

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

July 23, 2018

The Public Safety Committee of the Village of Mt. Horeb met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of the Municipal Building, 138 E. Main Street, Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin. Chair Mike Goltz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members were present with the exception of Brenda Monroe.

PUBLIC SAFETY MINUTES:

Due to there not being a quorum present, Mike Goltz advised that there would be no approval of the October 30, 2017 meeting minutes that had included both Public Safety and Public Works committees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

CONSIDER DOWNTOWN PARKING:

According to Village Engineer Rob Wright, a parking study was completed by his firm and if the Village were to follow Wisconsin State Statutes, all of the parking spaces adjacent to stop signs and crosswalks in the downtown area would need to be eliminated. This would result in losing up to four parking spaces per intersection due to proximity issues. This was presented to former Village Administrator Larry Bierke and it was decided at that time to not reduce downtown parking stalls. A map of this study can be provided to the committee if requested. This information has also been shared with current Village Administrator Nic Owen.

Rob Wright advised that the upcoming Front Street road construction project this summer will result in standard traffic lanes, curb, gutter and sidewalk which will eliminate all on-street parking in the 200 block of Front Street. This will eliminate all parking in front of the Police Department and parking to the south of The Grump Troll. In order to add parking downtown, Rob suggests adding parking lots.

Despite the allowance of access to the ELC Church's parking lot and the future option of parking at the Food Emporium, it was agreed upon that these parking options may not be adequate, especially during the work week. Mike McNall suggested to delay any further discussion until the Duluth Trading and Front Street construction projects are completed and revisit the parking situation at that time.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSIDER HANDICAPPED PARKING STALL REQUEST AT THE MT. HOREB PHARMACY (GROVE STREET OR MAIN STREET):

Per Chief Jeff Veloff, a request has been made by a citizen to add one handicapped accessible parking stall by the Mt. Horeb Pharmacy at the corner of Main and Grove Streets. He advises that there are currently two 15-minute parking stalls located on Grove Street for the purpose of pharmacy customer use. Pharmacy staff have been asked to contact the police department if the 15-minute stalls are being misused. The police department does not currently have a parking monitor position and parking citations are driven by citizen complaints.

Responding to Cathy Scott's question regarding who is responsible to do a handicap parking stall study, Rob Wright advised that State Code only addresses the number of handicap stalls required in business parking lots. He advised there are currently 241 parking stalls available in downtown Mt. Horeb and the total number of ADA parking spaces required in a surface parking lot could be applied to this total.

It was also considered that a handicapped stall would not have a time limit to park in that stall should someone park there legally and that the two 15-minute parking stalls were adequate for the pharmacy customers. It was further discussed that other establishments, such as The Driftless Historium and Finks Restaurant, have placed a construction cone or applicable parking signage in front of their establishments in order to make temporary parking accommodations.

Mike Goltz moved, Cathy Scott seconded, to not add a handicap parking stall at the corner of Main and Grove Streets at this time. Motion carried.

CONSIDER ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ON GARFIELD STREET, WEST TO EAST, FROM EIGHTH STREET TO HANNEMAN BOULEVARD:

Mike Goltz advised that there are concerns regarding the traffic congestion on Garfield Street and Eighth Street, particularly twice per day during the school year, and issues with parking on both sides of Garfield Street west of Eighth Street. In response to Cathy Scott's suggestion to not allow parking on Garfield Street, Rob Wright advised that from his experience, the residents of that street would not agree to one-

side parking or no-parking. He also noted that one-way traffic on E. Garfield Street, west to east, would transfer traffic to Hanneman Boulevard, Perimeter Road and potentially Lincoln Street.

Chief Veloff advised that the Village is restricted from adding any permanent signage, traffic lights or changes on Eighth Street (aka Highway 92 and 78), as it is a State Highway. The State allows the police department to have a temporary no-left-turn sign during crossing guard hours, however, and this has proven to reduce hazards and congestion. He further advised that traffic counts have been completed twice in the past decade. Both times, the State has determined that no changes are needed.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSIDER THE INTERSECTION OF EIGHTH STREET AND SPRINGDALE STREET

Chief Veloff advised that Brenda Monroe had voiced concern over the stacking up of traffic at the Eighth and Springdale roundabout causing a traffic delay. He advised that Main Street/Springdale Street from 8th Street west to Highway 78 is considered a State Highway (State Highway 78) and the Village is restricted from adding any permanent signage, traffic lights or changes without DOT approval. DOT would be required to complete a traffic study before the State would allow any changes. It was mentioned that the roundabout at Kwik Trip works well and is an overall improvement from the former traffic light.

No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSIDER CONCERN OF TRAFFIC ON E. GARFIELD STREET:

Based on a citizen complaint regarding safety issues on E. Garfield Street, Chief Veloff advised the committee that a query of accidents reported on E. Garfield Street between First Street and Eighth Street resulted in a total of six accidents from January 2014 to July 2018.

Citizen Curtis Hall, who lives at the corner of Sixth Street and E. Garfield Street, advised that he has observed excessive speeding on E. Garfield Street and a hit and run resulted in damage to his vehicle parked on E. Garfield Street two weeks ago. He stated that it is most dangerous during non-busy times and appears to be a thoroughfare for locals avoiding downtown traffic.

Chief Veloff advised that the police department could implement the speed trailer on E. Garfield Street now and again in September after school starts. He will share the data from both collections with Curtis Hall and with the Public Safety Committee. He also advised that more patrol will be done in the area. Rob Wright also recommended a speed study be done via the speed trailer.

Mike McNall moved, Steve Holum seconded, for the Mt. Horeb Police Department to conduct speed trailer data collections on Garfield Street near Sixth Street at the end of July and in September and share the results. Motion carried.

CONSIDER PARKING CITATION FEES:

Chief Veloff advised that the parking citation fees have not changed in the Village for at least twenty years. He provided a list of what some local jurisdictions are charging. After reviewing Verona, Oregon and McFarland's citation rates, the committee agreed to the following rate request:

Charge \$15 for all parking violations, including winter parking. The fines graduate from \$15 to \$20 after five days. After 14 days of non-payment, the license plates are suspended. Handicap parking is \$50.

Steve Holum moved, Mike McNall seconded, requesting the Village Board to consider these changes to the local parking citation rates.

CONSIDER ANNUAL REVIEW OF REGISTERED AGENTS OF ALCOHOL SERVING ESTABLISHMENTS:

Chief Veloff advised that registered agents are currently not reviewed again after their initial application approval but alcohol servers are required to pass a background check to renew their license every one or two years. Chief suggested adding registered agents/owners to the existing ordinance requiring them to reapply for renewal annually for a license to serve alcohol.

It was agreed that it was a good idea to have registered agents/owners reapply for alcohol licensing on an annual or biannual basis. After further discussion regarding the chances of business loss if a registered agent were denied renewal, if a registered agent would lose the ability to own the establishment if they did not qualify to hold a servers license, and if this ordinance would apply to absentee owners, it was agreed that Village Clerk Alyssa Gross should look into the laws pertaining to this prior to requesting an ordinance from the Village Board.

No decisions were made regarding creating an ordinance to have a registered agent renewal a liquor license annually until more information is obtained from Alyssa Gross. No action was taken on this agenda item.

CONSIDER SEXTING ORDINANCE 9.125:

Chief Veloff advised that in conversations with Juvenile Officer Zander, the village has experienced an increase in juveniles sharing nude photos of themselves via cell phone which results in them unknowingly possessing child pornography which is a felony for both sender and receiver. It was requested to create a sexting ordinance in order to reduce child pornography and discourage the behavior as the photos can result in long term problems for the victims. The recommend ordinance is worded as follows:

PUBLIC PEACE AND OFFENSES Sec. 9.125

9.125: SEXTING PROHIBITED

- (1) FINDINGS. The Village Board of Mount Horeb has determined that the sharing of explicit images and related activities between minors represents a concern for the health, safety, welfare, peace and order to the citizens of the Village of Mount Horeb. The Village Board has further determined that prohibiting sharing of explicit images and related activities between minors will serve to deter such activities within the Village.
- (2) DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Subsection:
 - (a) “Nudity” means the showing of the human male or female genitals, pubic area, or buttocks with less than a fully opaque covering; or the showing of the female breast with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion thereof below the top of the nipple; or the depiction of covered male genitals in a noticeably erect state.
 - (b) “Harmful to Minors” means any reproduction, imitation, characterization, description, exhibition, presentation, or representation of whatever kind or form, depicting nudity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement when it:
 - a. Predominantly appeals to an indecent, shameful, or morbid interest;
 - b. Is blatantly offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors;
 - c. Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.
 - (c) “Minor” means any person under the age of 18 years.
- (3) A minor commits the offense of sexting if he or she knowingly:
 - (a) Uses a computer, telephone, or any other device capable of electronic data transmission or distribution, to transmit or distribute to another minor any photograph or video of any person which depicts nudity, as defined in this subsection, and is harmful to minors as defined in this subsection.

(b) Possesses a photograph or video of any person that was transmitted or distributed by another minor which depicts nudity, as defined above, and is harmful to minors, as defined above. A minor does not violate this paragraph if all of the following apply:

- i. The minor did not solicit the photograph or video.
- ii. The minor took reasonable steps to report the photograph or video to a school or law enforcement official.
- iii. The minor did not transmit or distribute the photograph or video to a third party other than a law enforcement official.

(c) Uses a computer, telephone, or any other device capable of electronic data transmission or distribution, to transmit or distribute to another minor any text message, correspondence or message of a sexual nature when it:

- i. Predominantly appeals to an indecent, shameful, or morbid interest;
- ii. Is blatantly offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for minors;
- iii. Taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

(d) Solicits the transmission or distribution of any text, correspondence, message, photograph or video from another minor that would itself be prohibited under this Subsection.

It was further discussed that the bond amount for this violation by a juvenile could be set at \$92.50 or \$187.00 as determined by the village board if the ordinance is adopted.

Mike McNall moved, Cathy Scott seconded, requesting the Village Board to consider adding this ordinance.

CONSIDER 2019 PD BUDGET REQUESTS

Chief Velloff advised that he shared the 2018 Budget a year ago and found it beneficial to share with this committee. The 2019 Budget contains the following:

- Moving the police department to the new Public Safety Building end of 2018
- Increased annual cost of \$1,200 for copy machine due to move (no longer sharing cost with Recreation Department)
- Purchasing vests that stop rifle rounds; one per vehicle, six total, at approximately \$500 each
- One additional officer position requested as an SRO with 70%(school district)/30%(village) cost sharing between the village and the school district.
- One new detective position.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA:

The next Public Safety Committee Meeting is TBD.

ADJOURN:

Steve Holum moved, Mike McNall seconded, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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