

Village of Winneconne

Police and Fire Committee
Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 5:35pm
Report for Feb 2009

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 by Livingstone. Present were Grace, Roehrick, Olson, Volkert, Running. Trustee Norton present as a visitor.

Public Participation – Visitors: Kelly Angell, Helen Thomson, Ken Helmer, Lani Stanek, Sandy Colvin, Orville Luebke, Earl Dishmon, Michael Bouras, Lyle Zabel, Angela Zabel. Michael Bouras asked why sidewalk issues haven't been addressed. Reported that other people haven't come to complain, so he is the voice of the people. Running explained enforcement issues with repeated, heavy snowfalls, and the difficulty in doing so. Gave example of City of Appleton, and the division created between the city and its residents because of being too strict in enforcement.

Police Operations

Municipal Court – Running explained revisions the department will propose to the judge to increase efficiency and minimize payment issues. Talked about Tax Refund Intercept Program

Community Policing

Village President's Initiative – March - Traffic and Parking. Increased enforcement

February – Parent and Older Adult Community concerns

Beat the Heat – purchased motor; working on Studebaker project. Moving into "spring" mode

Statistics: Calls– 182(Jan-215) Reports– 114(Jan-131) Citations– 28(Jan-24) Warnings– 12(Jan –13)
Accidents – 9 OWI – 4 Weapon - 1 Parking tickets – 8 (Jan - 13)
Domestic/Disturbance – 3 Drugs - 2 Damage to Property – 0
Violate Court order – 1 Juvenile - 1 Emergency Commitment/Attempted Suicide - 1
Theft – 2 Warrant – 2 Fraud (ID Theft/Counterfeit/Forgery)- 2
Burglary – 1 Poaching – 1 Ordinance Violations (animal/noise/etc) –14(2 Snowmobile)
Calls for Service at Schools - 21 (Jan – 15) Mutual Aid Calls: To Omro – 6; From Omro – 2

Old Business

Ambulance Service - Signed copy received. Running to forward copy to Administrator

Cooperative Policing Strategies – working on combined training opportunities

Snowmobile trail – See page 2 (attached)

Ordinance Issues – (*Title 10/11*)– tabled until April meeting

Sec. 5-2-9 Open Burning – Discussion. Trustees are seeking citizen input. Informational hearing March 31, 6:30pm, Municipal Center boardroom. Running to contact Winneconne News for an article.

New Business

Car Show – June 6 – Helen Thomson requested Main street closure for Chamber Car Show. Motion - Grace; second - Roehrick, to recommend to the Village Board to close West Main Street from First Street to Third Street, June 6, 2009, from 7:00am until 4:00pm. All ayes.

Posting Meeting minutes on Village website – Discussion. Consensus was to post the minutes, indicating they are "unofficial" minutes.

Boat Trailer Parking - N. 1st St, Prospect St. – Discussion. Motion, Roehrick, second Grace, to recommend to the Village Board to require boat trailer parking permits on N. First Street from Main to Birch Street, and on Prospect Street from First Street to Second Street. Vote: Roehrick – aye; Grace – aye; Livingstone – no. Motion carried.

Motion Grace, second Roehrick, to go into closed session -pursuant to s. 19.85(1)(c) to discuss employee performance. All ayes.

Return to open session – No action required or taken

Set next meeting date and time Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 5:35 PM

Motion - Grace, second - Roehrick, to adjourn. All ayes.

Snowmobile trail – Livingstone introduced Ken Helmer as the president of the local snowmobile club. Helmer - explained the club, its function, and current issues. Staying on the trail is a statewide issue. DNR study shows over 300 snowmobiles registered in 54986/54927 zip codes, with 30 club members. State corridor trail runs through Village, and is the only east/west connector route in Winnebago County. The club is prohibited by insurance from marking trails on or to water. Route used to go from 1st St to Grant St., with traffic, but prohibited access to businesses. Businesses sponsor the trail maps. Club looked at least amount of traffic, pedestrians, and home impact when selecting the current route. Last year, there were 2 complaint "areas"; 5th St/Adams St, and 6th Av/Riverview Dr. The club worked with the property owners and remedied the problem. The only private property in the Village the route crosses is behind Creative Tile. As far as enforcement, no one has come to him with land problems.

Loni Stanek – owner/ resident at Mr. Gary's (by the alley) – concerned with speeding all hours of day and night. Parking on her property under her shop window at 7:30pm. She talked with the person and they moved, but she did not call the police. Also reported snowmobiles rode on the sidewalk on 3rd St when going to Leo's Service. Noise is a concern. Lives 10ft. from the middle of alley.

Grace – asked what year the trail moved to the alley. Estimated to be around 2001.

Orville Luebke – showed photos of tracks on the snow on his property/right of way on Adams St. Helmer reported a similar problem at 5th/ Adams St, where the club placed snow fencing and resolved the issue.

Helmer – spoke with Warden Truman regarding DNR directed patrol in the Village. Issued 10 citations in 3 hours. Hortonville has a similar trail issue where the trail runs through the Village. Seeing the same concerns.

Sandy Colvin – concerned with speed

Earl Dishmon – understands responsible riders. Asked who pays for damage on private property.

Helmer's response: Club's insurance covers Village property and Creative Tile parking lot.

Volkert – What is the average time the trails are open? Helmer – recollection; 2 yrs ago-short season, 5years ago: 9 day season. He will bring more information at next meeting.

Livingstone - shared photos of the alley in relation to her home. Also said she has a petition from residents to move the trail away from the alley. Said safety is an issue. Said for 6 residents, the alley is their driveway. Has grandkids that use the door that opens toward the alley – reported Running suggested several years ago to use another door. Reports this is a 24/7 issue. Walks in the alley when going home from work. Reported sidewalks have been damaged. Running asked Helmer if there were damaged sidewalks, would club pay for repair. Helmer: absolutely. Livingstone said she talked to the police and it is unenforceable; can't get tag number, can't stop them, can't catch them.

Roehrick asked Livingstone to stop, due to bias. Grace agreed.

Livingstone asked for a rotation every few years.

Running gave list of route options to Committee, Helmer, and Volkert for their review.

Helmer – asked County if club could do snowmobile patrol. Lt. Schreiber said no. Said club will do everything it can to make everybody happy, with markings, snow fencing, etc.

Livingstone – If people know trail will move in a couple of years, they would think they can put up with it for 2 years.

Helmer – Asked if there were any problems with east side – hadn't heard of any.

Roehrick – commented on location of route being closer to businesses.

Volkert – What about riding in the alley to businesses? A special amendment to the ordinance could allow riders to go to the businesses. Concern by Running and Helmer: How to delineate how far riders can go in the alley. All must understand that a move will not be an absolute fix to the concerns brought to the meeting.

Livingstone – committee to review the options and bring back to April's meeting. Put snowmobile trails on April PFC Agenda.