

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2020
GERMANTOWN VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Miller.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Miller and Trustee Myers were present. Trustees Pieper and Wing attended virtually via Webex.

Also present were Police Chief Snow, Fire Chief Delain (virtual via Webex), Clerk Braunschweig, Administrator Kreklow.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Trustee Zabel referenced the engine compression braking ordinance and asked for consideration to place this type of signage on County Line Road at Lannon Road due to complaints he has received regarding engine braking in that area. He asked that the highway department forward this request to the county for signage placement. Trustee Myers stated he would bring this matter to the attention of the Public Works Director and ask that contact is made with the county regarding this request.

Miller advised that there were two written complaints received from residents, one from Dennis Kidd at W160 N10513 Old Farm Road and another from an anonymous complainant, regarding barking dogs at a neighbor's residence. Mr. Kidd requested some type of action be taken by the Village, such as a letter sent out to all dog owners notifying them of their responsibilities as a pet owner and stating that fines can be issued for non-compliance.

Snow advised that a check of department records showed a resident in that area was cited for barking dogs in 2014 but there were no further complaints since then. He added that he could call Mr. Kidd and encourage him to report the barking incidents when they are occurring, and an officer could respond to the area. Myers asked how it is determined if the complaint warrants a citation, Snow advised that when a complaint is received, an officer will monitor the area, question witnesses if there are any, and officer discretion is used in issuance of citations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: a motion was made by Myers, seconded by Pieper, to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Snow reported on the following:

- a fight took place at the Germantown high school during a basketball tournament which was then reported on local news and social media, Snow advised the initial media reports did not cover the event in its entirety and adjustments to the reporting were followed up on the next day. Snow stated the incident is still under investigation and did not involve any Germantown teams or staff.

- Some personnel have been affected by COVID-19 with one hospitalized, full recoveries are expected
- The agreement with Milwaukee County for police assistance with the Democratic National Convention is no longer in effect, area departments will not be sending in personnel to assist as circumstances have changed since the agreement was made and there are officer safety issues to consider, he added that close to 100 departments have pulled out of the agreement

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Delain reported on the following:

- Also have some personnel out with COVID-19, none serious
- Five members of the department are leaving for other careers, there are discussions in progress with the Administrator and Finance Director regarding the personnel shortage
- Fire inspections were restarted in July, they are having some difficulty completing some of the inspections due to lockdowns, especially at senior living facilities
- Myers requested an update on virus numbers in the Village, Delain stated that the Health Department is no longer forwarding that information to the department, Miller noted that information is available online

OVERTIME REPORTS:

Police Department – Snow advised the overtime budget is tracking well, training expenses were down, and with schools closed for part of the year the School Resource Officers were able to work patrol and help with shortages in that area

Fire Department – Delain said that the numbers are similar to last month, it is anticipated that these numbers will increase with their staffing issues

POLICY UPDATES FOR POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Police Department - none

Fire Department - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Wing arrived at the meeting at this time, 6:25 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT – CHANGEOVER FOR TWO (2) NEW 2020 FORD POLICE INTERCEPTOR UTILITY SQUADS: Snow advised the changeover costs will be higher than normal due to vehicle changes in the 2020 models. Two quotes were received from General Fire Equipment Co. Inc. for the changeover costs:

\$14,766.97 for squad 12

\$14,841.87 for squad 17

A motion was made by Myers, seconded by Wing, to forward this purchase request to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Wing requested that committee discussion return to the Police Department Monthly Report, he was trying to comment while in virtual attendance and was having technical difficulties.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT – continued: Wing advised he had some concerns regarding the mask ordinance, politics and police work. He said he was disturbed that the department was taking calls regarding people not wearing masks and felt that the officers time could be better utilized. He added that some departments have prepared letters for their communications officers to read to complainants calling about mask violations, the letters are read and officers are not sent out on these calls. Wing then stated he would like to see the department change its course and realize that this is a political movement, and he would prefer that no officers are sent to respond to complaints of mask-compliance.

Discussion followed with Chief Snow advising that the Germantown Police Department's approach to this issue is no different than the safer at home rules, their goal in this matter is to raise resident's awareness. He said the department does not intend to take people into custody or detain them for not wearing masks but will make an effort to gain their compliance.

Wing went on to say that he would like to see the department use a prepared letter to respond to mask complaints. Snow responded he would not use a letter and had already advised the Sheriff's Office of his decision. He stated the department would continue to react appropriately to mask complaints until there is an order from the governor's office rescinding the mask mandate. Snow stated the time spent on these types of complaints has been minimal, and as a police department it is their responsibility to address any and all complaints made to them.

Administrator Kreklow pointed out that Wing was correct about this matter having political connotations and noted that sheriff's departments may be using a different approach to the mask mandate. He added that there are options to this matter that can be explored through the court system and legislative efforts. Kreklow advised the Village Board can pass resolutions if they have concerns, but he would prefer that politics are not injected into police department responses.

NEXT MEETING: Special Public Safety Committee Meeting on Monday, August 10th.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Recorded by,

Julie L. Barth
Secretary