

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, February 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

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 January 9, 2020 Public Safety Meeting

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

Chief's Report

Richert reported the new patrol officer, Kelly Scharffbillig, has been hired and accepted the offer of employment. The officer's swearing-in will take place Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 12:00 noon. She will have one week of administrative days and firearms training, and field training will begin February 24. The new officer is originally from the North St. Paul-Oakdale, Minnesota area, and worked for the New Orleans police department. She is looking forward to working in a small community.

Officer Craig Lau is in the final phase of his training.

The new handguns have been delivered, and the department will attend transition training on February 20, 2020. The old guns will be traded in at the end of that week to Streichers.

Richert reviewed the incident and breakdown report, noting that there are more cases so far this year. He stated that more suspicious activity calls have been placed, and Kwik Trip staff has reported potential drunk driving incidents. The new officer is writing more citations while training.

Parking Concern on Wisconsin Street North

Richert stated that a letter had been sent from the chief to residents and businesses in the 300-500 blocks of Wisconsin Street N., inviting them to February's Public Safety meeting or providing feedback regarding possible changes to on-street parking on Wisconsin Street. Richert said he received two e-mail messages favoring parking on one side of the street. Richert showed a map of Wisconsin Street N. to the committee and noted the locations of businesses and off-street parking along the street. He said there is more on-street parking available on the north side of the street. Richert suggested no parking be allowed on the south side if the committee decides to implement a parking change. Richert said he received no feedback from Starr's Bar or Mallalieu Inn. He explained there is one 15-minute parking spot in front of the sewing business. Zais agreed with Richert's suggestion, saying there would be less impact to the residents in the area.

Leaf asked if the committee has received enough input to make a decision. Zais and Matz agreed they had not. Richert reminded the committee that Wisconsin Street N. will be widened during construction in 2022, so the decision to restrict on-street parking may be a temporary solution.

Leaf asked whether emergency services have complained about through access on that stretch of road. Richert said they have not.

Matz commented that the issue is more pronounced in the winter, but Richert countered that through traffic is an issue year-round. When vehicles are parked on both sides of the street and two vehicles are passing, access is difficult. Zais said turning east from southbound Fourth Street N. onto Wisconsin Street N. is difficult due to visibility issues with cars parked on the street. Richert said a solution to that issue could be restricting parking to the corner to improve visibility.

Zais asked the committee members what they should do at this time. Zais will visit the businesses to solicit input, and the committee will discuss this issue at its next meeting.

2020 Squad Purchase and Outfitting

Richert presented cost estimates for a new patrol car, and he is waiting for more information. The dollar amount noted in planning (\$41,000) is not accurate because some equipment from an old unit can be transferred to a new squad when one is replaced, but will be added costs with an additional squad. Richert isn't sure whether Hudson Ford will offer the same dollar amount quote as for the last unit the department purchased. Richert explained that Officer Scharffbillig cannot bring a squad home to Minnesota, so the additional unit is not needed immediately. Zais asked how squads are moved between officers when going on and off shift. Richert said he would postpone assignment of a squad to Officer Lau and have it left at the police department garage. If there is coverage overlap, Officer's Erickson's squad could be used. Squad coverage is okay until Pepper Fest. Richert hopes to have more information for the March committee meeting.

Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted

There has been no change in the ordinance reported by Zais' contacts.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Richert is looking forward to Officer Scharffbillig perhaps shortening her training period, given her previous work experience. The plan is to have her ready for solo patrol in May. With her addition, the department will have daytime coverage and hopefully curtail issues that have taken place at Ferry Landing Park.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

The department server will need to be purchased and installed in 2021.

The new security door and surveillance system were approved by the Board of Trustees in January. The new system can be installed in early March.

Future Agenda Items

Amend Ordinance 38-7; Wisconsin Street North parking; new department squad.

Adjournment

Chair Zais declared the meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary