

**Village of North Hudson  
Public Safety Meeting  
Thursday, August 10, 2017, 5:30 p.m.  
Village Hall, 400 7<sup>th</sup> 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 were Police Chief Mark Richert and Recording Secretary Anne-Marie McDonald.

**Comments from the floor**

None

**Approval of minutes from July 13, 2017 Public Safety Meeting**

**Motion (Leaf/Zais) to approve the minutes of July 13, 2017 meeting as written. Motion carried.**

**Chief's Report**

Ferry Landing Park: Officers conducted additional details of the park during several weekends in July. Visitors to the park seem to be adjusting to the new rules; no citations have been issued.

Radio Antenna: The antenna is connected, the North Hudson PD frequency is live and ready for Pepper Fest. Richert commented that it is nice to have their dedicated channel for communication.

Narcan usage: The North Hudson Police Department was trained on using Narcan about three weeks ago. Each officer carries a canister and is able to administer the Narcan if he encounters a person experiencing an opioid overdose to prevent the overdose from getting worse and to block the effects of the opioid. Hudson Police Department had to use Narcan twice within 48 hours of being trained. North Hudson hasn't seen as much usage of opioids as the city of Hudson, but that doesn't mean there isn't opioid usage in the village. Zais asked what the cost is to the village for Narcan. The cases must be purchased by the village, at a cost of \$19 each. Hudson EMS covers the cost of the canister and interior contents, and is billed to the patient.

Incident Breakdown: Citations and tally totals for officers is nothing out of the ordinary.

**FY2018 Budget**

Richert reviewed the 2017 approved budget categories and proposed 2018 budget. 90% of the North Hudson Police Department budget is personnel-related expenses – wages, benefits, and other costs associated with personnel. The remainder of the budget goes to operating costs (8%) and fuel/maintenance for squads (2%). Richert explained the Operations Expenditure Detail Information, detailing the 2018 budget request for each area and how that number changed from the 2017 budget. He talked about the Office/Computer account, which he proposes to increase \$6000 in 2018. The increase would pay for a new network switch which has been in use since 2005 or 2006. In addition, Richert would like to update the village building surveillance hardware, which was installed in 2008. The current surveillance system records two days' worth of video, and Richert would like to have at least a week's, if not a month's worth of recording time. Richert also

identified the Protective Equipment account for a proposed increase of \$5500. This amount would include replacement of one taser and three AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) units which are out of warranty and cannot be repaired. Richert also mentioned that the police department will no longer have to pay for lease expense after this year with the purchase of the Public Works garage, for a savings of \$3069.

Richert asked Village Treasurer Nathan Troester to update the personnel-related projections for the 2017 budget. Based on current staff levels and hours, the police department is projected to be under budget by \$32,589 for 2017.

The current proposed 2018 budget for the police department is \$20,497 more than for 2017, an increase of 3.8%. Richert noted that there are items on the 2018 budget where he has requested purchase of more than one of a particular item, and he could decrease the quantity during budget negotiations, if needed. This is the budget he will submit to the Village Board and Finance Committee for analysis.

Zappa explained to Zais and Leaf that this committee determines now whether to recommend Richert's proposed 2018 budget for submission to the Finance Committee. Richert noted that the police officers' union contract is up for negotiation this year. Troester has put in an assumed 2% increase based on the new contract, however, that number could change. After the contract is settled, Troester can include the actual increase number. Richert stated that the union contract affects two officers on the North Hudson police force, so the impact on the budget won't be great.

Richert explained that his department would operate most efficiently with one more officer; however, that budget item usually gets cut right away when the budget dollars need to be reduced. He has not included an additional officer in his 2018 budget, given the 3.8% increase currently being proposed.

Zappa expressed the committee's aim to equip and train the police department as well as possible, given that Richert has one fewer officer than desired.

**Motion (Zais/Leaf) to recommend North Hudson Police Department proposed 2018 budget be submitted to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.**

### **Police Department Staffing and Coverage**

Richert expressed that it will be nice to have the department at full staff for Pepper Fest this year.

### **Police Department Capital / Equipment Planning**

Richert asked the sergeant to investigate several companies which provide tactical police equipment. The company with the least expensive equipment was Advantage Police Supply. The St. Croix County Sheriff's department purchases all its tactical equipment from this company. The helmets would be helpful for situations where the officers may not know what to expect. The tactical vests have hard plates which are rated to withstand some rifle fire. Richert would like to have a ballistic shield in each squad, so they are available at any time. The shields can either be purchased for all vehicles now, or a shield could be purchased when a new squad car is being fitted for use by the police department.

Zais asked what dollar amount constitutes a capital expenditure as opposed to an expense. Richert explained that capital items are those which cost \$5000 or more, or have at least a five-year depreciation life. Zappa

asked whether the department can work with two ballistic shields rather than four. He also asked Richert how many officers are on duty at one time. Richert explained that one officer is typically on duty at one time, with a half-hour shift overlap. Zappa stated that he would have difficulty convincing the board to approve the purchase of four shields. Zappa said he would rather present a request that has a better chance of being approved. Zappa believes the tactical helmets and tactical vests are hard to refute for officer safety. Zappa believes that requesting two ballistic shields is a more realistic request. Zappa wants to continue the culture of understanding that the police department requires capital equipment to support its officers. Because of civil disobedience events which have taken place in other communities, Richert wants to have his officers equipped to respond to these situations as safely as possible. The committee agreed that Richert should request four tactical helmets, four tactical vests, and two ballistic shields.

**Motion (Zais/Leaf) to recommend purchase of four tactical helmets, four tactical vests, and two ballistic level III shields to the Finance Committee as part of the 2018 proposed police department capital equipment line item. Motion carried.**

### **Committee Goals**

None

### **Future Agenda Items**

Zais asked about the status of the new ordinance at Ferry Landing Park, based on jet ski operators still using the beach on weekends. Richert is not scheduling any additional details to monitor the park. He asked his officers to patrol the park area hourly on weekends, to observe whether large groups are coming or going, or if there are issues on the beach. When he checks the park, Richert is seeing more families and groups of kids using the beach than he's ever seen before. The new buoys will be installed next week. Leaf asked Richert whether he had received any more correspondence from the village resident who had informed the chief of previous issues with jet ski operators on the beach; Richert hasn't heard from the resident. Richert also spoke with Village President Stan Wekkin to see whether Wekkin has been approached with concerns, and Wekkin has not.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Zappa declared the meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Anne-Marie McDonald  
Recording Secretary