

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, October 13, 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 was Trustee Kirk Nelson. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. It was noted that Trustee Tim Zais was not present. Also in attendance were Police Chief Mark Richert, and Recording Secretary Anne-Marie McDonald.

Comments from the floor

None

Approval of minutes from September 8, 2016 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Nelson/Zappa) to approve the minutes of September 8, 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Ferry Landing Beach issue: The Ferry Landing Beach issue has been moved to the Park Board. Any new regulations or ordinances which are passed will be enforced by the police department. Zappa asked for clarification for the path leading to the river; the area north of the gate leading to the river is defined as a pedestrian walkway. All other areas south-southwest of the gate are drivable surfaces. The pedestrian walkway is not part of the park, so park regulations cannot be enforced in that area.

Public Works Department to Consider Winter Parking Ordinance: Richert received an email from Public Works Director, Mark Ekblad, stating that the Public Works Committee will be considering a Winter Parking Ordinance. The draft ordinance proposes no parking on any village street from November 1 to April 1 from 3:00 am to 7:00 am. In addition, no parking will be allowed on any street when 2" or more of snow has fallen until the street has been cleared. Richert is concerned with the police department's ability to enforce this ordinance, given current staffing issues and officer shifts. Zappa suggested that, if the ordinance moves forward, the Public Works Committee and Public Safety Committee meet directly to talk about the ordinance, rather than having Richert go between the two groups. Richert plans to attend the next Public Works committee meeting on October 18, 2016. Resident Frank Halvorson noted that Hudson has a similar ordinance and has difficulty enforcing it. Zappa stated that the village has previously considered a winter parking ordinance, and the problem in the past has been addressing how to enforce it. Zappa also believes the Public Safety committee hasn't been given enough evidence to prove that the ordinance will pay off for the village. Richert's officers have done an informal count of vehicles parked on the streets during the overnight hours, and their count was over 100 vehicles. There are some areas of the village where off-street parking is not available, and the proposed ordinance does not address this situation as an exception. If the ordinance passes, Zappa would like to see some data regarding the cost of enforcing the ordinance and determine the net benefit to the village.

Incident reports: Officer Mann is now on the written/verbal citation tally because he is writing citations. Richert is in plain clothes for the final phase of Mann's training and will respond only if Mann does something illegal or constitutes an unsafe situation. Officer Mann will be on his own at the end of October.

ATV use in the Village

Richert received an email from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Agent Little which spelled out the specifics of ATV routes. The village cannot designate all village roads as ATV routes with signs only at entrances to the village. All streets must have appropriate ATV route signage, as defined by the DNR. Richert learned that the village may create an ordinance which is more restrictive than the state law, but not less restrictive. Richert stated that the original intent of the ATV route in a municipality was to connect two trails which have an impediment between them – city/village/township/railroad tracks, etc. Any proposed ATV route and ordinance defined by the village must be sent to the DNR to be filed, however, the DNR does not have oversight authority. The DNR may suggest changes if the proposed ordinance is in conflict with state law. The DNR also provides recommendations for placing signs for the ATV route. The issue at hand is defining an ATV route in the village which is of use to as many people as possible without declaring all village streets as an ATV route. If the village were to create an ordinance defining all village roads as ATV routes and does not provide adequate signage, the DNR, county sheriff's department, or State Patrol can enforce operator infractions. Resident Frank Halvorson offered to contact the Wisconsin DNR to discuss possible options the village has in this regard and see whether DNR Agent Little would be willing to attend a future Public Safety meeting if needed. Richert will send Agent Little's contact information to Halvorson.

Amend Police Department Residency Requirement Policy

The current residency policy for fleet squads is for the officer to live within 15 miles of the village limits. Due to real estate prices in the area, the newly hired officer was unable to find an affordable home within 15 miles of the village limits. The village doesn't want to put many extra miles on the squads for officers' commutes, but having the officer available to respond immediately to an emergency call offsets the extra miles. In addition, squads which are taken home by officers tend to be better cared for, since the squad is the officer's "office on wheels". Zappa expressed a concern with the additional mileage of having an officer live farther away. Richert talked about how the squads are never driven over 30 miles an hour within the village limits – having a longer commute allows the vehicle to be driven at higher speeds, which is better for the life of the car.

Motion (Zappa/Nelson) to recommend increasing the residency requirement for "take-home" fleet squads to 20 miles. Motion carried.

FY2017 Budget

Richert met with the Finance Committee, where the 2017 Police Department budget was discussed. There were no changes made to the budget at that time.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Officer Mann will work on his own by Halloween. The date for interviews of the sergeant candidates is October 22, 2016. The law enforcement management group will interview the candidates in the morning, and the Police Commission will conduct interviews in the afternoon. Richert hopes to get a list of the top two or three candidates from the Police Commission after the interviews.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Nothing to discuss.

Committee Goals

Nothing new.

Future Agenda Items

ATV use in the Village; Public Works winter parking ordinance proposal

Adjournment

Chair Zappa declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary