

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
138 East Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI
July 19, 2021**

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chairman Jason Fendrick at 6:02 p.m. on Monday, July 19, 2021, at Mount Horeb Village Hall, 138 East Main Street, Mount Horeb, Wisconsin. A quorum was present, and attendance was noted as follows: Committee members Aaron Boehnen (by teleconference), Steve Holum, Mike McNall, and Cathy Scott were present. Police Chief Doug Vierck was also present. Tracy Lien served as recording secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by M. McNall, seconded by S. Holum, the Committee

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the May 17, 2021, regular meeting as distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

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.

Squad/Body Camera/Equipment Update

The squad and body camera equipment was delivered in June and has been installed; following training, the equipment will “go live” on July 26, 2021. Chief Vierck answered questions regarding the policies, activation, and linkage between the squad and body cameras.

New Hire and Current Staffing Levels

Officer Natalie Wyss was hired in June and is in field training. Training officers have provided positive feedback regarding her performance. The Department is now at the total allotted count of 15 sworn officers. The process of promoting an officer to sergeant will begin in October 2021 with the promotion planned for January 2022; the vacated officer position will not be filled.

National Night Out

National Night Out is scheduled for August 6, 2021, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Grundahl Park, to be held in conjunction with the Taste of Mount Horeb.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Stop Signs Discussion

Chief Vierck reported he had done additional research on rules for regulatory and warning signs, which should be used conservatively or they lose effectiveness. Stop signs are to be

used to stop traffic, not to slow traffic, and there are high minimum vehicle counts necessary to justify installing signage.

The Department has purchased the traffic speed box discussed at the May Committee meeting. Staff is being trained, and monitoring and data collection will begin next month.

UTV Routes Discussion

Management has received in inquiry about UTVs being allowed on Village streets. The Committee reviewed and discussed the matter; the following points were noted:

- There has been only one request to date.
- Only one jurisdiction in Dane County has added ordinances addressing UTVs. Some townships in Rock County have ordinances, but Rock County overall does not.
- Certain vehicle specifications are required for vehicles to be driven on public streets.
- Allowing UTVs in the Village would not bring in business since UTVs are not allowed in surrounding communities, so they would need to be trailered in.
- There are noise concerns associated with UTV use.
- UTVs have a high center of gravity and tip easily; 50 percent of fatal UTV crashes in 2019 occurred on highways.

Chief Vierck recommended waiting for the State to issue guidelines. Chairman Fendrick favors uniformity and suggested that the Village align with state guidance or a model ordinance.

The Committee AGREED to take no action at this time. The matter of UTV routes was tabled pending a state-wide approach, uniform policy, or agreement among surrounding townships.

Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 940 Adopted Ordinance (Battery) Discussion

There is a Village Ordinance adopting State Statute 940, which addresses misdemeanor battery; therefore, Municipal Court citations can be issued in lieu of transporting offenders to the Dane County Jail. The Village prosecutor reports that the Village has authority to enforce Statutes 941 to 948, but 940 is not included. Chief Vierck noted that most municipalities have a battery ordinance and asked if the Committee wants the Village attorney to research this enforcement matter further. He suggested the Village could create a secondary ordinance to the Disorderly Conduct ordinance (e.g., DC-Fighting), which would provide an option to handle misdemeanor battery in Municipal Court.

Committee members stated a preference to enforce accountability locally and to add an appropriate ordinance if Municipal Court cannot enforce Statute 940.

Chairman Fendrick recommended authorizing the Village prosecutor to do a more thorough investigation to see if Statute 940 can be enforced or if there is other relevant statutory authority Village attorneys would be comfortable with. The Committee CONCURRED.

Chief Vierck will talk to the Village Administrator and prosecuting attorney regarding enforcement of battery charges in Municipal Court.

2022 BUDGET DRAFT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT

[Reference: A document titled "Mount Horeb Police Department 2022 Budget Request" was distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting.]

Chief Vierck invited questions regarding the budget proposal.

Discussion ensued regarding replacing a Chevrolet squad with a Ford. The Department has experienced expensive repair costs with the Chevrolets, which do not handle as well as Fords, and the officers prefer Ford squads. The State price was released July 12, 2021, and the Department's request for bid has not yet been returned. Chief Vierck plans to order the new squad as soon as the budget is approved and specify delivery in 2022. It was noted the Community Service Officer's vehicle, approved in the 2021 budget, has not yet been delivered. The vehicle was ordered, but production was delayed.

Chief Vierck estimated the 2022 budget will be equal to or less than the 2021 budget.

There were no concerns expressed regarding the 2022 budget draft.

MEETING DATES

Chief Vierck proposed that the Public Safety Committee meeting schedule be changed from the third Monday of every month to the third Monday of every other month, beginning immediately, with the option to call special meetings at any time. All Committee members supported the suggestion. Accordingly, regular meetings will be scheduled for January, March, May, July, September, and November.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee is set for Monday, September 20, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by S. Holum, seconded by M. McNall, this regular meeting of the Public Safety Committee adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jason Fendrick
Chairman
Public Safety Committee