

MINUTES PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

APRIL 23, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Paul Wegner at 5:30 p.m. Members present were Renee Eckerly, City Administrator; Andy Soine, Fire Chief; Doris Wendlandt, and Jeffrey Booth, CentraCare Health Paynesville. Absent were Tom Fread, Emergency Management Director; Jeff Thompson, a Paynesville Township Representative, and Donnie Mayer. Also in attendance was Belinda Ludwig, Finance Specialist.

Motion was made by Eckerly to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2018 Public Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Booth and unanimously carried.

VEHICLE RESCUE CHARGES

Ludwig explained that vehicle rescue/extraction charges can be billed out at \$350.00/incident. Ludwig spends a lot of time researching to find out who the people are to bill. On February 20, 2018 Ludwig received pictures and insurance information and the fee was collected right away; however, this is not always the case. Call sheets are not turned in to City Hall in a timely manner. Insurance claims are being closed before Ludwig receives the call sheets from the Fire Department. The City has always billed for these types of emergencies. The Fire Department needs to get Ludwig the information. The question is, is all the time and running to get the information worth the \$350.00. The City has collected on 8 of the 12 rescues billed out. Matt Ellefson is now in charge of turning in the fire call sheets.

Motion was made by Eckerly to cease the billing process for extrication and car fires in the amount of \$350.00 and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Soine and unanimously carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Eckerly to appoint Wenger as Chair, Soine as Vice Chair, and Eckerly as Secretary. Seconded by Booth and unanimously carried.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Soine to set the Public Safety Committee meetings on a quarterly basis (January, April, July, and October) on the 4th Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Wendlandt and unanimously carried.

4-WAY STOP

The 4-way stop at Hwy. 55 and Business 23 and the lack of attention by drivers not stopping was discussed. A semi blew through the stop sign today at 35 mph; apparently he didn't see the stop sign. The Board discussed moving the stop light from Washburne Ave. and Business 23 to Hwy. 55 and Business 23. MnDOT will state there is not enough crash data or deaths at this intersection for action. The Board discussed the LED stop signs that were supposed to be installed. Rumble strips are not noticeable and the rumble strips are too far back. It was questioned if reducing the speed was an option out by Fleet Supply. The intersection would be more dangerous with the stop light since the cross traffic would not be paying attention. A

round-about is a great alternative, but extremely expensive; according to MnDOT. Mergen, Eckerly, and DeWolf will contact MnDOT to get the LED signs.

Motion was made by Wendlandt to move the signal light to Business 23 and Hwy. 55 for safety reasons and recommend such to the City Council. Seconded by Booth and unanimously carried.

GOLF CART PERMIT PROCESS

Golf cart permits are on the 4th year. There are over 40 operators and 30 carts registered. A cart is \$30.00 for 3 years and \$5.00 for individuals per year. There is a reduction in kids driving the carts since the permitting process. ATV's are licensed by the State and drivers 12-17 years old have to have the training. The City can't permit ATV's as they are permitted by the State. There is no State regulations on golf carts. Paynesville Township Supervisors are saying that Stearns County is looking at regulating golf carts because they are all over the County. The Police Department doesn't do anything if people are not misbehaving on their ATV. The Board discussed this further and there is really nothing that the City can permit. Ordinances deter bad behavior. Wegner and Wendlandt mentioned that ATV's can only be driven in ditches during certain times of the year due to birds and pheasants.

REVIEW HAZARDOUS MITIGATION GOALS

This was tabled until Fread can be in attendance.

NIGHT TO UNITE (PUBLIC SAFETY) COMMUNITY PICNIC

Wegner reported on the event. The event will be held on August 6, 2019. The Police Department would like to see this event be rotated between the Police Department, Fire Department, and CentraCare. Wegner suggested forming a sub-committee so that a binder can be created that can be passed from department to department each year. It was stated that the Fire Department is volunteer and already does two fundraisers. Police Department events are not done on the time clock. They are totally volunteer by the Police Department. If all three entities work together it is not a lot of work. The Lions Club is a huge help with the food services. The National Guard is a huge asset for the climbing equipment as it's a lot of work. There is a \$1,000.00 budget that is generated from the golf tournament. CentraCare has a fire extinguisher demonstration that could be utilized. The fire marshal has a grease fire house that can be used; however, has reservations booked a year out. Wenger would like names for the sub-committee by mid-May.

LAKE AVE. & HWY. 55 INTERSECTION

The intersection is awful and very confusing. This horrible intersection needs to be a round-about. There was some discussion on the left turn lane to go down Lake Ave. The Board discussed a 35 mph speed limit from Fleet Supply to Hill Top; this would decrease the accidents. Staff was directed to check with MnDOT about coming to a City Council meeting and give an update this summer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.