



MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016

6:30 P.M.

TRAINING ROOM OF VILLAGE HALL

Members Present: Trustee Ted McKenna, Chair
Trustee Senta Plunkett
Trustee Julie Wolf

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Michael Braiman, Assistant Village Manager
Brian King, Chief of Police

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Trustee Ted McKenna, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Committee members Trustees Plunkett and Wolf were present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee McKenna directed the Committee's attention to the draft minutes of the Public Safety Committee meeting of May 10, 2016. Trustee Wolf moved that the Committee approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Plunkett.

No further discussion occurred on the motion. Upon a call of the roll the following voted:

Ayes Trustees McKenna, Plunkett, and Wolf.

Nays: None.

The motion carried.

III. DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION REGARDING POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

Chief King summarized the report presented to the Committee noting that the Wilmette Police Department allocation of staff is substantially similar to most agencies their size. He said the numbers are relatively consistent for service calls for the day and evening shifts with the peak times being during the summer months. He also reviewed the response times for emergent and non-emergent calls received and dispatched by the Department. Chief King said in looking at the overall coverage, he is comfortable with the staffing levels as they are now.

Trustee McKenna said since he has been a Village Trustee, the Village Board has continually underfunded projects and programs that impact residents on a daily basis. He does not believe that most residents come across Fire or Police on a daily basis and most of the calls he receives are regarding infrastructure problems. He said the choices are to live with the streets and alleys as they are or make a substantial investment in them by cutting funding from a different area or raising taxes. He asked how less staffing in the Police Department would affect the Village.

Chief King said the response times to calls would be higher. He believes that a consultant's study would not show a need for a change in the staffing level and would cost approximately \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Trustee McKenna said since Public Safety represents the majority of the budget, how do we manage that more effectively. The continual increase in expenses and the inability to match those with revenues is not sustainable. He wondered what other strategies there could be.

Trustee Plunkett said she does not know if residents would equate public works with public safety and believes residents would value public safety much more than pot holes. She wonders if people move here for a safe environment and are they more than happy to pay for that at the expense of other things.

Chief King said sometimes it is hard to quantify the issue because it is not just numbers, it is the time response for a resident to an emergent call.

Trustee McKenna said he does not know what the majority of residents would like to have their taxes pay for. He is interested in more discussion on the subject as residents have to pay more taxes or accept a lower service level.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Trustee Plunkett. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Braiman
Assistant Village Manager