

VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023
GRAFTON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ROOM

The Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Amy Luft at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Committee members present: Trustee Amy Luft, Trustee Mary Pat Fenton, Trustee Dave Armstrong, Barry Jondahl, Jeff Thoma and Guy Paider

Staff present: Fire Chief William Rice, Police Chief Jeff Caponera, and Administrative Assistant Diana Degnitz.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 10, 2023 PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Luft presented the October 10, 2023 minutes for approval.

Motion by Trustee Armstrong, seconded by Jeff Thoma to approve the October 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Jackie Bayer, 1335 11th Avenue – Ms. Bayer reviewed her concerns regarding loud vehicles, speed, traffic and the volume of semi-trucks in the area of 11th Avenue and Beech Street. Trustee Luft stated that Ms. Bayer's concerns would be addressed.

Anthony J. Von Der Vellen, 1038 First Avenue – Mr. Von Der Vellen reviewed his concerns regarding speed, traffic, previous accidents and the potential for more accidents at the intersection of First Avenue and Highway 60. Trustee Luft stated that Mr. Von Der Vellen's concerns would be addressed.

Aubrey Preston, 1038 First Avenue – Ms. Preston stated that she shared the same concerns as Mr. Von Der Vellen. Trustee Luft reiterated that those concerns would be addressed.

Keith Monte, 2037 Apache Court – Mr. Monte reviewed his concerns regarding signage and speeds at the intersection of Cherokee Street and Blackfoot Avenue especially following an accident there the day before. Trustee Luft stated that Mr. Monte's concerns would be addressed.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT/DEPARTMENT BENCHMARKS

Fire Chief Bill Rice reviewed department benchmarks noting that in November that fire calls are down one, EMS calls are down about 116, motor vehicle crashes are up 16,

and total calls are down by 92, from this time last year. Chief Rice advised that staffing in both Port Washington and Saukville has become more reliable resulting in fewer mutual aid calls for Grafton and call totals seem to be trending more stable.

Chief Rice began his report stating that the Fire Department was recently notified that an application to FEMA for \$300,000 to be used for the replacement of SCBA equipment had been denied. Chief Rice continued that the SCBA replacement purchased had been accounted for in the 2023 Capital Improvement Plan and that with late notification regarding the grant denial, he was not certain the purchase would be complete in 2023.

Chief Rice next updated the Committee regarding the continued planning of consolidation of the Grafton and Saukville Fire Departments and associated referendum. Chief Rice stated that Zimmerman Architectural Studios has been working on plans for additional living quarters at both the Grafton and Saukville fire stations. Chief Rice noted that the planned funding of those potential building improvements would be determined by the respective Village Boards.

Regarding staffing, Chief Rice indicated that one full-time employee in Grafton and one in Saukville have resigned. Chief Rice continued that both pay and the number of new recruits entering the Fire/EMS service continues to be stagnant making finding candidates a very daunting challenge. Chief Rice also mentioned the need for the pay structure in both Saukville and Grafton to be the same. The current part-time pay in Saukville exceeds that offered in Grafton making it difficult to schedule open shifts in Grafton when the same are available in Saukville. Chief Rice will present that information for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

FLOCK FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Jeff Caponera summarized that since 2021, the Grafton Police Department has collaborated with Flock Safety, Inc. to install six license plate reading cameras for the Village. As a result of local retailers and developers also installing the same technology at their expense, the Police Department now has access to a total of ten cameras. The Police Department has also budgeted for a seventh camera in 2026.

Chief Caponera continued that at the program's inception, the LPR cameras cost \$2,500 per year and were subject to a year-to-year contract. Flock Safety recently indicated that although they are increasing the annual cost per camera to \$3,000 effective January 1, 2024, current customers are eligible to continue the current \$2,500 per camera annually for the next five years. Chief Caponera concluded stating that the contract being presented has been reviewed and approved by the Village Attorney.

Motion by Trustee Armstrong, seconded by Trustee Fenton to recommend that the Village Board allow the Police Chief to enter into a five-year contract with Flock Safety for License Plate Reading (LPR) technology.

Trustee Armstrong confirmed that the seventh camera has been budgeted for and Trustee Luft confirmed that Ozaukee County as well as other municipalities in the County use the same technology. Trustee Fenton confirmed that with the five year contract, annual payments would be made over the duration of the agreement.

Motion carried.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT/DEPARTMENT BENCHMARKS

Chief Caponera reviewed the current benchmarks highlighting total and self-initiated calls for service, traffic stops, citations issued and overtime. Chief Caponera stated that overtime for the Police Department is estimated to exceed the current budgeted amount by approximately \$98,000 due to vacancies and challenges in filling open positions.

Chief Caponera also noted that he has updated the Department policy regarding traffic stops. Previously the directive was to issue a written warning for each stop. Chief Caponera has updated the policy to require a verbal warning with each stop creating more efficiency and resulting in more stops and improved traffic and speed control.

Trustee Armstrong asked Chief Caponera to account for the decrease in retail theft from September to October with Chief Caponera indicating that communication with local retailers and increased police presence has resulted in fewer thefts.

Chief Caponera reported that work continues regarding the pan handler ordinance and has proven challenging in creating content and ensuring it is in line with State of Wisconsin law. Trustee Luft asked Chief Caponera to confirm that winter parking restrictions have been lifted. Chief Caponera confirmed and added that asking residents to follow the predictions of the National Weather Service and park according to anticipated snowfall has worked well. Chief Caponera added that should the success of this process regarding winter parking continue, he will bring forward an updated ordinance in the future.

Chief Caponera added that the Kids-to-Kids Toy Drive was a success and that this Saturday, December 16, 2023 he would be hosting "Cocoa with the Chief" at the library.

Chief Caponera concluded his report with an update regarding staffing noting that a Sergeant previously on medical leave returned to duty on Monday December 11, 2023 and the two newest members of the Department will complete training in early January, 2024. Chief Caponera added that the candidate from the Police Department will be entering the Academy January 10, 2024 and he anticipates her completing all phases of onboarding and beginning her service in October of 2024. Chief Caponera noted that he will begin

recruiting for the second Student Resource Officer position soon as training for that position is planned for March of 2024.

TOWN OF GRAFTON REPORT

Trustee Luft thanked Jeff Thoma for his time spent on the Public Safety Committee and welcomed Barry Jondahl to the committee.

No additional Town of Grafton Report.

ADDITIONAL PERSON REQUESTING TO BE HEARD

Kathy Ferguson, 763 Cheyenne Avenue – Ms. Ferguson stated that she had gone to the Grafton Police Department originally and when notified that the meeting was being held at the Grafton Fire Department and by the time she arrived the Persons Requesting to Be Heard part of the meeting had ended. Trustee Luft stated that the Committee would hear Ms. Ferguson's concerns.

Ms. Ferguson reviewed her concerns regarding vehicle and pedestrian traffic on Cheyenne Avenue and Highway 60. Ms. Ferguson also provided a [written statement](#) to be included with these minutes. Trustee Luft stated that Ms. Ferguson's concerns would be addressed.

ADJOURN

Motion by Jeff Thoma, seconded by Trustee Armstrong to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried.