

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2018**  
**GERMANTOWN VILLAGE HALL BOARD ROOM**

CALL: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Hughes.

ROLL CALL: Chairman Hughes, Trustee Myers, Trustee Warren and Trustee Wing were present.

Also present were Chief Hoell, Interim Fire Chief Delain, Clerk Boldrey, Administrator Kreklow, Village President Wolter, Engineer Nitschke.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Charlie Hargan of W169 N11504 Biscayne Drive advised he had concerns regarding the closing of Fire Station 1 and noted the following:

- Village continues to grow, there is a need for 2 fire stations
- The location of station 1 was said to be a good area for the fire station as it related to the location of station 2 when it was built
- Does not want to see fire trucks and fire vehicles sold, concerned that this will result in asking for new vehicles in the future
- Understands that staffing concerns may justify working out of one station but doesn't want to see the older station eliminated when there may be a use for it and additional staff in the future
- Does not want to see department assets liquidated

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: a motion was made by Myers, seconded by Warren, to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2018 Public Safety Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Hoell reported on the following:

- The department's first Youth Police Academy Class had its graduation with 42 youths attending; it received very good reviews, the department plans to hold another one next year
- Crime alert for the area of School Road and Pilgrim Road was issued due to multiple vehicles vandalized by deflating tires with punctures
- Police department partnered with Kiwanis to purchase Green Bay Packer cards which are available at the department and will be distributed by officers
- K9 fundraiser committee held a brat fry at Pick n Save and raised nearly \$800
- Monthly report numbers are tracking close to normal with increases in extra patrol and community policing numbers

FIRE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT: Delain reported on the following:

- Virginia Highlands held a brat fry fundraiser for the department and collected over \$300
- Muscular Dystrophy Association funds were collected with the Fill the Boot fundraiser during the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade totaling over \$2400
- Calls for service have increased from last year
- Staff is finalizing details for the Fire Department Safety Fair event on October 6<sup>th</sup>

- Hughes questioned the difference in numbers for fire calls vs EMS calls, Delain advised the numbers are combined on the report for an overall total

OVERTIME REPORTS:

Police Department – Hoell advised the department overtime numbers are tracking as expected.

Fire Department – Delain advised the department overtime numbers are good with some fluctuations due to staffing levels, overall numbers are about \$15,000 less than last year.

POLICY UPDATES FOR POLICE & FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Police Department - none

Fire Department - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 64-2018, APPROVAL TO HIRE ONE FULLTIME FIREFIGHTER/  
PARAMEDIC: Delain advised that the cost for this position would be absorbed within their current budget from surplus funds due to the open fire chief position. He added he had also emailed out information regarding response time questions.

Discussion followed with Delain explaining staffing with this new position, stating it would give them 3 staff members on shift 24 hours/day.

A motion was made by Wing, seconded by Myers, to forward this item to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. In further discussion, Warren noted that the costs for this position were covered in this year's budget but wondered if next year's budget included these costs. Delain advised that he has been in budget meetings with the Administrator and Finance Director and is working on it and deferred the question to Administrator Kreklow.

Kreklow advised that this position and other position changes that were recommended to the Village Board are included in the Fire Department's budget request and are included in the numbers that were sent out by Finance Director. He added that the positions are funded in part through the revenue from the sale of the equipment from this year to bridge a gap between the funding available in 2019 for these position changes and what is expected to be available in property tax levy in 2020.

Wing noted that his concerns regarding this position were whether the position was needed and whether it would fit within the budget. He stated he was satisfied with the information received. Hughes asked if the union had met yet regarding this position, Delain advised that discussions had been started and additional meetings would be scheduled soon.

Motion carried with Myers and Warren voting aye, Wing abstaining, Hughes voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

OPERATOR'S LICENSES: Dawn Eberhardt, Drew Fahrendorf, Alyssa Kane, Samantha Mages, Craig Peterburs, Abigail Roadhouse, Gina Roadhouse, Heather Spilger, Brittany Thomas, James Weggen [Recommended Approval]: a motion was made by Myers, seconded by Warren, to forward the applications for Operator Licenses as presented to Village Board with a recommendation of

approval. Hoell and Delain advised there were no objections from the police and fire department. Motion carried unanimously.

