

Village Board Public Safety Committee

MINUTES

~ Thursday, September 3, 2015 ~

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Nero called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In attendance were:

Trustee Addington, Trustee Guzzo (arrive at 4:55 p.m.), Trustee Nero, Mayor Gunter, Village Clerk Szymiski, Village Manager May, Fire Chief Weiss and Police Chief Mulhearn

Also present:

Deputy Fire Chief Connolly, Deputy Fire Chief Riley, EMS Director Dralle, Fire Prevention Director Kaufman, Duty Chief Fitzgerald, Deputy Police Chief Gunther, Deputy Police Chief Brenza, Records Clerk Scheidel, Community Development Director Ziegler, Finance Director Parker, Public Works Director Ramsey, Public Relations Director McIntyre, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Larry Forssberg and Recording Secretary Hardy

Absent:

Trustee Barker, Trustee Barry and Trustee Liddle

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 16, 2015 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Nero to approve the June 16, 2015 Public Safety Committee Minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Unpaid Parking Tickets Amnesty Program Discussion

Police Chief Mulhearn indicated the Police Department is proposing establishing a Parking Ticket and Admin Towing Amnesty Policy. Deputy Police Chief Brenza summarized the proposed program and policy.

- He said an amnesty program would be established for any unpaid parking or admin tow violations. The program would begin one year after a violation had been sent to collections.
- The collection company, Illinois Collection Services (ICS) would be authorized to offer the amnesty in which the fine would be reduced to a percentage of the initial violation. D/C Brenza provided examples of reduced percentage rates. ICS currently collects 21% on any monies collected. The remaining balance would be paid to the Police Department.
- He further said a parking violation is \$30 at issuance, if not paid in 30 days it increases to \$60. If not paid in another 30 days it increases to \$225 and is sent to collections.
- The program would include a mass mailing offering the amnesty to all delinquent accounts. There are approximately 1,750 delinquent tickets from 2010-2014.
- D/C Brenza stated as of August 28, 2015 there are currently 182 admin tow fees in collections from 2010-2015.
- He indicated in most admin tow delinquent cases the owner gave up ownership of the vehicle to the tow company due to the vehicle not being worth \$500, or simply because they did not have the money to pay the fee.
- Staff proposes to include the admin tow fees into the Amnesty Program in hopes of recovering some of the outstanding fees.
- After further discussion the consensus was to move forward with a permanent Parking Ticket and Admin Tow Amnesty Program.
- Staff will develop an Ordinance pertaining to the program and present to the Village Board for approval.

Video Gaming Update / Discussion

Police Chief Mulhearn advised staff is still investigating the 500' restriction pertaining to video gaming establishments.

- As discussed at the June 16, 2015 meeting, the intent of the 500' restriction would be to prohibit individuals from purchasing entire strip malls with the intent of establishing several gaming facilities.
- Community Development Director Ziegler advised the Community Development Committee, Economic Development Committee and Westmont Downtown Westmont Business Alliance all reviewed the proposal.
- She further said two letters were sent to individual liquor license holders informing them of the meetings, in addition to the required public notice. There has not been a lot of feedback received.
- Discussion followed regarding existing liquor license holders being grandfathered in for a set time period.
- Trustee Addington spoke on Trustee Barry's behalf in regard to concerns with downtown businesses. Concern was expressed over good businesses being shut out of the program. He further expressed his opinion that it would be good

to allow existing liquor license holders an opportunity to apply within a certain time frame. Any new applicants would adhere to the 500' restriction. Trustee Nero concurred.

- Community Development Director Ziegler said the matter would be brought before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, September 9th and the Village Board on Thursday, September 23rd.

Review / Discussion concerning the need for traffic control at the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Washington Street

Police Chief Mulhearn indicated Trustee Barry had requested this item be discussed. Due to his absence Police Chief Mulhearn asked that the item be postponed until the next Public Safety Committee Meeting.

- He said Trustee Barry wanted to review the traffic situation at Chicago Avenue and Washington Street. He wanted to seek a four way stop at the intersection due to safety concerns.
- Manager May indicated that we should put up signs on the existing poles for the existing stop signs that cross traffic does not stop.
- A brief discussion was held on the number of accidents and the Police Department will continue to seek data on vehicular traffic to be discussed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

New Business

Police Chief Mulhearn stated the Police Department will be conducting public roll calls within the next couple of weeks.

- He said the premise was to bring the public in to see how a roll call functions.
- The first roll call will take place at the Public Library and will probably move to various locations throughout the Village.

Police Chief Mulhearn commended FIAT task force members who worked on the Willowbrook home invasion. They both worked hard and did an excellent job.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Home Health Care Delivery System

EMS Director Dralle provided an update on the Home Health Care Delivery System Program.

- She advised she is currently completing the Home Health Care Delivery Program application. Upon completion staff will wait on submitting as they are working with the Village of Downers Grove to compare applications.
- Nothing has been established pertaining to reimbursement to date.
- She further said staff continues to provide these type of citizen services as needed although there is not a formal policy in place.
- Updates will be provided as they become available.

Leasing of Oxygen Units

EMS Director Dralle indicated staff is proposing to lease oxygen tanks for Fire Department use.

- She indicated the Fire Department currently owns oxygen tanks and cascade systems.
- By entering into a five year lease agreement the Fire Department would realize an annual cost savings of approximately \$2,100.
- The leasing company would provide oxygen bottles and the cascade systems would be eliminated at both fire stations.
- A \$1,230 cost savings will also be realized every five years by eliminating the cascade systems. A five year hydro test will no longer be necessary maintenance.
- Increased safety will also be a benefit as members will no longer need to fill bottles.
- EMS Director Dralle further stated the leasing company will also purchase the existing bottles and provide a credit towards initial leasing costs.
- Attorney Zemenak is currently reviewing the contract to ensure all details are accurate.
- Committee Members were in favor of moving forward with the lease option as presented by staff.

New State Legislation for 911 Funding; PSAP's and ETSB

Fire Chief Weiss said there is new State Legislation pertaining to 911 Funding, PSAP's and ETSB.

- He advised there is a strong push for dispatch consolidation. Recently Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills moved operations from Southwest Central to DuComm.
- Staff continues to keep an open dialogue with the Village of Downers Grove pertaining to available options.
- Committee Members will be updated as additional information becomes available.

Proposed Tent Ordinance Review

Fire Prevention Director Kaufman presented a proposed revision to Section 4.09 of the Village Ordinance pertaining to tents.

- He advised the Village currently inspects tents on a regular basis but there is not a formal Ordinance established.
- He indicated the revision would clarify when tent inspections are needed/required and when inspection fees would or would not apply.
- Discussion followed pertaining to specific tents sizes and requirements.
- Public Safety Committee Members will review the proposed revisions along with the fee structure and provide any feedback to Fire Prevention Director Kaufman.

Creation of Prescribed Burn Ordinance

Fire Prevention Director Kaufman indicated the creation of a Prescribed Burn / Open Controlled Burns Ordinance was briefly discussed at the June 16, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

- He said there is not an Ordinance currently in place. Staff feels guidelines should be established to avoid any potential issues with prescribed / controlled burns. A controlled burn incident occurred in Crystal Lake within the last year where several area homes were damaged during burning.
- Fire Prevention Director Kaufman provided handouts outlining the proposed changes along with prescribed burn / open burn facts and definitions.
- The proposed ordinance would include a minimum \$5,000,000 liability insurance policy and IEPA permit approval would also be required prior to permit issuance.
- He said staff would like to have an Ordinance in place no later than January 1, 2016 in preparation for the 2016 burning season.
- After further discussion, Trustee Addington made a motion, seconded by Trustee Guzzo to approve the development of a Prescribed / Open Controlled Burn Ordinance. Motion Carried.

Fire Department Five Year Strategic Plan Review / Approval

Fire Chief Weiss advised the Five Year Strategic Plan approval is required as part of the Fire Department Accreditation Process. A copy was distributed for reference.

- Deputy Chief Riley said prior to his retirement, Administrative Director Skala and he had submitted the Five Year Strategic Plan to begin the re-accreditation process. He said the Plan must be formally approved every five years as part of Accreditation requirements.
- He further advised most items are also included in the Village's budget process.
- Village Manager May said the Five Year Strategic Plan will be included on the September 17, 2015 Consent Agenda for formal approval.

Several Update Items

Fire Chief Weiss said he would discuss the update items at the Village Board meeting following the Public Safety Committee Meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Addington motioned to adjourn, to which Trustee Guzzo seconded. The meeting subsequently adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Hardy
Recording Secretary