

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2016

**Present:** Chair Trustee Jack Nelson, Trustee Pat Kressin, Committee Members, Mr. Vrakas, Ms. Schafer, and Ms. Decker

**Members Excused:** Trustee Kujawa, Mr. Moulas

**Also Present:** Chief Jim Gage

**1. Call the meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order, at 6:01pm, by Trustee Nelson.

**2. Review and approve minutes from January 8, 2015.**

Trustee Nelson entertained a motion for approval. Trustee Kressin made a motion for approval of the minutes, from January 8, 2015, with Ms. Schafer seconding and the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Review and approve minutes from joint committee meeting of August 19, 2015.**

Trustee Nelson entertained a motion for approval. Trustee Kressin made a motion for approval of the minutes, from the joint meeting of August 19, 2015, with Ms. Schafer seconding and the motion passed unanimously.

**4. Review and possibly act on citizen request to recommend amendment to the dog ordinance to improve public safety.**

Ms. Micaela Logan, of 15065 Westover Road, Elm Grove, WI, appearing with her mother, Ms. Vicki Logan, of the same address, to comment on her letter to the Committee, dated November 5, 2015, regarding changes that she views as necessary to the Village's Dog ordinance. Ms. Logan surmised the points of her letter, written in regards to a dog bite incident that occurred, on October 23, 2015, where her mother was the victim. Ms. Logan, in summary, feels as that the current leash ordinance is insufficient. She also asks that the Committee discuss solutions to addressing dogs at large that escape invisible fencing. She further suggests that one possible solution is to require residents to perform regular checks of their invisible fencing system, through code enforcement.

Chief Gage provided a summary of existing dog regulations, specific to Chapters 95 Animals and Chapter 204-3 Park and Recreation, Dogs. Chief Gage also discussed the Village's adoption of state law, with regard to keeping and harboring vicious animals.

There was considerable discussion among committee members, centering on the differences between the regulation of dogs in village park areas, vs. the regulation of dogs in other public areas, such as pathways and streets. One distinction, is that there is a leash requirement in village parks, as opposed to no leash restrictions in other public areas of the village. Additionally, committee members discussed the viability of regulating the maintenance of invisible fencing. It was the general consensus of the Committee that the maintenance of private invisible fencing, is not a function of government, and that any failure of such safeguard that results in injury, or damage to property, is best resolved by the civil court system.

There was general consensus that, in review of current animal regulations, there is enough inconsistency in current ordinance to cause a safety concern, through lack of understanding, by the public, of the regulations. As a result, the Committee felt that the matter should be reviewed by the Legislative Committee.

Trustee Nelson entertained a motion that this matter be forwarded to the Legislative Committee, to review the dog regulations, as outlined in Chapter 95 and the regulations in Chapter 204-3, Park and Recreation, Dogs, to remedy any general inconsistencies, and to specifically address applying a six foot leash requirement to public streets, pathways, or other public areas of the village. The motion also included a review of the fee structure for dog at large violations, to ensure that they are in line with neighboring communities. Mr. Vrakas made this motion and it was seconded, by Ms. Decker, and the motion passed unanimously.

There was additional discussion regarding defining what is considered "village parks" for the purpose of Chapter 204-3 and whether this already includes pathways as part of the park system.

This discussion lead to a larger discussion on informing the public of any new changes that result from the Legislative Committee action. This included the suggestion of providing a regulatory pamphlet to residents, at the time of licensing their dogs, and publication of any changes in the village newsletter and webpage.

Trustee Nelson made a motion for staff to create an educational element to inform the public of all dog regulations, highlighting any changes stemming from the legislative process, to include but not limited to, pamphlets provided at the time of registration, publications in the village and community news products and entries on the village webpage. Ms. Decker seconded this motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**5. Other Business.**

There was no other business.

**6. Adjournment**

Trustee Nelson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm. Trustee Kressin, so moved, with Mr. Vrakas seconding and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

James P Gage

Chief of Police