

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

Call to Order: roll call

Chairman Zappa called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Answering the call were Trustees Nelson and Zais. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Also in attendance was Chief Richert.

Questions/comments from the floor

No one in attendance.

Minutes approval from April 14, 2016 meeting

Motion (Nelson/Zais) to approve the April 14, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Union Pacific Railroad Case:

Richert stated that there was some success in the Union Pacific Railroad theft case from 2015. Officer Moody took the report for this case. There was a large amount of copper wire taken from this property, approximately \$75,000 worth of product. As part of the investigation, Officer Moody collected some pop cans that were found in the area of the theft which were submitted for DNA samples, along with samples from the individuals caught with the property. A positive identification came back to one of the individuals caught with the property in Minnesota. The department is working with the DA's office to get charging on this case in Wisconsin. The individuals were charged in Minnesota with possession of stolen property.

North Hudson Elementary School Kids Carnival Raffle:

Richert stated that he was contacted by the North Hudson Elementary School requesting if there was something the Police Department could do to help them with their raffle. They came up with the idea of raffling a ride to school with the Chief. The raffle was very successful. The Chief will be picking up the raffle winner(s) on Thursday, May 19, 2016 and giving him/her a ride to school in the new squad.

The Committee reviewed recent cases and traffic and municipal citation tallies for April.

Request by Pepper Fest for Street Closure and Bed Race

Holly Steele, with the Pepper Festival Committee, was present. Pepper Fest is requesting to close a portion of Wisconsin Street N (from 6th St N to Galahad Rd N) on Sunday, August 21, 2016, for a bed race. Chief Richert stated there are a couple of factors to consider with this request. Portions of this road are closed twice a year for the motorcycle run. However, closing this longer stretch of road all the way to Galahad is highly problematic for residents in the apartment buildings on Wisconsin Street N. There is no alternate exit for these residents to get out. Also, the residents on Eastbank Court N would have to go all the way down Galahad to get out. Chief Richert also stated that his department will not be fully staffed in August. The department will not have the staffing to close down a street for a two (2) hour time frame on the Sunday during Pepper Fest. If the board would approve this request, alternate staffing would need to be found, such as the Sheriff Department. Steele stated that this is something that

has been brought up the last couple of years. They are trying to get more activity on the Sunday of Pepper Fest. Nelson questioned where the participants would set up for the race. Zais stated the apartment building parking lot is a possibility. Richert stated that this is private property and would need to be worked out with the owners. If there was outside staffing coverage, Pepper Fest would need to pay for this additional coverage. Zappa stated that he was present at a bed race in Spring Valley where a woman was seriously injured when she walked out into the road during the race. He is concerned over the safety of this type of event and it would need to be closely monitored. Zappa has reservations of stretching out the inconvenience of the Pepper Fest. To get to the event, individuals may be walking across busy 6th Street N which may cause problems. Zappa suggested speaking with the owner of the parking lot across from Seasons Tavern and possibly holding the event there. Steele stated that the hours of Pepper Fest will go back to closing on Friday and Saturday night at midnight, and still open at 5:00 pm on Friday night. Zappa stated that Pepper Fest activities already re-route traffic and change parking, he is concerned about adding additional street closures. Pepper Festival will discuss and if there are any other proposals, they will bring it forward to the Public Safety Committee. Steele stated that if there are a need for volunteers or additional help for community events to let them know.

Fireworks Permit Application-Zappa

Zappa abstained from discussion. Richert stated that this has been a request from Zappa and Exit 1 Fireworks for the past several years. There have not been any issues and it has been granted each year. It is required to be reviewed by the Fire Department and has been signed off by them. Zappa stated the Fire Marshall comes each year to inspect the building. Public Safety also reviews and does a recommendation to the Village Board. Nelson asked how long the business has been open. The business is open year round. Zappa stated this is the 13th year. **Motion (Nelson/ Zais) to approve the application for fireworks sales permit to Marc Zappa with the following conditions:**

- 1) **No smoking sign must be displayed.**
- 2) **Fire extinguishers available.**
- 3) **No fireworks sold to a person under the age of 18.**
- 4) **Permit length to be July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017.**

Motion carried. Zappa abstained.

Donation of Retired Motorola Radios to Pepper Festival

Richert stated that this year, the Police Department replaced all of their portable radios. The radios are all still in working condition, but they can no longer be maintained by Motorola. In lieu of recycling them, he is proposing donating the radios, chargers, and spare batteries to Pepper Festival. **Motion (Nelson/Zais) to authorize Chief Richert to donate the five (5) retired portable Motorola radios, battery chargers, and spare batteries to the Pepper Festival Board. Motion carried.**

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Richert stated that Office Knepler has submitted his letter of resignation. He will be starting with the City of Hudson Police Department on Monday, May 16, 2016. Also, there will be a retirement later this year. Due to this decreased staffing level, Richert met with Officer Moody to discuss coverage levels and how that will be done. He also met with Village Administrator, Gloria Troester, to discuss any budget concerns. There will be a gap between Officers leaving and new hire(s) starting so there should not be any issues with the budget. The Police Commission is meeting on Monday, May 16, 2016. There will be discussion as to how to fill the positions. There is currently 8 1/2 hours of active patrol time during the day, excluding the Chief from those numbers. With the decreased staffing, this will pull

the Chief from the day shift to afternoon or potentially "power" shifts. During this time, there may not be any day coverage from the North Hudson Police Department. However, the St. Croix County Sheriff Department will always respond to emergencies. The Police Department will still be staffed each day by the Office Manager to answer phone calls, questions, etc. The eligibility list process has already begun and it closes on Monday, May 16, 2016. Candidate testing and interviews will be done in June. Richert hopes to have the Officer position filled by July. The training period is typically 4-4 1/2 months. The training period will be shorter for the Sgt. position. The St. Croix Sheriff's Department will cover if shifts are needed. The committee stated Chief Richert should use his judgment if shifts need to be adjusted one way or another.

Police Department Capital/Equipment Planning

None at this time.

Committee Goals

None at this time.

Future Agenda

None at this time.

Adjourn

Zappa adjourned the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Melissa Luedke
Village Clerk