

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, November 10, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

Call to Order: roll call

Chair Marc Zappa called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Answering the call were Trustees Kirk Nelson and Tim Zais. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Also in attendance were Police Chief Mark Richert, and Recording Secretary Anne-Marie McDonald.

Comments from the floor

None

Approval of minutes from October 13, 2016 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Nelson/Zappa) to approve the minutes of October 13, 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Ferry Landing Beach issues: The issues with personal watercraft (PWC) on and near Ferry Landing Beach are being addressed by the Village Park Board. Enforcement was mentioned as an issue by concerned residents. For the village police department, there currently are not many rules to enforce. The major concerns for neighbors of the beach are the noise levels and the PWC groups overwhelming the beach. The St. Croix County sheriff and Wisconsin DNR do have regulations which they can enforce. Representatives from the sheriff's department and DNR attended the last Park Board meeting to discuss the issues they've seen and possible regulations which can be enforced. Richert sent an email to Colleen O'Brien-Berglund, Park Board chair, providing some recommendations and laying out the concerns Richert has if any new ordinances are approved; namely, police department staffing levels and ability to consistently enforce any new regulations. A member of the Park Board is working with the National Scenic Waterway department to determine whether there are any restrictions against changing usage of the beach south of the boat landing to prohibit docking of watercraft on the beach.

Police Patrol Sergeant position: Richert met with the candidate today for an interview and started the background investigation process. He anticipates making a conditional offer to the candidate by early December, 2016. At that time, the candidate will have psychological, medical, and drug screens. After that, a final offer will be made and Richert anticipates having the new sergeant on board by early January, 2017.

Department report: Chief Richert's citation totals have decreased because the new officer, Officer Mann, is primary officer and has been writing the citations. The incident reports don't show anything unusual.

ATV use in the Village

Resident Frank Halvorson (504 Sommers Landing Road N.) provided Richert and the board with a map showing proposed ATV routes in the village. The proposed routes would include all streets in the village with the exception of STH 35/6th Street N., because state law prohibits ATV usage on state trunk highways. Richert described where the required ATV route signs would be posted. Richert also discussed what the signs must look like, and where the ATV route crossing signs would be placed. Richert posted an informal survey on the North Hudson Police Department Facebook page, asking for input regarding whether residents would use the ATV routes and what they would be used for. At meeting time, about 15 people had responded. There is definitely resident interest in having ATV routes in the village. Zappa made the meeting attendees aware of the fact that the Ferry Landing access to the St. Croix River could be removed at some point, based on the current issues with personal watercraft at Ferry Landing Beach. The path from the Ferry Landing parking lot to the beach is legally designated as a pedestrian walkway, not a road. Resident Jack Richie (707 St. Croix St. N.) mentioned that, until recent years, the path to the river at Ferry Landing was used as river access to the ice road on the St. Croix River and was not a boat landing. Zais asked Halvorson whether the Ferry Landing access is the only place in the Hudson area to get on the St. Croix during the winter – it is the only spot.

Richert asked for clarification about how residents bring their gear to the river access and whether there is proper lighting for road use. Most people stow all their gear on the ATV. According to the rules of the road, any use of a trailer with an ATV requires proper lighting on the trailer. Since most of the interest in ATV usage is for access to ice fishing, Zais asked whether the village's ATV route ordinance could be seasonal. Zappa stated that he didn't see any reason why ATV usage couldn't be available year-round. Zais contacted four Wisconsin communities – Frederic, Siren, Balsam Lake, and Luck – regarding ATV routes in their municipalities. All four communities have designated ATV routes. Richert asked whether these communities have ATV trails leading into and out of the communities; Zais stated that they do. Zais asked local law enforcement what the residents use the trails for in the communities – trail access, trips to local businesses, etc. All four communities allow ATV usage from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm, and require drivers to be at least 16 years of age. Zais was told that North Hudson can define any restrictions or rules that it wants. He was also told that the hardest time of year to monitor usage is during the summer. The communities were initially concerned with how the vehicles would be used on the paved roads, but there hasn't been a large impact to any of the four communities. The four communities found that allowing ATV usage had a positive impact on the areas' restaurants, gas stations, etc.

Halvorson has not sent his proposed ATV route map to the state DNR representative Mark Little for review. He wanted to show it to Richert and the Public Safety Committee members before sending it to Little. He noted that if the ATV routes in the village are approved, the route map must be submitted to the DNR for review and filed with the State of Wisconsin. Richert will submit the proposed route map to Little for DNR review. Richert recommended that the committee begin work on the verbiage of the ordinance. Richert will work with Little for assistance with the wording of the proposed ordinance.

Nelson asked whether the board is asking Chief Richert to move forward with the ordinance. Zappa stated that the board needs the proposed route map approved and the ordinance written, and then a recommendation can be made. Zappa believes very little discussion will be needed at future meetings. His biggest concern was defining ATV routes within the village without having to post signs on every

street, and Halvorson's map proposal has addressed that concern. Zappa thanked Halvorson for doing the legwork with the proposed route map.

FY2017 Budget

Budget is finalized, will be approved in late November.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Officer Mann is now working on his own, and is working power shifts and night shifts. Mann is excited to be working on his own.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Richert discussed the need for heavy-duty gear in case of a large-scale event in North Hudson – helmets, ballistic shields, riot gear. There aren't many grants available for this type of gear. The expense would be a one-time cost. Richert would like to see these items included in the 2018 police department budget. There are opportunities to purchase used equipment. Nelson asked whether there are any other upcoming capital budget items to consider. There are no big-ticket items which need to be replaced.

Richert noted that Hudson EMS is in talks to join Hudson Hospital, which would eliminate the cost from the City of Hudson for EMS coverage. Richert would like to use the freed up money, about \$52,000 per year, to address staffing issues for the police department, potentially to replace the position which was eliminated in 2013. This position would be included in the 2018 budget.

Committee Goals

Nothing new.

Future Agenda Items

ATV use in the Village

Adjournment

Chair Zappa declared the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary