUBLIC COMMENT: no discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: a motion was made by Warren, seconded by Daniels, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2014 Public Safety Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Daniels, seconded by Warren, to first discuss Item A under New Business, Urban Coyote Population. Motion carried unanimously.

URBAN COYOTE POPULATION – POLICE DEPARTMENT: Hoell advised that a resident of Germantown had brought forward some concerns to their trustee regarding the rise in coyote population in the Village. Hoell stated he had included information in the meeting packet on what other communities had done when similar concerns arose and included information from the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, Milwaukee County Parks, City of Mequon, Village of Bayside, Greenfield, River Hills, City of Burlington, Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, Professional Wildlife Removal and the Humane Society of the U.S. There was information on trapping, relocating, euthanization, and coexisting with a coyote population. Hoell also advised that Tom Isaac, a Wildlife Biologist with the Department of Natural Resources, was present and would be able to assist with any questions from the public regarding this matter.

Pete and Michelle Kellner of N101 W16649 Gunflint Trail were present indicated that coyote sightings were becoming more numerous and wanted to make sure the public was educated on how to live with coyotes in residential areas. Mr. Kellner made some suggestions on how residents can make an area less attractive to coyotes such as:

- Don't feed them
- Don't have food accessible in outdoor areas
- If coyotes are seen, make loud noises which will help drive them away
- The Village could clear out brushy areas near ponds which attract water fowl and coyotes

Mrs. Kellner stated she also has concerns about pets and small children as the coyotes seem to be getting bolder.

Tom Isaac stated he has lived in Germantown for 25 years and agrees with much of what was suggested. He said that 25 years ago the coyote population in southeastern Wisconsin was minimal but has grown to a population of thousands. Isaac advised that different communities have tried proactive measures, some which have proven to be counter-

productive. He added that trapping and removing some may just encourage others to move in and this can result in bolder, more aggressive coyotes coming into an area which was recently cleared. Isaac stated that he agreed with Mr. Kellner's suggestions and said there is a more current fact sheet on the DNR's website with additional information. He went on to say that residents should never feed the coyotes, they should harass them as much as possible, and they should keep an eye on small pets. Regarding the habitat modifications, he advised this can be difficult to do in wetland areas. He also stated that landowners can hunt coyotes year round without a license but would need to contact their municipality to notify them of their intent to hunt.

Discussion followed with Miller stating he has observed coyotes in the area where he resides and had discussed this matter with residents living in the area of Yorktown and Revere who confirmed numerous sightings of coyotes. He added that educating the public seems to be the best option available. Hoell advised there have been no incidents involving coyotes reported to the police department. Daniels questioned whether there are any DNR grants available for habitat control, Isaac responded that he was not aware of any. Warren asked about population thresholds, Isaac talked about population numbers and how they follow a natural course of increase and decrease. Hughes advised that getting the information out to the public seemed to be the best course of action since eradication is likely not a possibility, and requested that village directors get the information out using social media and village websites. Hughes added that this issue could be revisited in 6 months to a year for an update. Isaac added that would be a good start and they could provide a link to the DNR website. Hoell stated there was a department head meeting the following day and he would pass on this information and have the links ready for the department heads.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Hoell reported on the following:

- Crime alert issued for daytime burglaries where suspects would knock on doors first to see if anyone was home, the detective bureau is investigating and making good progress.
- Mequon K-9 Vero had been recently put down due to failing health and the department had provided a police escort to the veterinarian's office.
- A Silver Alert was issued by the department for the first time, grid searches were done and the information was posted on Facebook, the missing subject was located.
- The department Christmas tree was found to have a diamond ring left on one of the branches, the department was attempting to locate the owner.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Weiss reported on the following:

- EMS calls were up 7% from the previous year
- Fire calls were up 29% from the previous year
- 211 fire inspections were done during the months of November and they met their goal of completing all inspections before the end of the year
- Response times remain about the same
- Weekend staff was working on Knox Box maintenance
- Reimbursement was received for diesel fuel cleanup from an accident
- There was good input from their monthly Quality Assurance meeting

OVERTIME REPORTS FOR POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

Hoell advised that when the state aid reimbursements are figured into the budget numbers, the department will be substantially under budget. He added that some of the line item numbers will look like they are over for the year when they were actually covered by grants.

Weiss advised their end-of-year numbers have the same issue with some expenses covered by grants. He added that overtime should be significantly reduced on upcoming overtime reports.

POLICY UPDATES: Hoell advised the police department had none at this time. Weiss stated the fire department was currently working on some new policies which would be forthcoming. Warren requested that copies are provided to the committee members in advance so they have a chance to review them prior to the meetings.

WEEKEND STAFFING UPDATE – FIRE DEPARTMENT: Weiss updated the committee on the department's staffing changes and advised that since the weekend staffing was not funded for this year they had to make some drastic changes. They are now running a two person ambulance for 12 hours for 2 extra shifts on weekends, Saturdays from 6:00AM – 6:00PM and Sundays from 6:00PM to 6:00AM. He stated that there is a Command Staff meeting scheduled for the following Wednesday to further discuss the staffing issues and officers will be given the opportunity to voice their opinions at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at Village Hall Board Room. Weiss informed the Committee that he would be out of town on that date and would have the Deputy Chief stand in for him.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Recorded by,

Julie L. Barth
Secretary