



Village of Westmont VILLAGE BOARD

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Village Board Police Public Safety Committee

Westmont Village Hall - 31 West Quincy Street

Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2024

Approved - February 6, 2025

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 Barry - arrived at 5:39 pm Village Clerk Szymiski</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> F&P Commissioner Mulhearn F&P Commissioner Baldwin Guests of Police Officers</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> Village Manager May Assistant Village Manager Parker Chief Public Safety Officer Gunther Deputy Chief Gruen Deputy Chief Thompson Fire Chief Riley Public Works Director Ries CDD Director Hennerfeind Gov't Services Director Mielcarski HR Director Brainerd IT Director Liljeberg Communications Director McIntyre Sgt. Borgardt PPO Boyle PPO Caruso PPO Broda PPO Miranda PPO Byndum Det. Durst Det. Newton Det. Pacheco Ofc. Arndt CSO Terry Asst to Police Chief Olsson</p>
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III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - April 18, 2024 Police Public Safety Committee meeting

minutes were approved by Motion Trustee Nero made and seconded by Trustee Liddle.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Department Awards

Chief Gunther recognized the following staff with departmental awards for their outstanding service and accomplishments:

- 1) Det. Jeremy Durst, Det. David Newton, and Det. Hugo Pacheco received Felony Arrest Recognition for their response to an incident that occurred on April 11, 2024.
- 2) Ofc. Robert Arndt received the Chief's Recognition Commendation for his response to an incident that occurred on August 11, 2024.
- 3) CSO Rosanne Terry received the Chief's Recognition Commendation for coordinating the successful Kids Safety Camp for the past 10 years.

B. Swearing in Ceremony

Mayor Gunter presided over the swearing in ceremony of the following Police Officers:

- 1) Ofc. Bret Boyle
- 2) Ofc. Thomas Caruso
- 3) Ofc. Bartlomiej Broda
- 4) Ofc. Leslie Miranda who transferred from the Chicago Police Department
- 5) Ofc. Frank Byndum who transferred from the Kane County Sheriff's Office

Chief Gunther thanked the Fire and Police Commissioners for their efforts in the hiring process.

C. E-Bikes and E-Scooters Public Safety

Sgt. Jeffrey Borgardt presented general information about e-bikes and e-scooters, the current state statutes, and law enforcement measures. There are multiple types of electric bikes and scooters available. Depending on the type, the vehicle could travel as fast as 30 miles per hour. He discussed the different safety violations that the officers have addressed recently and cited an accident over the summer involving an e-bike. There is no helmet law which has raised safety concerns especially with young children. Trustee Simonovich asked if the board can legislate stronger helmet restrictions than current state laws. Sgt. Borgardt responded that the board can adopt stronger restrictions. There has been pushback from parents when officers address their children's safety violations.

The department works closely with the Westmont Park District to enforce their rules and regulations at the parks to the extent of state statutes. Citations have been given on violations that pose safety violations such as crossing streets on a red light or people riding e-scooters due to DUI restrictions. All vehicles still need to

follow the rules of the road.

Chief Gunther stated that since winter is fast approaching, the e-bikes and e-scooter traffic will lessen. The department will continue to evaluate rules that can be implemented. Also, the department will seek feedback from the Hinsdale Police Department and the Clarendon Hills Police Department on their respective ordinances and guidelines. This issue will be revisited at the next Police Public Safety Committee meeting in the spring.

D. Overnight Parking for Commercial Vehicles Ordinance

Chief Gunther discussed the ordinance that will be presented at the board meeting related to restrictions on overnight parking by commercial vehicles in residential and public park areas, which has been an ongoing issue for residents. Attorney Zemenak modified the existing ordinance with language that strengthened the restrictions, which includes increasing the fines for violations. Trustee Guzzo added that there are plenty of locations to park commercial vehicles away from residential areas. The title owner of the vehicle will be responsible for the fines. In the modified ordinance, commercial vehicles may park at residences if there is a legitimate business reason for parking such as moving trucks or construction. The ordinance is intended to address commercial vehicles that habitually park in residential areas overnight, but do not have a valid business reason to park there. The Community Development and I.T. Departments are updating the GIS maps in the village's website to show permissible parking areas in the community.

Ms. Penny Wier, president of the HOA at Carlton Courts, addressed the board. She claimed that there were many complaints of commercial vehicles, specifically a small school bus, parking on 61st and Williams Streets. AVM Parker defined what is considered a school bus per the village code, which is exempt from parking restrictions on the streets during the day. If new parking restrictions are implemented, signs need to be posted in areas with parking restrictions before parking tickets can be issued.

Ms. Wier added that there are parking issues with the apartment complex across their neighborhood on Garrett Street. Chief Gunther stated that 65 parking citations have been issued for parking violations in that area so far in 2024. He said Sgt. Anthony Rainaldi tried to contact the management office of the Axis apartment complex but has not heard back. Chief Gunther discussed the increasing fines for habitual parking violations which could result in the vehicle being towed. Additional issues related to street and sidewalk parking were discussed. The department routinely patrols the area and tickets are issued to parking violators when appropriate.

E. Staffing Update

Chief Gunther stated that the department currently has 37 officers, therefore is short four officers to get to the authorized strength of 41. The recent hire will start on Monday, October 21, 2024 and will attend the academy in January.

F. Promotional Testing Update

Chief Gunther stated that there are four officers that are eligible to be promoted to sergeant. The four officers are:

- 1) Det. Jeremy Durst
- 2) Ofc. Kamil Broda
- 3) Ofc. Jonathan Longini
- 4) Ofc. Alissa Mendez

Chief Gunther thanked the Fire and Police Commission for their efforts in the testing process.

G. First Floor Remodel Project

Chief Gunther provided an update that the Records Division area remodel has been completed. The new filing cabinets enhanced security for records. The first floor break room renovation was also completed.

H. Special Events

Chief Gunther announced the Illinois Special Olympics fundraising effort exceeded \$57,000 this year compared to \$45,000 last year, which could place the Westmont Police Department in the top 10 fundraisers in Illinois for 2024.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Committee Chair

Chair Simonovich - no report

B. Department Director

Chief Gunther reported that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training video will be filmed in the next few weeks. On December 5, 2024, the 845 Group will present the Fire Department headquarters project to the board.

C. Division Reports

- 1) Administration - no report
- 2) Patrol - no report
- 3) Investigations - no report

IX. MISCELLANEOUS - None

X. ADJOURN - Approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Nero at 5:55 p.m. (next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025)