

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019, 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 August 8, 2019 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Leaf/Matz) to approve the minutes of August 8, 2019 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Richert reported that an offer of employment for the Patrol Sergeant position has been accepted. Joshua Hecht currently works on the River Falls Police Department, and is the part-time chief of the Star Prairie Police Department. Hecht will resign both positions, and will be sworn in on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 11:00 am at the Village Hall. Since Hecht has law enforcement experience, he will have a shorter training period, mostly to learn the policies and procedures of the North Hudson Police Department (NHPD) and become familiar with the area. Richert estimates that Hecht's training will be completed by the end of October.

Richert discussed the current records management system used by St. Croix County and local municipalities, and a software demonstration presented to law enforcement representatives for a new system. Both are offered by Central Square Tech. The county and other jurisdictions would receive a 50% discount on the new software as existing customers. Richert discussed the possible timeline for installation of the new system. St. Croix County would house the software and all servers for the new system, and Central Square Tech would own the hardware and perform all maintenance and repairs. No contract has been signed to date.

Richert stated that he received an e-mail from St. Croix County stating the county has proposed to move Emergency Support Services functions under the Sheriff's Department, which will include Dispatch and several other functions. Dispatchers would not be deputized under the new proposed structure. Richert discussed prior concern about how local law enforcement calls would be prioritized if the Dispatch department reports to the Sheriff's Department, which had been proposed in the past.

Richert reported that there was nothing unusual in the incidents report for the past month. He mentioned that a vehicle-power pole collision call he responded to this past Sunday was recorded by a resident's NEST doorbell. Richert was notified that the video had been posted to the internet.

Richert said that the proportion of written versus verbal warnings for department officers has been appropriate. There were few citations issued during Pepper Fest, with the exception of a chase which went to the city of Hudson on Sunday of Pepper Fest weekend.

Citizen Request for No Parking Signage on Pine Street N.

Richert reviewed the results of a 2016 survey of North Hudson residents who lived on Pine Street N. at the time. The survey requested input regarding whether parking should be restricted to one side of the street on the 700/800 block of Pine Street N. Residents Greg and Peg Stene, of 722 Pine Street N., said that the residents who didn't respond to the 2016 survey probably didn't care one way or the other because they had other parking options available to them. The Stenes are concerned that emergency vehicles would be unable to get through Pine Street N. if vehicles are parked on both sides of the street. They don't have a preference for which side of the street is designated as no parking. Mr. Stene noted that the village is concerned with traffic being able to get through during Pepper Fest weekend, so parking is restricted during that time. He asked why the village wouldn't have the same concern the rest of the year. Mr. Stene said that the width of Pine Street N. is normally 25 feet wide, and that last winter the street width was reduced to 19 feet with snow piles. Mr. Stene feels a second survey is unnecessary, and doesn't want to wait for survey results for the village to take action. Mr. Stene is concerned that if the village waits to move forward, the ground will be frozen and signs can't be installed during the winter. The committee discussed whether more information should be gathered regarding the situation. Zais and Leaf expressed their agreement that there are safety concerns with having the road width reduced by parked cars.

Motion (Leaf/Matz) to recommend that one side of the 700/800 block of Pine Street N. be designated as no parking, with the side to be determined by Public Safety and Public Works departments. Motion carried.

Citizen Request for Stop Sign at intersection of Helen Street N. and Sommers Street N.

Richert discussed data which was collected by the portable speed sign in the area. There were vehicles which had been clocked at up to 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. There were no documented crashes at the intersection. Based on the available data, the village engineer Keith Oium stated there does not seem to be a valid reason to add a stop sign at the intersection.

Richert acknowledged there are speed issues, and that the electronic speed sign slows people down. Richert doesn't feel the need to install a stop sign.

Leaf noted that there is a pine tree that presents a partial visual obstruction near the intersection. Richert said the tree in question doesn't fall within the vision triangle for the area. Zais asked whether a caution sign could be installed. Richert said he didn't investigate that option. Leaf stated that there are school bus stops in the area, and that may be a concern for residents. She said that running radar patrols when possible, or having an electronic speed sign could reduce speeds. Richert said a solar powered speed sign could be utilized year-round. The battery on the portable speed sign drains quickly in cold weather.

The conclusion was to take no action at this time.

Hands-Free Cell Phone Ordinance

Richert provided the committee with the city of Hudson's new hands-free cell phone ordinance. Richert stated that he is concerned that visitors from out of town won't know what ordinances are in effect in municipalities. Richert would like to research what potential legal challenges there could be to a local hands-free use ordinance. He also wants to research the ordinances of other Wisconsin jurisdictions. Richert believes this is a feel-good law, but would be hard to enforce. He said a state-wide law would be better.

Social Hosting Ordinance

Richert said this issue has not been a high priority for him. He will try to move forward on this item to bring some resolution. He believes the village attorney should be working on wording for a possible ordinance.

Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted

Zais stated that nothing has been done in the city of Hudson in regards to this topic, so there is no action at this time. Richert said that he will contact the Public Safety Committee if he receives any resident complaints this fall.

Purchase New Handguns and Trade in Used Handguns

Richert has made a request to trade in the department's current handguns and replace with a Sig Sauer 9mm model. He spoke with two potential dealers, Streichers and Bill's Gun Shop. Streichers would do an even swap between the department's current ammunition and ammunition to fit the new guns. Streichers provided a quote \$1300 lower than Bill's Gun Shop. The department is currently under budget in the equipment line item in 2019, and Richert could purchase the new guns with the current budget funds.

Richert explained that many law enforcement departments are moving back to 9mm handguns for reasons which include improved accuracy, higher magazine capacity, lower ammunition cost, and variety of sizes to better fit officers. He stated that the NHPD has six guns, including two spares.

Motion (Leaf/Matz) to recommend purchase of six 9mm handguns and ammunition and the trade-in of current .40 caliber handguns from the 2019 police department budget. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 3-0. Matz-yes, Leaf-yes, Zais-yes.

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

Richert reported that the department budget numbers have been submitted to the village administrator, Melissa Luedke. Richert stated that Luedke would like to have the village budget finalized and approved earlier than in past years, hopefully by the end of November. Village Treasurer Nathan Troester calculated and reported the costs for an additional officer to Richert.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Richert stated that there is an additional vacancy in the Police Department; applications will be accepted until Monday, September 16, 2019 at 4:30 pm. All eligible applicants will be invited to complete testing on Saturday, September 28, 2019. The Police Commission will meet on September 29th to review applications and test results, and determine candidates to move forward. Interviews are planned to take place October 11 or 12, 2019. Background investigations will take place after interviews are completed. The goal is to have a new officer on board by early December 2019.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Richert is waiting for a quote to replace the police department server. Matz asked whether another vehicle would be needed if an additional officer is added to the force. Richert said that NHPD cars are well taken care of compared to those of other departments. He said that part of the 2019 department surplus could be used for a new vehicle. Luedke told Richert that budget surplus from any department falls into the unassigned fund at the end of the year, and is not carried over from year to year. Richert estimated that a new vehicle would cost around \$45,000.

Committee Goals

None.

Future Agenda Items

Hands free cell phone ordinance; social hosting ordinance; Amend Ordinance 38-7. After discussion, the committee and Richert recommended that "Committee Goals" be removed from future meeting agendas.

Adjournment

Chair Zais declared the meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary