

**Village of North Hudson  
Public Safety Meeting  
Thursday, August 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m.  
Village Hall, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street North**

**Call to Order: roll call**

Chair Tim Zais called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Answering the call were Trustees Cathy Leaf and Philip Matz. 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 July 9, 2020 Public Safety Meeting**

**Motion (Leaf/Matz) to approve the minutes of July 9, 2020 meeting as written. Motion carried.**

**Chief's Report**

Richert conducted De-Escalation and Force Science training with the members of the department. The training included discussion about attempting not to use force, and that there may be times when there is no other option than to use force. Richert said the training was well received by the officers. Richert introduced a new use-of-force form, which will be used when an officer needs to use force or force is used against an officer. Zais asked Richert about police department policy review. Richert said department policies are included on the police department software system and includes a daily quiz for one policy each day. When state laws change which affect department policies, the software notifies Richert that the policy must be updated and reviewed.

Extended premises liquor permits were given to the three northern establishments in the village for Pepper Fest-related activities – Kozy Korner, Village Inn, and Guv's. The police department will have extra PD staffing during the weekend, since Richert is uncertain how many people will attend. Some residents may have house parties in addition to activities taking place at the bars.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) awarded the village a grant for providing data during the Click It or Ticket national mobilization in Spring 2020. The department received a grant of \$4000, which will be used to purchase a new Lidar speed detection tool, two FST preliminary breath units, sets of rechargeable ground strobes for each squad (to be used in the place of flares), and five sets of fatal vision goggles for community training events.

There was nothing extraordinary in the Incidents report. One officer had to make a trip to Winnebago State Hospital, which took about 9 hours round trip. Richert presented the overtime expenses for the department, which are on track for staying within budget.

### **Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted**

Zais reached out to the Hudson fire chief for an update on the burning restriction ordinance. The chief isn't certain any change will be made in 2020. The chief asked Zais some questions about the ramifications of a new ordinance in the village, including no leaf burning would be allowed and no burning permits would be issued.

Richert noted differences between the village's current burning ordinance and the city of Hudson, including allowing recreational fires on the ground. He asked the committee to consider if the village wants to go in the same direction as the city of Hudson. He suggested the committee provide some clarification for vagueness in the current ordinance, particularly defining what constitutes winds too high to allow a fire. The Hudson fire chief would like to have ordinances that line up in the three municipalities, and Richert said the committee should determine whether North Hudson wants to do that.

Leaf asked Richert how many burning permits have been issued in 2020. Richert explained the village issues one permit per year to residents who request them, and they are required to call the county dispatch office each time they burn. Resident Gary Robbins, of 749 Summit Lane North, asked whether fires under three feet are okay. Richert explained that small recreational fires fewer than three feet in diameter are fine without a permit; larger fires for leaves, etc., require a permit. Zais will research the number of burning permits issued to village residents.

### **2021 State Trunk Highway 35 Project – Public Safety preparations/traffic controls**

Richert hasn't received any more information from WisDOT since the last public meeting regarding the Highway 35 construction project. After the bidding process is complete, more detailed information will be planned. Matz mentioned the issue under the railroad bridge in the city of Hudson, not sure whether a resolution has been defined.

### **Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) Update**

Richert presented a draft updated Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for the committee to review, as well as to village board members, St. Croix County representatives, and other stakeholders. The plan hasn't been updated since 2015, so Richert wants to bring it up-to-date. Richert needs to update statutes and contact information before the plan can be formalized. He asked the county to review the plan for statutory changes. He also needs to add an emergency order for local emergencies without county assistance. Richert will bring the draft plan back to the Public Safety committee before presenting to the village board.

### **Fiscal Year 2021 Budget**

Richert hasn't received any budget information from Village Administrator Melissa Luedke. He asked for a wish list from his officers during their staff meeting. Several tasers are no longer under maintenance support, so they could be replaced in 2021. He is still waiting for quotes for possible equipment purchases, then he will discuss with his staff. The officers would like to change to external vest carriers, which carries the weight of equipment more on the shoulders rather than on the hips; the drawback to this type of vest is that they look more militaristic. If officers need to report to court, they would wear the old style vest and duty belt. The exterior vest carriers cost \$500 each.

**Police Department Staffing and Coverage**

The department is at full staff. Recently the officers did their shift pick for the next four months. Three officers will change their shifts. Shifts are picked based on seniority. Union contract negotiations are coming soon; frequency of shift picks may be part of the negotiating process. Morale in the department is good.

**Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning**

Richert plans to replace the department's computer server in 2021.

The 2009 Crown Victoria police vehicle is beginning to have maintenance issues with substantial repair costs, and Richert will investigate replacing that vehicle in 2021. The 2010 squad which was removed from service was sold at auction for \$2950.

**Future Agenda Items**

Amend Ordinance 38-7; 2021 STH 35 Project – Public Safety preparation/traffic controls; Emergency Operations Plan update; 2021 budget.

**Adjournment**

Chair Zais declared the meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald  
Recording Secretary