

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

August 28, 2017

The Public Safety Committee of the Village of Mt. Horeb met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Municipal Building, 138 E. Main Street, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. Chair Ryan Czyzewski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. All members were present except Steve Grindle. Also present were Police Chief Jeff Veloff and Village Administrator Nic Owen.

MINUTES:

Mike McNall moved, Holum seconded, to approve the minutes from October 24, 2016. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CONSIDER TRAFFIC CONCERN ON OAK STREET:

Resident William Copus advised the committee of his concerns with traffic while living on Oak Street stating the road is narrow, traffic exceeds the speed limit and children playing in the area are at risk with the local annual fair detoured traffic exacerbating the issues. It was discussed that stop signs could be added by Public Works. It was agreed that Chief Veloff would notify Public Works to add two stop signs and add Thompson Street to the list of temporary barricades required during festivals.

Mike McNall moved, Steve Holum seconded, to approve two stop signs at the intersection of Thompson Street and Oak Street. Stopping North bound traffic on Thompson St. and East bound traffic on Oak St. and to add a traffic barricade closing Thompson Street at Main Street during the Art Fair and Fall Festival. Motion carried.

CONSIDER POLICE DEPARTMENT 2018 BUDGET REQUEST:

Chief Veloff provided a detailed overview of the 2018 Police Department budget requests which included requests for a new squad vehicle and equipment, training for officers and adding officers to the current department staffing level.

CONSIDER POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING NEEDS:

Chief Veloff advised training is required for newer officers due to a number of veteran staff retiring in the next four years. A request for additional equipment, e.g. vests and shields, is requested due to increased active shooter incidents in the nation. Additional officers are needed to compensate for the increase in village population, the increase in calls for service, an increase in emergency mental health detentions and to reduce overtime costs. In addition, the department has no full time Detective.

There was discussion by the committee that the Mt. Horeb Police Department is currently understaffed.

CONSIDER SRO PROGRAM:

A full-time School Resource Officer who is employed by the village but works at the schools and is paid by both entities was discussed. This topic was last addressed in 2014 with the school district and school board. After advising the committee of the time the patrol officers spend handling school issues during the school year, there was a suggestion by the committee that Administrator Nic Owen contact the current School District Administrator to discuss this topic again.

DISCUSS OPERATORS LICENSE PROCESS:

Per Chief Veloff, there are currently no issues with any new applicants and that all renewals are treated with the same scrutiny as new applicants. Citizen Ben McMullan expressed a concern over the issue with licensees not getting their full one/two year worth due to renewal times occurring on a fixed date and not at their anniversary. He was advised that this is controlled by the State of Wisconsin and not the Village.

CONSIDER DOWNTOWN PARKING:

The need for additional downtown parking and parking time limit enforcement was discussed. Per Chief Veloff, there has been no Parking Monitor since 2006 and it is currently not in the budget to have one. If one were to be hired, it would require a minimum of a 5-hour shift and could be only in summer months. Chief Veloff suggested if parking changes are made to have more consistent downtown parking limits as currently they fluctuate between two and four hour limits. Nic Owen also advised the creation of some downtown angled parking spots near the Village Office have been suggested.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING UPDATE:

Chief Veloff advised that the architects have completed the design portion of the project and they will be obtaining bids for construction beginning September 3, 2017. The new facility's ground breaking is anticipated to being at the end of November 2017 with completion by November 2018.

DISCUSS DANECOM:

Chief Veloff advised that although DaneCom is finally up and running, it is not without its issues. The Dane County Communication Center is compiling complaints from the affected jurisdictions with the anticipation they will be considered for upgrades. The officers continue to have radio transmission problems in steel-roofed building throughout town.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT:

Chief Veloff provided a brief overview of incidents from August 2017.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA:

No meeting date was set. It was agreed that Chief Veloff will contact Chair Ryan Czyzewski in September 2017 to consider agenda items.

ADJOURN:

Mike McNall moved, Steve Holum seconded, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Rachelle M. Rohe, Mt. Horeb Police Department Administrative Assistant