

**Village of North Hudson
Public Safety Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2017, 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 5:32 p.m. Answering the call were Trustees Kirk Nelson and Tim Zais. 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 November 10, 2016 Public Safety Meeting

Motion (Zais/Nelson) to approve the minutes of November 10, 2016 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Chief's Report

New Patrol Sergeant: Richert introduced North Hudson Police Department's new Patrol Sergeant Ben Boese. Boese participated in firearm training last week and has his first patrol shift tonight.

St. Croix County frequency upgrade: Richert reported that St. Croix County dispatch is working on a multi-million dollar upgrade of their transmission facilities, including more towers around the county and a frequency upgrade. The vendor performing the frequency upgrade offered the county a free digital frequency in addition to the four analog frequencies they are supplying. The village's law enforcement radios are digital-capable, so their software can be upgraded for a fee to use the digital frequency when it becomes available. Richert doesn't know what the software upgrade cost will be. The county frequencies will be updated in spring 2017; however, law enforcement agencies are not required to move to the digital channel until April 15, 2018. Richert doesn't anticipate the software cost to be very big, so if needed, the radios can be upgraded more than once. Richert believes he may have enough money in the 2017 budget to have the upgrade completed this year. His preference would be to update each radio one time. The department owns 10 radios – 5 mobile and 5 portable – and the cost may be \$200 per radio for the upgrade.

Incident breakdown: Nothing out of the ordinary to report for December's incidents. North Hudson PD took 683 cases in 2016, which is down nearly 200 cases from previous years. This is due to the staffing level in the department in 2016. Richert will prepare a department annual report in March, 2017, which will explain that the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department responded to the remaining village cases. Zappa asked Richert to describe an example of a suspicious activity call. Richert explained that if a business or resident reported unusual activity in the area, the Police Department will investigate the incident. If it is determined that no illegal activity took place, the business or person who reported the activity will be provided with that information. If the PD determines that an illegal activity took place, the case is changed to reflect the new charge. Zappa asked Richert to explain what constitutes a traffic

complaint. Richert explained that when a driver reports a perceived law infraction (tailgating, erratic driving), the call is classified as a traffic complaint. A disagreement about what the speed limit should be does not constitute a traffic complaint.

Overtime expense: Overtime costs in 2016 were lower due to the staff vacancies. Richert typically budgets \$5000 per officer per year for overtime, and the department is well under that amount for 2016.

ATV/UTV Ordinance

Richert received a response from Wisconsin DNR representative Mark Little regarding the proposed ATV route map and village ordinance which were submitted to Little for review. Little stated that the route, signage, and ordinance would not be in compliance with the state NR code and would leave the village liable. Little did not offer any suggestions to update the route or ordinance. Richert said the village has to create a new proposed ATV route with proper signage to satisfy the state code. Nelson asked whether Richert can ask Little for guidance with a new proposed route. Richert said he can ask, but he isn't sure whether Little will respond. Resident Frank Halvorson, of 504 Sommers Landing Road N., offered that he doesn't think Little will respond to a request for assistance. Halvorson said the state code doesn't offer any guidance for design of an ATV route. Richert believes the criteria include the route having a beginning and an end in the municipality. In North Hudson, there could be a route beginning defined, but no end. Richert thought that the village may have to submit multiple proposals to the DNR for approval. Zais asked whether the DNR's goal is to have the village post signage at every intersection for the ATV route. Richert wondered who creates the NR rules (legislature, DNR or other group) and could the village ask for a change to be made to accommodate North Hudson's plan for an ATV route. Zappa stated that he would like to learn how other municipalities, Siren as an example, had their ATV route defined and approved. Zappa asked how the village would be liable if the ATV route is not defined properly. Richert gave the example of an ATV operator who had been issued a citation and contests the citation because of a question about the validity of the ATV route. Another example is when a crash involves an ATV, and a vehicle driver questions the validity of the ATV route, the village could be liable. Zappa clarified that if the village approved use of ATVs in the village limits but didn't comply with DNR regulations, the village could be liable if problem situations arise. Richert offered to confer with the village attorney regarding the village's liability if an authorized ATV route is not approved by the DNR. Zappa asked whether Richert would get a response from the DNR if he asked more questions. Richert said the response to his last request took three weeks to be sent. Zappa asked whether Little would be of assistance if he is given an outline of the village's goal and asked for his assistance for how to achieve that goal. Richert said that he can ask Little for that information. Zappa expressed frustration with the DNR's relationship with municipalities and its perceived lack of assistance when needed. Zais stated that the committee needs guidance and clarification before it can proceed. Nelson asked whether someone from the village can ask Little to recommend someone to provide assistance in the drafting of an acceptable ATV route and village ordinance. Zais mentioned that three municipalities in Northwest Wisconsin – Siren, Balsam Lake, and Frederic – do not have ATV route signage on every street in their municipalities. Zais offered to supply Richert with the name of the officer in Frederic that Zais spoke with earlier on the subject of their ATV route. Zais also has the name of the person in Frederic who helped to set up the ATV route and post the signs. Richert surmised that the difference between these communities and North Hudson is that the other villages have ATV routes going into and out of the communities and North Hudson has no ATV trail approaching the village limit. Zais stated that the other communities with ATV routes connecting to out-of-town trails have no ATV route signage in the municipality. Zais will follow up with

his contacts in Frederic for suggested next steps for North Hudson. Nelson asked Halvorson if he has any other questions. Halvorson wants a definition of what constitutes an ATV route. Little told Halvorson previously that all ATV routes must be designated. Zappa suggested that Zais' follow-up research with his contacts may shed some light on this issue. Halvorson offered his assistance regarding the proposed ATV route. Zais suggested that he and Halvorson get on a conference call with the contact from Frederic. Zappa suggested that getting this ordinance defined and approved isn't going to be easy. This is the third time he has dealt with trying to get an ATV route ordinance passed in the village. He believes the committee has had more meetings regarding this topic than during past attempts. Zappa recommended that the committee get more informed and ask the right questions and see where that leads the effort.

Police Department Staffing and Coverage

For the first time since April 2016, the department is at full staff. Sergeant Boese will be in FTO for about two months. Richert and Boese reviewed the task sheets last evening involved with the training program. Boese has had one call for each type of call depicted in the task sheets, so the training will go much quicker. Richert is training a supervisor for the first time, so he is trying to figure out to incorporate the supervisor training with the officer training, and he thinks he'll incorporate both throughout the training. With Sergeant Boese's five years on the Oshkosh police force, Richert doesn't have any questions about his ability to respond to calls in the village. The things which will be stressed is learning the village PD's paperwork, how the DA's office works, etc. The committee expressed its optimism with Boese.

Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning

Richert is gathering numbers for tactical equipment – shields, helmets, etc. – which may be used during a civil disturbance. Washington County is developing a one-day course on responding to a civil disturbance; Richert expects that training to take place in March or April, and all North Hudson officers will participate.

Committee Goals

Nothing new.

Future Agenda Items

ATV use in the Village

Adjournment

Chair Zappa declared the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald
Recording Secretary