

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 16, 2023 at 6:30PM – Parkview Room

Present: Chair Trustee Kristina Sayas, Trustee Jennifer Stuckert (via Zoom), Committee Members Ms. Margaret Thew, Ms. Barbara Decker, Mr. Michael Danielson

Absent: Trustee John Schindler and Committee member John Oliveri

Also Present: Police Chief Jason Kubiak and Fire Chief Dave Kastenholtz

1. Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m., by Trustee Sayas.

2. Review and approve minutes from October 17, 2022.

Trustee Sayas entertained a motion to approve the October 17, 2022 minutes. The motion to approve was made by Trustee Stuckert and seconded by Ms. Thew. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

Trustee Sayas recognized members of the public that wished to speak that evening:

Timothy and Maria Broerman 13865 Stonefield Ct.

Mr. Broerman explained he had been complaining about the speed issue on Sunnyslope Rd. for years claiming speeds were consistently exceeding the limits and that no enforcement has taken place by law enforcement to rectify the issue. Mr. Broerman went on to explain he has made complaints about excessive speeds on Sunnyslope, as well as requested presence when school buses are doing pick up and drop off (to observe possible traffic violations) to the previous police Chief, as well as Chief Kubiak, in which he felt have been ignored. Mr. Broerman stated he has reached out to many of neighbors nearby which have also expressed a strong concern about the speeding issue on Sunnyslope Rd. and that something needs to be done. Mr. Broerman was adamant that no enforcement of the speed limit was occurring and brought up an alleged conversation he had with an Elm Grove officer who was running radar in his neighborhood earlier last year. Mr. Broerman claimed the officer was not doing enforcement of a vehicle traveling at 37 mph in a 25 mph zone, and that the officer allegedly stated the “police don’t enforce for vehicles going over 12 mph unless it’s a commercial vehicle”. Mr. Broerman stated he believed this lack of speed

enforcement is a result of direction given by current police command. Mr. Broerman continued to emphasize enforcement was needed in the area and a discussion needed to occur on what is going to be done to slow speeds on Sunnyslope Rd. Mr. Broerman also expressed the need for consideration of an electronic speed sign be posted on Sunnyslope Rd. to help slow speeds.

Galo and Rachel Vargas 600 Sunnyslope Rd.

Mr. Vargas also expressed his displeasure of excessive speeds on Sunnyslope Rd, claiming it is often unsafe to travel on the roadway. Mr. Vargas claimed vehicles often do not obey the stop sign posted for westbound Bluemound traffic turning to northbound Sunnyslope Rd. resulting in vehicles maintaining their high speeds as they enter Sunnyslope and ultimately speeding down the hill. Mr. and Mrs. Vargas stated often vehicles traveling on Sunnyslope Rd. northbound from Brookfield into Elm Grove “try to beat the traffic stop light” and speed excessively into Elm Grove as they descend Sunnyslope near their house. Mr. Vargas claims they often purposely enter their residence drive way traveling from southbound Sunnyslope because of fears if they enter from the northbound Sunnyslope lane they will be “rear ended” by northbound vehicles traveling too fast. Mr. and Mrs. Vargas both wished something to be done about slowing speeds on Sunnyslope Rd.

Dain Tofson 13865 Fairfield Ct.

Mr. Tofson also expressed serious concerns of excessive speeding on Sunnyslope Rd. Mr. Tofson claimed that consistent with what has already been said by Mr. Broerman and Mr. Tofson, vehicles are traveling at high rates of speed coming down the Sunnyslope Rd. hill making the roadway unsafe. Mr. Tofson wished that Sunnyslope Rd could be “closed” off from Bluemound but realizes this is not an option. Mr. Tofson did wish things to be looked at to slow speeds, also emphasizing consideration for electronic signage, etc.

3. Review and discuss traffic counter data and speed concerns related to Sunnyslope Rd.

Chief Kubiak stated speed concerns on Sunnyslope Rd. have been ongoing in years past, mainly brought by complaints of Mr. Broerman. In August of last year, Mr. Broerman again complained about ongoing excessive speed on Sunnyslope Rd. Chief Kubiak stated as a result of the complaint, he did attempt to obtain some traffic data for the area to confirm if Mr. Broerman’s concerns were valid. Chief Kubiak did admit there were some delays of obtaining this data due to other traffic studies being completed in the Village last year, as well as some technical difficulties using the department’s older traffic counter. Chief Kubiak stated he usually likes to try and obtain seven to ten days of data for a given area, but due to some ongoing issues with older counter system he was only able to obtain five days of data from December 16, 2022 to December 21, 2022. The data reflected a “medium” enforcement rating for northbound Sunnyslope Rd and a “low” rating for southbound Sunnyslope Rd. (See traffic data sheets attached in agenda). Chief Kubiak stated data consistently showed northbound Sunnyslope Rd. as more of an issue, with 28% of

northbound traffic being above the established enforcement tolerance of 8 mph in a posted speed limit of 25mph. Chief Kubiak stated northbound Sunnyslope Rd. is always a challenge with speed because vehicles are often entering from Bluemound Rd. which is a 45 mph posted speed directly onto northbound Sunnyslope which is a 25 mph speed and also is going down a steep hill. Chief Kubiak went on to state that also a result from the complaints of speed on Sunnyslope Rd. he had more direct speed enforcement action taken by his officers recently. Chief Kubiak stated Mr. Broerman's claims that "no enforcement" of Sunnyslope has occurred is simply inaccurate. Chief Kubiak relayed the following:

- From August 2022 to December 2022, 166 traffic stops were conducted by the Elm Grove Police department for violations occurring on Sunnyslope Rd. Of those 166 traffic stops, approximately 124 of them were related to speed violations. Of those violations Chief Kubiak believed 90 to 100 of them resulted in citations.

Chief Kubiak stated in regards to speed mitigation options, a speed bump would not be feasible due to Sunnyslope Rd. being a main arterial roadway to the Village, used by emergency services to access Bluemound Rd. Chief Kubiak did state to keep in mind that things like electronic speed signage have been approved for other areas in the Village with lower speed enforcement ratings than the current ratings on Sunnyslope Rd. He added there may be some benefit to having this type of signage which immediately draws attention to the change in speed limit by those drivers entering the Village northbound on Sunnyslope Rd.

Trustee Sayas stated again reminded the committee the digital speed sign for westbound Watertown Plank traffic just west of 124th was a very effective tool in slowing drivers down and suggested the same type of signage may benefit in slowing speeds on Sunnyslope Rd. Ms. Decker agreed but also inquired about traffic "murals" or painting on roadway which could assist in slowing traffic as a potential cost savings in compared to the digital speed sign. Chief Kubiak was unaware of costs for roadway painting but did state the steep hill may impede or affect the effectiveness of such paintings. Mr. Danielson inquired about mobile speed trailers in using to assist in slowing speeds. Chief Kubiak did state they have used the department speed trailer on Sunnyslope Rd. in the past, but that is challenging due to limited areas of where the trailer can be deployed, as well as it usually cannot be used in winter months. Mr. Danileson inquired the cost of a digital speed sign, to which Chief Kubiak claimed he believed it was approximately \$3800 to \$4200. Trustee Stuckert stated she also believed a digital speed sign would assist with the northbound traffic on Sunnyslope Rd. Chief Kubiak indicated a placement of sign would not be an issue other than funding for its purchase would be a question. Trustee Stuckert made a motion and Mr. Danielson seconded the motion for a digital speed sign to be posted on Sunnyslope Rd. (northbound) and to again monitor speeds after placement to see if speeds have decreased. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Business.

None

5. Adjournment

Trustee Sayas made the motion to adjourn and Trustee Stuckert seconded, motion passed unanimously at 7:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason J. Kubiak
Chief of Police