BLAZIN WINGS INC. N96 W18034 COUNTY LINE RD., CHANGE OF AGENT TO FRANK ARENA: a motion was made by Myers, seconded by Warren, to forward this application to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Hoell and Delain advised there were no objections from the police and fire department. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENT – ASSET LIQUIDATION: Delain advised the department is requesting to sell 1 grass truck which is 40 years old, 1 ambulance which is 18 years old, 1 staff vehicle which is 7 years old, 1 engine that is 11 years old, and miscellaneous hose appliances. They did receive two bids for the engine from fire apparatus resellers for \$146,500 and \$100,000 and Menomonee Falls FD has also expressed interest in purchasing the engine. Delain requested that the committee consider approving the sale of the engine to either MFFD or Command Fire Apparatus, and then for the remaining items to be placed on the Wisconsin Surplus Auction Site.

A motion was made by Myers, seconded by Warren, to forward this request to liquidate the listed items to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Discussion followed with Warren asking if the ambulance was one that had been recently rehabbed, Delain stated it was not, the ambulance they want to sell is the oldest one. Warren also addressed the concerns expressed by Mr. Hargan regarding the fire department selling these items and then finding themselves with a shortage of equipment as the community grows. He wondered if that was taken into consideration with the proposed sale of these items. Delain responded that they have more spots open on their apparatus than personnel to staff them. He went on to explain other options they have available, i.e. assistance from neighboring communities. He also stated the grass truck is rarely used and talked to Jackson regarding assistance from their department for grass fires and would like to look further into sharing resources with neighboring communities. Delain also advised that the engine they want to sell is their reserve engine, the ambulance is old and is last one out if needed and if it can be staffed. The staff vehicle can be released since they have two additional staff vehicle and grass truck is rarely used. He considers those vehicles to be surplus apparatus which are not used on a regular basis, but still cost money to maintain. Wing questioned the mileage on these vehicles, Delain responded that the ambulance has 68,000 miles, engine has 28,000 miles, grass truck has 5,000 miles (on its 3<sup>rd</sup> engine), staff vehicle has 78,000 miles, these are actual miles without the hours-to-miles calculated in.

Discussion continued with Wing stating that he was not averse to the sale of the staff vehicle and ambulance but had concerns with the sale of the engine which has low mileage. He added that Delain's comments that there are not enough personnel to staff the vehicles contrasts with his requests for additional personnel. Delain responded that the funds obtained from the sale of these items was in part how the new positions would be funded. Hughes referred to new village growth and asked if the engine might be an asset to the department. Delain agreed that extra equipment would be beneficial, but they need people to staff them. Hughes noted that the grass truck had recently been rehabbed and asked what the cost would be to keep that truck and where it could be parked, Delain stated it would cost nothing except for routine maintenance and could be parked at Station 1 for now. Warren asked how the funds from the sale of these items would affect the hiring of a new fulltime position, Delain stated those numbers were included in the budget for the new position. Kreklow advised the answer depends on other budget decisions the board makes which could include reducing budgets in other departments, further increase the property tax levy, reserves could be used, there are other options that could be utilized. Kreklow also addressed the concerns raised regarding village growth and

equipment needs and said it may be awhile before staffing is available to use the extra apparatus on a regular basis.

Wing stated he would like to amend the motion to split this agenda item into two with the liquidation of the engine voted on separately from the grass truck, ambulance and staff vehicle, and said he hopes the Board can find funds for the staffing request without selling the engine. Amended motion seconded by Myers and carried unanimously.

Original motion as amended then voted on. Hughes advised they would first vote on the three vehicles – the grass truck, ambulance and staff vehicle, to be forwarded to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Motion carried 3 - 1 with Myers, Warren and Wing voting aye and Hughes voting nay. Hughes advised they would next vote on the engine to be forwarded to Village Board with a recommendation of approval. Motion failed 0 - 4 with all members voting nay.

FIRE DEPARTMENT APPARTUS PURCHASE CONTRACT: Hughes advised this item would no longer be discussed due to the previous motion against liquidation of the fire engine.

STOP SIGN REQUEST AT INTERSECTION OF CATSKILL LANE, MEADOW DRIVE AND MEADOW COURT: Myers advised this item was placed on the agenda on behalf of a citizen who forwarded his concerns with this intersection. Myers advised that there are view obstructions with large trees and greenery, line of sight to the east of Meadow is obstructed by a vehicle which parks on the side of the street on a regular basis, and speeding traffic on Catskill was also a concern. He was therefore requesting consideration of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Catskill Lane, Meadow Drive and Meadow Court. Myers added he had already discussed the speeding concerns with Chief Hoell.

