

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2022
GERMANTOWN VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM

CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Myers.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Myers, Trustees Hudson, J. Miller, and Pieper.

Also present were Police Chief Snow, Fire Chief Delain.

PUBLIC COMMENT: no comments

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: a motion was made by Pieper, seconded by J. Miller, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2021, Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Snow reported on the following:

- Coordinating with IT personnel to set up the monthly report program
- Interviews for the Sergeant position will be completed this evening and the new Sergeant should be named by the end of the week
- Question from Pieper regarding the call at the Stillery, Snow advised it was Washington County Sheriff's call and the Germantown Police Department assisted

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Delain reported on the following:

- The department is in the process of updating their monthly report
- Total calls for the year 2021 will be around 2400
- New ambulance will be put into service at end of month or into middle of next month

POLICY UPDATES FOR POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Police Department – none

Fire Department - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

CONCORD ROAD STOP SIGN: Snow advised he had checked into the accident history for the intersection of Concord Road and Nigbor Road going back to 2020 and found there was 1 accident in 2021 (school bus involved) and 2 in 2020 (car vs mailbox and car in ditch). He stated that this item was brought before Public Safety in 2019 and new signage was not recommended due to the lack of accident history.

Discussion followed with J. Miller noting that a petition had been signed by 73 residents in 2019 that were in favor of creating a 4-way stop at that intersection. Hudson asked if consideration could be given to the requested signs which are supported by the local residents. Snow said that could be done but cautioned against using stop signs to slow traffic. He added the additional signage could create a false sense of security and while some were in favor of it, others may view it as an inconvenience, and some may disregard the stop sign and roll through the intersection. There was also discussion on the costs for additional signs, Snow advised Public Works would have those numbers. Myers stated he believed the cost was around \$75 per sign.

Discussion continued with Pieper stating that she looked through the petitioner's names and noted that many of the signatures belong to people who no longer live in that area and questioned whether there should be a new petition. J. Miller noted that even with some names removed from the petition, there were still a significant number of residents in favor of the 4-way stop. Pieper indicated that that she did not support a 4-way stop at that location and did not believe it would help in slowing the traffic. Myers suggested that stop signs could be considered at a different intersection along Concord such as Mary Kay Lane.

A motion was made by Hudson, seconded by Pieper, to forward this item to Village Board with a recommendation of approval for a 4-way stop at Concord and Nigbor. Motion carried 3-1 with Pieper voting nay. Hudson noted that there were no residents in attendance in support of this matter and this agenda item would need a stronger showing from the public to pass at the Village Board level.

NEW BUSINESS

DENIAL OF BARTENDER LICENSE APPLICATION - FLYNN WOLLER: Flynn Woller was present and informed the committee that he and his brother had purchased the old KJ's Bar & Grill and were concerned that a denial of his bartender license application would create difficulties while trying run a business. He stated he had been convicted of two felonies when he was 17 years old and that was 18 years ago. He maintained that he had kept a clean record since that time and was looking forward to creating a successful business with his brother.

Discussion followed with committee members clarifying his work history and what kind of business he and his brother hoped to run at the bar. Woller stated they would like to open in April.

A motion was made by Pieper, seconded by Hudson, to recommend approval of the bartender license application submitted by Flynn Woller. Motion carried unanimously.

PATROL OFFICER HIRING AND ELIGIBILITY LIST: Snow advised that funds for one additional patrol officer were approved during the budget process for 2022. He stated that the eligibility list from the last hiring process was expiring and that a new process would be started.

A motion was made by Pieper, seconded by Hudson, to forward this item to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Motion carried unanimously.

WEATHER ALERT SIRENS: Snow advised that Sheboygan Warning Systems had completed their inspection of the Village siren system and submitted their proposal for the needed upgrades which includes replacement of batteries. He advised that some would be done this year and the remainder would be replaced in 2023.

A motion was made by Hudson, seconded by Pieper, to forward this item to Village Board with a recommendation of approval for the replacement of 34 siren batteries and installation costs with Sheboygan Warning Systems for a total of \$6783.00.

Discussion followed with Pieper advising that she would like to see the funds for the siren system maintenance go towards another function, adding that nearly everyone has a phone app for weather notifications. Hudson questioned whether maintaining a system as old as this one is the best option for the Village. Snow noted that discussion of options for the siren system had been brought up during initial discussions, he said that he would prefer to keep the current siren system up and running for now as sirens are still commonly used within the county. Myers advised that he favors keeping the siren system in place as it offers an alternative warning system for the people of the community. J. Miller stated that some good points had been brought up and felt the sirens could be used as a stopgap as the community still needs some type of weather warning system in place, sirens would serve that need until technology can offer a better alternative.

Motion to approve carried 3-1 with Pieper voting nay.

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW/STATE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GERMANTOWN: Snow presented an overview of the successes and challenges experienced by the officers of the Germantown Police Department over the last couple of years, along with an overview of the objectives and goals for 2022.

2020 was the year COVID-19 made an appearance along with all the challenges it presented to everyday life and work experiences. During 2020 – 2021, law enforcement saw an unprecedented rise in civil unrest along with protests and feelings of anger towards law enforcement and its officers. Germantown officers continued to come to work every day and respond to all calls for service, maintaining their composure and representing the department with honor and respect when civility to law enforcement was at an all-time low.

Snow advised that moving forward he will be working on the following:

- completing the accreditation process on the department policies
- expanding training opportunities to include more emphasis on BJJ (Brazilian Jiu-jitsu)
- emphasis on patrol responsibilities and looking for ways to address the increase of property crimes involving armed offenders and the dramatic increase in vehicle pursuits

- continue to seek out grants to increase the number of sworn officers

Snow told committee members that he wanted them to know that the members of the Germantown Police Department have acted with honor and integrity and have done what was asked of them, responding to a myriad of situations while maintaining their professionalism and dignity.

Myers thanked Snow for his presentation and noted there have been some outstanding officers hired by the Village of Germantown.

NEXT MEETING: Myers advised that next month's meeting would be held on Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Village Hall Boardroom.

ADJOURNMENT: there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Recorded by,

Julie L. Barth
Secretary