

**VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING**

Via videoconference
September 20, 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, September 20, 2021, via videoconference. A quorum was present, and attendance was noted as follows: Committee members Steve Holum, Mike McNall, and Cathy Scott were present. Committee member Aaron Boehnen was absent. Police Chief Doug Vierck and Village Administrator Nic Owen were also present. Tracy Lien served as recording secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by M. McNall, seconded by C. Scott, the Committee

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021, regular meeting as distributed to the Committee members prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wayne Hefty was present on behalf of the Springdale Town Board and asked to address the Committee regarding traffic enforcement on Town Hall Road in Springdale. There were no other requests to speak at this time.

Chairman Fendrick exercised his prerogative to rearrange the agenda, and the Committee addressed agenda topic 5 at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Request for Enforcement on Town Hall Road in Town of Springdale

W. Hefty, temporary Springdale Town Chairman, presented background and a request for assistance in enforcing traffic laws on Town Hall Road from Ridgeview Road to Highway S in the Township of Springdale. Town Hall Road is experiencing an increase in traffic, particularly heavy truck traffic. The Town has updated signage at both ends, placed flags on Ridgeview Road 600 feet east of Town Hall Road, and indicated there is a truck route 1/2 mile ahead. The weight limit sign is ignored, the road is not designed for heavy truck traffic, and the Dane County Sheriff's Office has not assigned resources to enforcing weight limits. As part of an engineering study, the Town plans to set up counters to show traffic volumes, times of day, number of axles, and approximate weights; the intent is to identify times when large truck traffic is heaviest.

The Township of Springdale requested assistance from the Village of Mount Horeb. Chief Vierck noted the Village would need an agreement or memo of understanding to expand the jurisdiction of the Mount Horeb Police Department to the requested area. He stated that sending full-time officers there would reduce the coverage and response time in the Village but assigning part-time officers may be an option when the part-time roster is increased.

Chairman Fendrick suggested contacting mapping service providers and requesting that drivers not be directed to circumvent the roundabout. He volunteered to find contact information for the mapping service providers.

After discussion, the Committee AGREED to continue to investigate options to assist the Township of Springdale with traffic enforcement. Chief Vierck agreed to keep in touch with W. Hefty regarding this request and will place the subject on a future Committee agenda.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

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

National Night Out, Brew Fest, Iron Man

There was good turnout at National Night Out, Brew Fest, Iron Man, and Oktoberfest with few complaints. There were no calls for service for vandalism, intoxicated persons, etc., and the only complaints were related to traffic rerouting during Iron Man and the noise level of the bands during Oktoberfest.

Training

Updated training equipment has been delivered. Three officers are currently training to be Training Officers, and two officers are scheduled to attend three weeks of leadership training. Active Shooter training was held at the school in August 2021 and attended by F.D.M.H., MHPD, and school staff.

Policy

All the policies are drafted, and management has updated Chapters 1—11 with four yet to do.

Personnel Update

One part-time officer retired after 40+ years, and one full-time officer resigned. The hiring process is open to fill part-time and full-time positions. Officer Wyss, who started in June 2021, has completed field training and is currently working second shift.

Budget

The 2022 budget request will be presented to the Finance Committee in a couple weeks. A few changes have been made; e.g., some capital equipment planned for 2022 will be purchased in 2021 with unused training money, and adding part-time officers will reduce the need for overtime pay.

DISCUSSION ITEMS (continued)

Data Collection Device

The new traffic speed box was placed at Manor Drive/Michele Street for initial data collection since there was a request for stop signs in that area. The device was placed on a street pole and blended in unnoticed by drivers, which helped get accurate data. The speed limit at that location is 25 mph.

Data summary for September 11-17

- 3833 vehicles traveled on Manor Drive between Michele Street and Reid Drive
- The average speed was 19.25 mph; 86.9 percent were under the limit, 13.1 percent were between 25 mph and 45 mph, and 0.1 percent were excessively above the limit
- Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. was the “worst” time

Based on this data and research on the effectiveness of stop signs in slowing traffic, stop signs are not needed in this area. The Department will gather data when more new houses are completed at the end of Manor and traffic increases.

Stop Sign Requests – First Street/Front Street and Second Street/Front Street

The Department was contacted by a person involved in an accident on First Street at Front Street who argued that First/Front and Second/Front are dangerous intersections that need 4-way stops. Research indicates there were 11 crashes at those two intersections since 2015, two at First/Front and nine at Second/Front. Five of the crashes were intersection related; only one was due to visibility issues.

It was noted that fewer than two crashes occur per year, stop signs would not be easily visible, 4-way signs would likely cause traffic back-up during school and lunch times, and the state manual specifies main thoroughfares should be clear and traffic should be stopped at side streets.

After discussion, the Committee AGREED that stop signs are not needed at First Street/Front Street or Second Street/Front Street and that the current 25 mph speed limit is appropriate.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following suggestions for future agenda items were noted:

- Signage at Highway 92/Perimeter Road
- Options for calling Police Department after business hours
- Battery ordinance update
- Crossing guards/school crossing safety

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee is set for Monday, November 15, 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 7:02 p.m.

Jason Fendrick
Chairman
Public Safety Committee