

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, April 16, 2015 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Nero called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry (arrive at 4:15 p.m.), Trustee Nero, Trustee Senicka, Trustee Scott, Mayor Gunter, Village Manager May, Clerk Szymiski and Police Chief Mulhearn

Also present:

Deputy Police Chief Brenza, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, EMS Director Dralle, Community Development Director Zeigler, Finance Director Parker, IT Tech Wyatt, Bob Kovanda (Police & Fire Commission), Vince Musil (Police & Fire Commission), Joe Hrnecirik (Police & Fire Commission), Mike Liebert (Red Speed Illinois) and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Fire Chief Weiss

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Senicka to approve the February 5, 2015 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Photo Enforcement Program at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Grade Crossing - Presentation by RedSpeed Illinois V.P. Michael Liebert

A presentation was made by Vice President Michael Liebert, RedSpeed Illinois pertaining to rail grade crossing photo enforcement. Mr. Liebert highlighted the following items:

- DuPage County has a total of 238 rail crossings; from 2009 - 2014 there have been 35 collisions at these crossings with a total 21 fatalities throughout Illinois.
- The Cass Avenue crossing in Westmont has the third highest volume along the Burlington Northern railroad tracks.
- Photo enforcement violation fines total \$250 - 1st Offense, \$500 - 2nd Offense and a citation mailed to the registered owner.
- A court appearance is optional, no impact on driving record as it is a civil offense and a non moving violation. All citations would be handled by an adjudicator and would not be brought into the DuPage County Court System.
- Offenders would have the ability to view the violation online.

Police Chief Mulhern said a test camera was placed on southbound and northbound Cass Avenue at Burlington Avenue on January 27th from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- During the test period a total of 39 southbound vehicles crossed the railroad tracks while the gates were flashing; zero vehicles crossed the railroad tracks while gates were down and zero vehicles were on the white marked lines.
- After Police Department review it was determined 15 out of 39 offenders would have been issued a citation if cameras were active.
- There were 24 northbound vehicles crossing with gates flashing. A total of eight citations would have been issued.

Further discussion followed pertaining to the cost associated with the rail grade crossing photo enforcement program.

- The monthly camera lease cost is \$5,000 per approach. A total of two cameras would be proposed for the Westmont railroad crossing.
 - The lease cost includes installation and maintenance of all equipment; digital capture; all violation printing and letter handling services.
- A six year cost neutral contract term is required on all leases.
 - The cancellation terms are as follows:
 - A total of 18+ months into the lease can be cancelled without penalty.
 - Less than 18 months can be cancelled with cause without penalty.
 - Less than 18 months without cause can be cancelled with an \$80,000 reimbursement fee. The fee is reduced by \$4,445 for each active month of the contract.
 - The reimbursement fee no longer applies after 18 months of activation.
- Police Department staff determined approximately 40 monthly citations would need to be issued to break even on costs.

After further discussion over the services offered Mayor Gunter requested the issue be tabled until a later time when the two new trustees could be involved in the discussion. Chief Mulhearn agreed and said he would present additional information at the next scheduled Public Safety Committee Meeting.

Crossing Guard Program

Police Chief Mulhearn advised he spoke with Community School District 201, Maercker School District and Holy Trinity pertaining to the crossing guard program funding.

- He indicated after discussion all three agreed to fund the additional \$9,000 required to maintain the existing program. They indicated they are in favor of the school children safety. Information will be included in the Friday packet.
- Trustee Senicka asked if the Crossing Guard contractor would consider changing to Westmont's fiscal year in an effort to avoid any potential funding issues. Chief Mulhearn indicated he would ask them and report back.

New Ways to Report Non-Emergency Calls to the Village on Various Issues

Police Chief Mulhearn said Trustee Barker had previously requested staff investigate anonymous ways to report nuisance issues throughout the Village. Options such as anonymous texts, etc. could be considered.

- Chief Mulhearn indicated Downers Grove VOC does not currently have the capability to receive anonymous texts. They are working on Next Generation 911 implementation and may have capability after completion.
- Several other options were discussed such as contacting Code Enforcement, Police Crime Tip Line, etc.
- Trustee Barker provided background on the request. He indicated he's been involved in several conversations where residents are hesitant to report issues fearing there may be negative recourse.
- He further said in his opinion residents need to be better educated on the issue.
- Chief Mulhearn indicated he would work with Communications Director McIntyre to develop information for Westmont residents.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Home Health Care Update

EMS Director Dralle provided an update on the proposed home health care plan.

- She indicated the Illinois Department of Public Health has approved the plan.
- The next step would be for Westmont to apply for approval. Fire Department staff will complete the required application paperwork.
- EMS Director Dralle advised the reimbursement process has not yet been determined. Staff will meet with Good Samaritan in an effort to establish reimbursement guidelines and procedures.
- The City of Ottawa Fire Department already has a system in place and indicated they generated \$400,000 revenue within the last year. Staff will be visiting to gain additional information.

- In closing EMS Director Dralle expressed her opinion that the program would be a revenue generator as well as a great service to the Westmont residents and community.

New Engine Update

Deputy Chief Connolly discussed the capital replacement program which has been in place for several years.

- Included within the plan fire department engines are scheduled for replacement every eight years.
- D/C Connolly advised a committee was formed to investigate other options. After review it was determined that an engine would be the best replacement vehicle.
- A second committee was then formed to develop the new engine specifications.
 - Committee members reviewed eight vendor proposals, of which four were eliminated after review.
 - The four remaining vendors provided engine demonstrations. Two vendors, Pierce and Seagraves were chosen to provide specifications.
 - Upon completion, specifications will be brought to the Village Board for a final recommendation.
 - Upon approval, an estimated 10 month delivery window will be given. Staff anticipates delivery by April 2016.

New Deputy Chief and Promotions Update

Deputy Chief Connolly discussed staffing changes within the Fire Department.

- He introduced Steve Riley as the new Full Time Deputy Chief. He said Steve is a quick learner with over 20 years experience with the Westmont Fire Department. Steve will be transitioning into Administrative Director Skala's role upon Craig's retirement in June.
- Deputy Chief Connolly also said Captain Fitzgerald was promoted to Duty Chief to fill Deputy Chief Riley's vacated position.
- All promoted members will be recognized at the April 30th Village Board Meeting.

Ambulance Fee Survey Review

EMS Director Dralle distributed a 2014 User Fee Survey as compiled by the Naperville Fire Department.

- Upon review of the fee summary, Director Dralle drafted a proposed Westmont Fire Department fee increases for review.
- After discussion over the proposed fee increases, Trustee Nero requested additional discussion be conducted at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Senicka motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Barker seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary