

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting**

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 13, 2020 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Leaf/Matz) to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Richert reported on events surrounding what would have been Pepper Fest weekend. There were no issues at either of the venues which received extended premises permits or at house parties.

The annual North Hudson Police Department (NHPD) Force on Force simunitions training took place on September 8, 2020 and included scenarios reinforcing de-escalation training. Force on Force is defined as situations where paint balls or simulated tasers may be used. The goal of training is for officers to identify the proper level of force for each scenario presented.

This month's incident breakdown doesn't include three medical situations which took place in the village this past weekend. There were three deaths within the village within one week, including two incidents where NHPD officers performed CPR. Richert expressed his condolences to the families of the deceased. Leaf asked how the officer involved in one of the CPR events was handling the situation. Richert explained that an AED was used during both events, but the AED announced "No Shock Advised." Richert explained that the AED records the CPR compressions, and showed that the officer's CPR technique was good. Officers have access to support if they need it via the Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

Richert stated that not many citations are being written by department officers, and that there was a good quantity of traffic stops.

Fireworks Paraphernalia License Application – BNA Properties, LLC

Bill Wanner of BNA Properties, LLC, and his attorney attended the Public Safety meeting via Zoom. Wanner explained that, since the building formerly occupied by MidwestOne Bank is currently vacant, he wanted to bring some business to it. Leaf asked Wanner if he anticipates other business being conducted in the building, Wanner said he did not at this time.

Motion (Matz/Leaf) to approve the application for a Fireworks Paraphernalia License – Temporary Use Permit for BNA Properties, LLC with the following inclusions: “No Smoking” signs must be displayed, fire extinguishers available, no fireworks sold to person(s) under 18 years of age, operation not to exceed 180 days per calendar year. Motion carried.

Towing Service Rotation

Richert presented an example of the current towing service rotation, and said it needs to be addressed. The current towing services which NHPD uses are Mike’s, All Ways, Alwin’s, and Jerry’s. Mike’s and Alwin’s have limited their towing hours, especially after business hours. He explained that St. Croix County Sheriff’s Department uses a towing dispatch company. Richert has asked other municipalities what they do regarding towing service. Richert wants to review the current situation, and ask the current towing companies whether they want to continue to be called, whether 24-hour service is available, etc. Leaf asked Richert how many tows the village requests per year. Richert said he isn’t sure, and explained that most are from OMVWI arrests after hours, or for vehicles parked in a detour route. Richert asked the committee members for their input regarding what the department should do. Leaf feels Richert and the department can best determine their needs going forward. Richert said there are no contracts between North Hudson and towing companies.

Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted

Zais said there are no changes regarding update of the ordinance.

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

Richert said there are no updates to the traffic control plans. He said there will be road closures on Highway 35 for tree branch removal this fall in anticipation of the construction project in 2021. In October, five power poles will be moved in advance of the project, which will require a road closure, as well. Matz asked whether affected residents will be notified before power pole work is done and access to their driveways may be affected. Richert believed residents will have access to their driveways during the work.

Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) Update

Richert forwarded the village’s draft Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) to St. Croix County Emergency Management Director Natasha Cardinal for review. She will send corrections by September 11, 2020, and Richert will have the village board review the plan at their October or November meeting.

Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Richert presented the proposed 2021 budget for the NHPD. He explained that accounts 110-156 are managed by Village Treasurer Nathan Troester. Accounts beyond 156 are those he can control. The department was projecting over budget in some accounts in 2020, and under budget in one or two accounts. Wages and benefits will be affected by contract negotiations, and Richert said he placed assumptions of a 2% increase in wages and 15% increase in healthcare costs in 2021.

Richert discussed various expenses and capital items being considered for the 2021 budget. One officer’s body armor expires in 2021, so it will need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$1200. He may transition to the vest body armor. Two Tasers expire in 2021 and will be replaced. Richert would like to purchase fire suppression tools (FST) for each squad, which have a ten-year shelf life. If units are used to suppress a fire in a home, insurance will pay for a replacement kit. The FST budget amount will be reduced if needed.

Microsoft software needs to be upgraded on the squad laptops, and increased software monitoring is desired. Richert said the overall police department budget request has an estimated increase of 4.5% in 2021.

Richert explained capital items under consideration. He tries to upgrade squads at about 80,000-90,000 miles to avoid maintenance costs. Richert presented a 5-10 year plan to replace department squads. Richert will work with Village Administrator Melissa Luedke to increase funding in the account for squad replacement.

Leaf asked Richert when the budget goes to the Finance Committee. Richert explained that the process starts in October with the Finance Committee, and then the village board convenes a special meeting to approve department budgets before submission to St. Croix County.

Motion (Leaf/Matz) to approve the 2021 North Hudson Police Department budget as presented. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 3-0. Matz-yes, Leaf-yes, Zais-yes.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Richert discussed the new shifts several officers will start next week. Sergeant Hecht will work days and two other officers will change their shifts, as well. Hecht being on day shift will result in better communication between him and Richert.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Richert is waiting for estimates for the department server replacement. Costs will vary depending on the storage configuration selected. He will have more information at a later meeting. Richert would also like to replace one squad.

Future Agenda Items

Towing service rotation; Amend Ordinance 38-7 – Burning Restricted; 2021 STH 35 Project – Public Safety preparation/traffic control; Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) Updates.

Adjournment

Chair Zais declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary