

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

February 17, 2020

The Public Safety Committee of the Village of Mount Horeb met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of the Municipal Building, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. Chairperson Brenda Monroe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All members were present. Mount Horeb Police Chief Doug Vierck, Lieutenant Nate Gretzinger, and Village Administrator Nic Owen, were also present.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Jason Fendrick moved; Cathy Scott seconded to approve the January 20th, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **INTRODUCTION OF POLICE CHIEF DOUG VIERCK**

Chief introduced himself. Brenda Monroe welcomed him and asked about his background. Chief gave his history with the Edgerton Police Department. Jason Fendrick thanked the police department for assisting the sheriff's department in the recent homicide investigation.

## **CONSIDER PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK SIGNAGE AT SPRINGDALE & 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

Lieutenant Gretzinger opened by discussing recent email communications with the DOT regarding this matter. The current traffic engineer Graham Heitz said that the signage was studied at the intersection and was deemed as adequate. He also provided a copy of DOT policy which indicated that the requested RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons) would not be allowed under DOT policy.

Lieutenant Gretzinger also said that Heitz was invited to the meeting to speak but declined to do so as he was leaving his position. The email was then forwarded to a different staff member at DOT who indicated they would be willing to speak at the April meeting once they have staffing and can further look into the matter.

Lieutenant Gretzinger then read an email from Joe Drapeau, the individual who brought this matter to the committee on January 20, 2020. Drapeau requested his email be read to the committee as he could not attend the meeting. Drapeau said that he was disappointed with the DOT decision to not allow the changes and cited personal experiences from crossing the intersection. He also questioned when they studied the intersection, if it was done during the morning or evening rush-hours. He also offered suggestions to minimize driver obstructions to assist motorists in this roundabout.

Rebecca Cullen then spoke about her concerns regarding the roundabout. Rebecca gave an update about her son's condition as he was a pedestrian that was struck by a vehicle there. Rebecca indicated that she would like a discussion with DOT regarding their decision for signage there and their policies.

Fendrick spoke about his personal observations involving roundabouts in the village. He believes the crosswalk needs to be treated as a separate entity from the roundabout and should have additional control. Fendrick believes the village should look into challenging the DOT on their regulations at the roundabout. He added that we need to look further as the roundabout being separate from the crosswalk and the flashing lights (RRFB) are not about the roundabout.

Monroe requested that we work with DOT to have a representative present at the April meeting. Scott requested that we contact DOT about when the study of the roundabout was done. Fendrick clarified his explanation about pedestrian crosswalks and the roundabout being separate from each other. Monroe offered her personal account of traffic in the roundabout.

Patrick Cullen then spoke about the roundabout. Patrick is the father of the aforementioned individual that was hit. Patrick spoke about the crash involving his son. Patrick spoke about his concern about the state level DOT removing power from local control over safety of our citizens. Patrick thanked the committee for their concern for taking this matter on. Patrick would like to see some change as any change is better than nothing.

Patrick elaborated that he would like the state to fix this so it doesn't fall on the police to have to spend more time there dealing with it. He also added that he hates the bureaucracy and rules that are imposed on local matters. Patrick thinks the crosswalk isn't safe and would like it moved from the area as an alternative from having it at the roundabout. Patrick spoke in favor of having a button activated crosswalk with lights (RRFB). He asked the village address this issue, think outside of the box, and not let this issue sit.

Nic Owen brought up a Google map and discussed removing some trees from the roundabout area to improve visibility. Patrick continued how the design isn't pedestrian friendly and is a lot for drivers to juggle at once. Monroe said that we should also consider pedestrian signage at the roundabout by McDonalds. Nic Owen explained that this roundabout was under village control and the Springdale/8<sup>th</sup> roundabout was under state control. Patrick added a few closing remarks about his desires for a safer roundabout.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Roundabout safety issues at Springdale Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

Discussion about releasing names of individuals and establishments in the monthly police reports.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting is April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**ADJOURN**

Mike McNall moved; Steve Holum seconded, to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Nate Gretzinger, Mount Horeb Police Department Lieutenant