

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, February 8, 2018, 5:30 p.m.
Village Hall, 400 7th Street North
Hudson, WI 54016**

Call to Order: roll call

Chair Marc Zappa called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Answering the call were Trustees Cathy Leaf and Tim Zais. A quorum was present and the meeting was duly noticed. Also in attendance was Police Chief Mark Richert.

Comments from the floor

None

Approval of minutes from January 11, 2018 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Leaf/Zais) to approve the minutes of January 11, 2018 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

Police Department Vacancy: Richert reported that three candidates were placed on the eligibility list by the Police Commission. The first two candidates were removed from consideration due to background check issues. The third candidate finished his psychological evaluation yesterday. Richert will make a final offer of employment to the candidate, pending final results of the psychological evaluation, drug test, and work physical. If all three tests are passed, Richert will make a final offer of employment. Richert's desire is to have the new employee start training in early March. Zappa asked how long the probationary period is for new officers. Richert stated that the field training period is about 4 to 4-1/2 months, and the probationary period lasts for one year after field training is completed. The new officer should have a good variety of situations to provide experience during this time of year.

County Chiefs of Police Association group participation: Richert was appointed to the CJCC and two subcommittees within.

Mental Health subcommittee – There has been a decrease in the number of mental health crisis beds in the Twin Cities metro area available to Wisconsin jurisdictions, so Eau Claire is the next closest city which could provide a bed for an individual who may be a danger to her/himself or others. Often, there are no beds available in Eau Claire for non-Eau Claire County residents, so the final facility to transfer patients to is Winnebago Hospital in Oshkosh. This means that an officer must transfer a patient in crisis who has been placed in handcuffs to Oshkosh, a 4-1/2 hour trip each way. This situation takes the transferring officer out of the jurisdiction for the duration of the trip, and poses large problems for the person in crisis. This subcommittee is investigating regional solutions to this problem, including funding through the state Department of Health Services for beds closer to St. Croix County. This subcommittee is also overseeing training of law enforcement in St. Croix and surrounding counties for Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

Domestic Violence and Family Issues subcommittee – Richert was asked to gather data and report on domestic violence arrests in St. Croix County, specifically mapping the numbers and process of arrests to charges to trial and sentencing. The desire is to measure the effects of these steps on the offenders and victims, and determine if the greatest group of people possible are benefiting from this approach. Specifically, New Richmond has created a packet for use during domestic violence calls, and includes a list of questions to better identify the potential future danger to the victims. In addition, the NHPD with the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office in partnership with TurningPoint, have applied for a grant to help assist victims with immediate needs [more information on this grant below].

Incident Breakdown: There are some felony cases which have put a lot of stress and pressure on department resources. Richert has reached out to other jurisdictions for assistance, but most communities are having the same issue with a shortage of resources. Otherwise, the call volume is pretty typical. Zais asked Richert if the village's time commitment on the felony cases is at the start of each case. Richert said that the current cases are state felonies, and that there are ongoing activities which he and the department must undertake. Outside agencies assist in the case, but the bulk of the work falls to the local jurisdiction, and include but are not limited to: executing search warrants, collecting and documenting evidence; reviewing evidence in preparation for charges or trial; and monitoring the location of fugitives who are outside the North Hudson jurisdiction.

Social Media Archiving

Zais provided Richert with a list of other resources which could be used to monitor and store data from the police department's social media accounts. Richert has spoken with chiefs of other jurisdictions in St. Croix County to determine whether other communities want to start subscribing to this type of service. Richert is considering a 30-day trial of several services to evaluate whether the service is beneficial to the department and is cost-effective. Richert and Zais both have several service providers from which the chief can choose. Zappa suggested the chief continue the investigation process. Richert asked Zais to help with the analysis of service providers, given Richert's time constraints with open cases. Zais agreed to take on that part of the project. Zappa asked Zais what he will do to assist Richert. Zais stated that he plans to eliminate two vendors, then gather more information on each service, speak with company representatives, and identify the services each company provides, length of trial periods, and cost. Zais will do whatever Richert wants him to do in this regard. Zappa asked that Zais stay in contact with Richert during the data-gathering process. Zappa wants to make sure that the police department staff is in charge of making the final decision and not that the recommendation is coming from a trustee. The trustees and Richert agreed that if a social media policy is adopted by the village, it would cover the entire village government, not just the police department. The group will review the City of Janesville's social media policy as a possible example. Zappa thanked Zais for his offer of assistance.

Domestic Abuse Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Grant Application

St. Croix County Sheriff's Department and North Hudson PD have applied for a grant from the Lethality Assessment Program in Maryland to investigate a domestic abuse prevention program which was implemented in the state of Maryland and is now being adopted throughout the country. The lethality assessment is a series of questions posed to domestic abuse victims after the suspect has been removed from the premises to determine the victim's level of safety around the suspect. Questions revolve around whether the victim has felt threatened, has she/he been held against her/his will, and similar topics. If the victim

answers yes to any of these questions, a victims' advocate is contacted immediately and is put in touch with the victim. Previously, victims were given a packet of information; however, the victim often never contacted an advocate. With this approach, the victim is offered resources immediately to help provide safety to the victim. In addition, the suspect has a risk assessment done before or during the first court date, to determine what type of bond should be required of the suspect. In addition to these changes, there has been a process change at St. Croix County courts so the suspect is not released until the risk assessment has been completed, usually within 72 hours. The grant was submitted by St. Croix County Sheriff's Department, North Hudson Police Department, and TurningPoint (the victims' advocacy group). The grant would cover training for all officers within St. Croix County, and data collection to verify that the process is evidence-based. Leaf asked when Richert would be notified about awarding of the grant. Richert stated that applications were due February 1, 2018. TurningPoint is the coordinator for the grant, with Richert and the St. Croix County sheriff as heads of their respective departments, as well as Judge Eric Lundell as the head of the CJCC. The grant will cover costs for the trainer, to develop the training documents, and to train the initial law enforcement officers who will in turn train members of their respective departments. The grant does not cover the costs of training each officer in each department.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

Richert wants to get back to full strength as soon as possible.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Each member of the department has been supplied with a tactical vest and several shields have been purchased and received for the department. The officers were fitted for their tactical helmets today, and will receive them soon.

There will be a request to replace a squad included in the 2019 department budget. The oldest squad is starting to cost more in maintenance and repairs.

Committee Goals

None

Future Agenda Items

Social media usage and archiving.

Zais mentioned that the Neighborhood Watch program has growing interest in the village. Richert suggested that the program is designed to be supported by the police department and should not be run by the police department. Zais said they are moving in that direction. Zappa suggested that Zais provide an update as a comment from the floor at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Zappa declared the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary

Public Safety Meeting
February 8, 2018
Page 3