Discussion followed with Hoell advising there was no objection from the police department to the request for a 4-way stop at that intersection. Warren advised the vision triangle should be reviewed at that location prior to putting up stop signs. He added that traffic and crashes warrant stop signs, but if that is not the case at this intersection, then trees/greenery can be trimmed or cut to improve sight distance, and “No Parking” signs could be put up where parking causes view obstructions.

A motion was made by Myers, seconded by Wing, to table this item until the vision triangle at the intersection can be reviewed. Motion carried unanimously.

STOP SIGN REQUEST AT INTERSECTION OF MAPLE ROAD AND FREISTADT ROAD: Hughes advised this item was placed on the agenda due to concerns from residents in the area who feel this intersection warrants a 4-way stop. Wing recalled that a study had been done on this intersection and questioned what the results were. Warren noted that when the study was done, there were concerns with sight distance issues due to the curves which are correct for the current posted speed limit, but speeding vehicles reduce sight distances which creates problems. To correct the problem the road profile would need to be changed by cutting it to lower and flatten it which would be cost prohibitive, so the turning lanes were created.

Crash history at that intersection was discussed, Hoell advised the majority of the crashes were due to failure to yield.

Warren stated he could not see putting a stop sign on Freistadt Road which is a collector road, drivers would not expect the sign there which could create more problems and recommended that the study be pulled out and reviewed for what was said about putting a 4-way stop at that intersection.

Village Engineer Eric Nitschke was present and stated he was unaware of the study done which was before he worked for the village, he said he and Larry would check the files and review it. He advised he looked at the intersection and agrees that the line of sight is an issue, accident history shows failure to yield is an issue and he agrees with Trustee Warren's comments on signing. Nitschke stated that there are ways to upgrade the safety of the intersection itself, such as rumble strips, high-resolution signage, ways to make the traffic on Maple more aware of the intersection. He added before committing to any new ideas, he would like to see what the recommendations were on the study. He also stated that if a 4-way stop is going to be looked at, he would recommend hurricane poles to make sure the stop signs are located over the lanes that vehicles are traveling in, and there would need to be significant upgrades to the intersection. Nitschke advised that there are many steps between what is currently in place at that intersection and creating a 4-way stop there, he would recommend looking at those steps before committing to a 4-way stop.

Resident Jim Siebers of N140 W18170 Cedar Lane was present and presented his concerns with this intersection to the committee. He advised he travels that area daily and is very aware of its faults. He has witnessed crashes, experienced problems with the sun angle causing sight problems, has talked with JW Speaker, Gehls, high school and found that numerous people would support a 4-way stop at Maple and Freistadt. He also questioned the 2 northbound and southbound lanes on Maple at the intersection and why the left lanes can't be designated as left turn only, Siebers went on to say that the intersection is frequently used by high school students and asked for quick action on improving the safety of the intersection. He also asked if the police chief had accident numbers for that intersection.

Hoell stated that 19 accidents were recorded there during the past 2 years and the accident summaries were given to committee members.

Wing stated he was in agreement that something should be done and stopping traffic on Freistadt Road would create a safer intersection. He did not agree that a study was necessary to offer options of what could be done, he felt everyone was familiar enough with that area and could make some commonsense suggestions.

President Wolter stated that he also was in agreement that improvements and some type of control need to be made at that intersection and due to his history with the Village, has seen previous discussions and ideas presented. He advised that a study was recommended for its professional input and the intent was not to delay any action. Wolter added that he would also like to review the study to refresh his memory, he recalled that one suggestion was to reduce the speed limit on Freistadt due to the industrial park growth and increased traffic on the road. He felt that there were definite steps that could be taken to slow traffic, such as reduced speed limits and rumble strips, but ultimately the intersection needs some type of control.

Hughes acknowledged that to fix this problem would be costly and the budget is currently being worked on, so he would agree that the engineer should be given an opportunity to review the study that was done and come back to the committee with realistic solution(s). Wing indicated he felt stop signs would create a much safer intersection and did not see a need for consulting or doing any further studies. Warren disagreed, stating that the study was done by professional traffic engineers who did

provide options ranging from less expensive to very expensive, including signalization of the intersection. The village chose to change the pavement markings with dedicated left turn lanes on Freistadt. Hughes asked if Engineer Nitschke could have a report prepared for next month's meeting, Nitschke agreed. Hughes stated discussion of this item would be continued at next month's meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Hughes advised the October meeting would be held on Monday, October 1, 2018 at the Village Hall Boardroom at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Recorded by,

Julie L. Barth  
Secretary