

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING**  
Via videoconference  
May 17, 2021

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman Jason Fendrick at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021, via videoconference. A quorum was present, and attendance was noted as follows: Committee members Aaron Boehnen, Steve Holum, Mike McNall, and Cathy Scott were present. Police Chief Doug Vierck and Village Administrator Nic Owen were also present. Tracy Lien served as recording secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

J. Fendrick pointed out an error in the last paragraph on page 2 of the February 15, 2021, draft minutes, which stated, "... from 2 a.m. to 5 p.m." and should have stated, "... from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m."

On a motion by S. Holum, seconded by C. Scott, the Committee

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the February 15, 2021, regular meeting as distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting and corrected as noted above.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no requests to speak at this time.

**POLICE CHIEF REPORT**

Chief Vierck provided an update on activities and plans for the Police Department.

**Calls/Call Volume**

The number of calls for service has increased in the past few months. Notable recent calls include (1) social media incidents that resulted in warrants, (2) drug calls that resulted in a pursuit and a separate suspicious vehicle investigation, and (3) a fatal drug overdose that remains under investigation.

**Training**

Two officers have completed advanced training on impaired driving, two more are attending this week, and all officers are slated to complete the course by year-end.

De-escalation training will be held in July. Officers will attend the instructor course, be certified as instructors, and train other officers in-house, reducing travel costs.

Some officers have attended crisis intervention training, more will be trained later this year, and the goal is for all officers to attend this training

## **Policy**

Management continues work on reviewing/updating policies and retains the goal of completing the update of all policies by September 1, 2021 (118 policies updated in 18 months). The Use of Force policies were updated early in the process; they were required to qualify for federal funding. Recently, the insurance company added reimbursement for updating policies; therefore, the cost of the update will be \$500 instead of the budgeted \$3,000.

## **Squad/Body Camera Update**

Squad and body cameras have been ordered and should be operational by July 2021. The cost was less than budgeted, so all five squads will have squad cameras instead of four as originally planned. There will be body cameras available to all officers plus extras for the Chief, Lieutenant, and as replacements. The first edit of the camera policy is complete; the final policy will be in place when the cameras are ready.

## **President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing/Dane County Chiefs' Project**

Dane County law enforcement agencies started work on a universal Use of Force policy in 2014, which was implemented in 2016 and coincided with the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The Dane County Chiefs Association revisited the document and is working on community trust and community collaboration recommendations. Chief Vierck plans to implement recommendations by the fall of 2021.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Pet Licenses**

Chief Vierck provided data regarding animal calls and licensing.

From January 1, 2021, to date, three stray dogs were turned in to the Police Department. One owner was cited for Dog at Large and warned for no license; one owner was staying at the Karakahl and has since moved out of the Village; and one owner was warned and will be cited today if he does not license the dog. Also, two cats were picked up by Animal Services; the owners were not identified.

In the past, the Department has not followed up on animal ownership and licensing. The current procedure is to identify the owner, verify the animal is licensed, send a warning letter if the animal is not licensed, and issue a citation if the animal is not licensed within the warning period.

In 2020, 302 dog licenses were issued. Year-to-date 2021, 338 dog licenses have been issued. The Facebook messages have improved compliance, and more Facebook messages will be posted.

From January 2019 to May 17, 2021, there were 104 calls for service coded as Animal Stray, which averages 3.7 animal calls per month, less than 1 percent of all calls. This category includes all animal calls, including wildlife questions, animals hit by vehicles, etc. The average is one loose dog every two months.

Chief Vierck reported that the Department does not plan to stop and question citizens walking their dogs, but will continue to follow up with loose dogs. There were no objections.

### **Nuisance Ordinance 10.06**

J. Fendrick presented a request from a citizen that was submitted to the Village Board regarding a construction trailer attached to a large truck and parked beside his private residence, in violation of local ordinance. Ordinance 10.06(2)(g) prohibits vehicles exceeding 30 feet in length on personal property. The vehicle owner had previously requested an exception for the winter months.

Chief Vierck noted that the Police Department does not actively look for violations of this ordinance but does respond to complaints. A complaint received in early 2021 was not addressed since it was anonymous; a few weeks later, an identified caller complained, and the property owner was notified, which prompted the request to the Village Board for an exception or change in the ordinance.

The Committee reviewed the facts surrounding this request and the advisability of granting exceptions and/or changing ordinances and CONCURRED not to grant an exception or recommend revision of the ordinance.

### **School Zone Signage**

Chief Vierck reported a complaint was made to Municipal Court by a motorist who received a citation for speeding in school zones. The defendant claimed there was not proper signage in the school zone on Garfield Street between Eighth Street and Perimeter. It was found that proper signage exists, but it could be improved; the main issue is the lack of a warning sign on Garfield Street.

Chief Vierck referenced the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways," issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, which is used to determine where signs are installed.

The Committee discussed the placement of speed limit and crossing signs. On a motion by C. Scott, seconded by M. McNall, the Committee

VOTED: To change the placement of the signs on Garfield Street so the crossing sign is placed before the speed limit sign.

The Committee AGREED to periodically review school signage to determine whether updates are needed; and further AGREED that no action is needed on Academy Street at this time but this area will be assessed when regular bus schedules resume in the 2021-22 school year.

### **Stop Signs on Manor/Reid**

The Committee reviewed and discussed complaints regarding traffic control in the area of the new construction on Manor Drive.

Adding traffic control signals requires engineer review and recommendation; and traffic signs are not to be used for speed control, which is the goal of current complainants. The traffic level is a consideration when considering adding traffic controls; 2,000 total vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians per day is the threshold for installing a yield or stop sign.

Chief Vierck displayed photos depicting views of several streets from various points and noted the current location of yield and stop signs and where there have been requests for signs.

The Police Department has deployed the speed trailer in the area, and officers have been monitoring traffic there. Chief Vierck is considering the purchase of a speed box, which would count traffic and capture speed and other data. Remaining traffic grant money would cover most of the cost of the device, which is \$2,500 to \$3,000.

The Committee CONCURRED with the decision to purchase a traffic speed box.

Chief Vierck suggested adding a discussion regarding a process to control traffic to the next agenda.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee AGREED to add the topic, Process for Controlling Traffic to the next meeting agenda.

J. Fendrick stated that a previous member of the Public Safety Committee mentioned that there was to be a traffic study by the Department of Transportation specifically monitoring Fourth Street when Duluth was occupied. N. Owen proposed checking with the nearby church and daycare to see if there have been issues/complaints to see whether a study is warranted. No action was taken at this time; if a study is recommended, it will be placed on a future Committee agenda.

No other items were suggested for the next meeting agenda.

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee is set for Monday, June 21, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by S. Holum, seconded by M. McNall, this regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Jason Fendrick  
Chairman  
Public Safety Committee