



Village of Westmont VILLAGE BOARD

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Village Board Police Public Safety Committee

Westmont Village Hall - 31 West Quincy Street

Meeting Minutes - April 18, 2024

Approved - October 17, 2024

I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Trustee Simonovich called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

II. **ROLL CALL**

<p><u>Committee</u> Trustee Simonovich (Chair) Mayor Gunter Trustee Liddle Trustee Guzzo Trustee Barker Trustee Nero Trustee Brady - arrived at 5:05 pm Village Clerk Szymiski</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> F&P Commissioner Kovanda Commissioner Kovanda's Guest</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Village Manager May Assistant Village Manager Parker Chief Public Safety Officer Gunther Deputy Chief Gruen Deputy Fire Chief Fitzgerald Public Works Director Ries CDD Director Hennerfeind HR Director Brainerd Gov't Services Director Mielcarski via Zoom Sgt. Borgardt PPO Caruso PPO Broda Management Analyst Olsson via Zoom</p>
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III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - January 25, 2024 Police Public Safety Committee meeting minutes were approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Barker.

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Honoring Fire and Police Commission Chairman Kovanda**

Chief Gunther presented Chairman Kovanda with a retirement plaque and thanked him for his service to the community. Chairman Kovanda started as a board member of the Environmental Improvement Commission (EIC) from December 1995 through February 2000. He was appointed by the Mayor to the Fire and Police (F&P) Commission on February 7, 2000. He will retire on May 31, 2024. Chairman Kovanda

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hired 88% of the current officers. Mayor Gunter briefly discussed the 3 - person commission and congratulated Chairman Kovanda for his efforts.

Chairman Kovanda thanked his fellow commissioners, Mayor Gunter, and the Village Board for their support. He also thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their service to the community.

B. Department Service Award

Chief Gunther recognized Sgt. Jeffrey Borgardt for 20 years of dedicated service in the community and the department. Some of Sgt. Borgardt's achievements include Public Safety Officer of the Year in 2012, Detective, Juvenile Officer, Crime Scene Technician, Field Training Officer, Range Officer, Honor Guard, and Bike Officer.

C. Staffing Update

Chief Gunther introduced new hires PPO Thomas Caruso and PPO Bartlomiej Broda. They will start the academy on April 29, 2024. Trustee Nero asked if the new recruits were aware of the success of the recent academy graduates. Chief Gunther proudly stated that the department had consecutive Valedictorians from the academy with PPO Boyle and Ofc. Mendez. PPO Boyle will start field training next week.

Chief Gunther stated the Investigative Aide candidate has been selected and is in the background check process. The eligibility list for police officers has expired. The F&P Commission worked with IO Solutions to post the openings which included laterals as well as entry level police officer positions. So far, 15 lateral and 171 entry level applications have been received. The Sergeant eligibility list has also expired and there are 7 applicants that will go through promotion testing.

D. Special Events

Chief Gunther summarized the recent and upcoming special events:

- 1) The Shred Event held on April 13, 2024 raised almost \$5,000 for Special Olympics Illinois. Cutting Edge Document Destruction was used to shred 8,718 pounds of paper, which has saved 74 trees.
- 2) Golf outing fundraiser for Special Olympics Illinois will be held on September 13, 2024 at Village Greens of Woodridge. Sgt. Weibler is coordinating the event.
- 3) Drug take back will be held on April 27, 2024 at the Westmont Police Department and Mariano's on 63rd Street.
- 4) National Police Week starts on May 13, 2024 and the department will host a luncheon honoring Westmont Police Department retirees.
- 5) Citizens' Police Academy applications are available online and the classes will run from September 25 through November 13, 2024.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Committee Chair

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Chair Simonovich - no report

B. Department Director

Chief Gunther provided an update on his new role as the Chief Public Safety Officer. He attended DuPage Mayor and Managers Conference (DMMC) events with Manager May. He has ongoing meetings with Fire Chief Riley and Public Works Director Ries to collaborate with the departments and address public safety issues. He intends to promote supervisor development by implementing a Village-wide supervisor training series. He completed 30 hours of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training and is working with a media company to create a training video. He will serve as the primary contact for OSHA. Manager May added that Chief Gunther's new role evolved to include the pursuit of accreditation for the Public Works Department and navigating the agreement with OSHA.

In the Fire Department, Chief Gunther and Chief Riley appointed James Fitzgerald as the full time Deputy Fire Chief. The second Deputy Fire Chief has been selected and an offer has been made. He is reviewing the fire shared services with other communities and the feasibility of a full time fire department which would impact the requirements for the headquarters.

At the EIC meeting on May 6, 2024, Chief Gunther will be presenting all of the environmentally friendly accomplishments that were implemented by the Police Department.

C. Division Reports

1) Administration

To follow up on the statistical comparisons from the January meeting, Chief Gunther presented calendar years 2020 - 2023 comparisons on the following (see attachment):

- Patrol operations
- Side street patrol statistics
 - Mayor Gunter asked how intersection blocking violations are categorized, especially around Richmond St. and Cass Ave. Chief Gunther responded that violations on Cass Ave. is not tracked since Cass Ave. is not considered a residential zone despite the fact that there are residences located on Cass Ave. However, he is aware of the traffic issues around the dance studio and the church. He will review the options to best capture violations in those specific areas of concern and report back to the Board.
- DUI statistics
 - Mayor Gunter asked if DUI prosecutions are done in Downers Grove. Chief Gunther stated that felony prosecutions go to the States Attorney's Office and the rest of prosecutions are done locally.

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- Investigation Division - Cases and arrests data
 - Chief Gunther described a recent case that identified a stolen vehicle armed with guns, which resulted in arrests. Manager May added that the stolen vehicle was captured by one of the license plate readers (LPR) installed by an apartment complex, which the department is able to access.
 - Records Division - DCFS, FOIA requests and local records checks
 - Special Olympics Illinois - fundraising from 2018 - 2023
 - Chief Gunther added that Cop on a Rooftop will be at both Dunkin' locations on May 17, 2024.
- 2) Patrol - no report
 - 3) Investigations - no report

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Mayor Gunter discussed the issue of overnight parking of semi-trucks and trailers on 59th St. Chief Gunther stated that DC Thompson is working with Attorney Zemenak to fortify the current overnight parking ordinance to specifically target commercial vehicles parked in residential zones.
- B. Mayor Gunter asked if there are many sovereign citizens that were stopped. Sgt. Borgardt responded that the challenge with sovereign citizens is when they approach traffic stops. They are not allowed to interfere with traffic stops and keep their distance. He added that there have been approximately 10-12 incidents per year with sovereign citizens on the road. Chief Gunther cited an example of a sovereign citizen that was ticketed and towed, who just walked away from the scene. Chief Gunther added that they are typically passive aggressive and do not acknowledge that they are under any jurisdiction. Incidents with sovereign citizens are addressed on a case by case basis.

- X. **ADJOURN** - Approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Nero at 5:19 p.m. (next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024)