

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30PM

Present: Chair Trustee Kristina Sayas, Committee Members, Mr. John Schindler, Ms. Margaret Thew, Mr. John Oliveri and Ms. Barbara Decker.

Members Excused: Trustee Thomas Michalski, Trustee Katy Cornell.

Also Present: Police Chief Jason Kubiak.

1. Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order, at 6:35p.m., by Trustee Sayas.

2. Review and approve minutes from July 19, 2021/ September 10, 2020.

Trustee Sayas entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Oliveri indicated that there was still an error in the minutes identifying him as the member commenting about an informal survey of residents, concerning stop sign issues, under item #3, paragraph three, of the September 10, 2020 minutes effectively creating issue with July 19, 2021 minutes. Chief Kubiak indicated he would look back on previous notes and contact Trustee Cornell (former Chairman of the Committee) in order to obtain information to make the correction. Mr. Oliveri made a motion to table the approval of the minutes until the next public safety committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sayas and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Review and discuss recent concerns of increased coyote presence and nuisance behavior in the Village.

Trustee Sayas recognized members of the public that wished to speak regarding to coyote activity.

Ms. Rachel Gokusinski of 12980 Bluemound Rd.

Ms. Gokusinski mentioned the recent alleged attack of the dog in Elm Grove may have been a raccoon or other animal based upon photos she and a friend of hers (a veterinarian) observed on social media posted by dog owner. Ms. Gokusinski indicated that she believed the most recent attack was "unverified" due to not being witnessed and believed the

responsibility was on the homeowner to watch their pet. She indicated she was not in favor of any type of plan to mitigate or remove the coyotes in the area.

Ms. Meghan Scott (Wauwatosa Resident)

Indicated that although she was not an Elm Grove resident she had an interest in the topic of the coyote presence in the Village and other nearby communities. Although she admitted she had not read Wauwatosa's policy on Coyote Nuisance Management, she indicated she was not in favor of any mitigation program or removal of the coyotes. Scott also reiterated that the responsibility is on the dog owner, especially in the most recent situation where the owner allowed the dog out after midnight unattended.

Trustee Sayas thanked the members of the public for their comments and closed any further public comment.

Chief Kubiak briefly reviewed the coyote incident and activity memo he provided to committee members emphasizing the following points:

- The recent alleged coyote attack on resident's pet was not witnessed, and although probable it involved a coyote, the information provided was based only on statements provided by the resident who did not actually see a coyote attack her dog.
- A review of police calls for service indicated that since 2017 the police department had received a total of twenty one calls for service involving coyotes, of which only one (the most recent alleged pet attack) was considered a potential nuisance type call. Most calls concerning coyotes were involving the observation or presence of a potential sick or injured coyote. Although presence of coyotes has increased, nuisance behavior by coyotes has not significantly increased.
- The department does and will continue to respond to coyote related calls when it involves an injured or sick coyote for potential dispatching or any nuisance behavior by a coyote on a case by case basis. Dispatchers are trained to ask callers about the specific activity of the coyote in order to determine if a call for service and/ or response by an officer is needed. Simple observation calls of coyotes will not generate a call for service or response from police.
- The department and Village Hall on average receive one to two phone calls a week involving the simple observation of coyotes in the area by residents who are concerned or wish authorities to know of their presence. These calls do not generate police calls for service.

Chief Kubiak shared that he invited the Waukesha County WI DNR representative to the meeting. The DNR responded they would not be attending public meetings on the matter of

coyotes and provided information in an email regarding coyote activity and deterrence (provided to committee members), emphasizing:

- The DNR continues to emphasize education of citizens on how to prevent coyotes from settling in residential areas; when observed using scare tactics (noisemakers, whistles, etc.), removing potential food sources for coyotes from the area, and monitoring pets when let outside.
- DNR is not supportive of removal of coyotes for merely being present in area, claiming if coyotes are removed others will move in and occupy area so the DNR continues to stress precautions and avoidance measures be taken by residents, as well as deterrence behavior to help keep coyotes from settling.
- Information sheets on coyotes as well as “Yard Audit” sheet provided by DNR was already posted to the Village website.

The committee briefly discussed Wauwatosa’s Coyote Nuisance Management and Response Plan Policy. There was some discussion on Wauwatosa’s plan and the citizen notification process of contacting a Milwaukee County Coyote Watch website, inquiring if same could be done by Elm Grove residents. Chief Kubiak indicated Milwaukee County had made a conscious effort in establishing funding and the infrastructure in setting up the coyote watch program, of which Waukesha County does not have such a program. The committee recognized the increase of coyotes in the Village, agreeing nearby developments and construction has potentially pushed some coyotes into the area. Mr. Schindler discussed statistics on how rare coyote attacks on humans are. Members were understanding of recent citizen concerns of coyotes in the area, but at this time did not feel a mitigation program involving the physical removal of coyotes was necessary. Committee members discussed the importance of the education process of informing residents in collectively not allowing coyotes to settle in the area by residents taking steps of deterrence. Trustee Sayas presented different deterrence methods (using noise makers to scare away, etc.), as well as precautionary behaviors (not leaving pets unattended outdoors, eliminate unintentional food sources like bird food, etc.) Committee discussed having an educational message presented to the residents, via use of print media, village website, and other local community social media outlets. Mr. Schindler suggested a mailing to all residents, to which the question of funding for the mailing was inquired. Chief Kubiak stated he did not believe there was any funding for such a mailing but would check with the Village Manager. Trustee Sayas suggested she could work with Chief Kubiak in creating an informational memo on coyote deterrence which would be sent to residents. Mr. Oliveri made a motion to enhance education of residents on behaviors and precautionary steps residents could take in deterring coyotes through memo created by Trustee Sayas and Chief Kubiak to be sent to media, social media, Village website, etc. Mr. Schindler seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Business.

Trustee Sayas indicated a Village resident had sent an email requesting the committee to consider allowing UTV's and ATV's to be operated within and on Village roadways. Trustee Sayas briefly discussed the Village ordinance 275-13 Neighborhood Electric Vehicles which allowed such vehicles to be operated and how according to her information no one had ever used it. Trustee Sayas also stated she spoke with Village Manager DeAngelis who claimed communities that allow the use of ATV's and UTV's are typically larger and more rural. Chief Kubiak provided opinion that based on traffic volume and types of traffic (trucking) in Elm Grove, the allowance of UTV/ATV was unsafe due to limited visibility of the ATV's and UTV's mixed with regular traffic on the roadways. Chief Kubiak also mentioned consideration of potential noise issues in allowing such vehicles to be operated on roadways (especially at night), as well as registration requirements needed for such vehicles which needed to be established by the municipality at a potential cost. Committee briefly discussed the matter and it was mentioned the use of UTV/ATV request was made by only one resident. The committee agreed at this time ATV's/UTV's should not be allowed on Village roadways and such allowance was not conducive to the community.

Trustee Sayas indicated she had received an inquiry from a resident asking when the approved solar powered speed signs were to be placed on Highland Drive would occur. Sayas stated she had information from Village Manger the signs are in and that he didn't have a confirmed date when they would be installed but it should happen within the next 30 days.

Mr. Oliveri had mentioned his displeasure in how the recently built sidewalks along newly developed North Ave. were snow covered throughout the winter. He indicated after making inquiries he found "Walk Closed" signs were posted instead of snow being removed. Mr. Oliveri expressed concern on the inability for residents to use walks in winter. Committee discussed jurisdictional issues in that the sidewalk was maintained by City of Brookfield. Chief Kubiak indicated because construction was still intermittent during early part of winter, it may have contributed to snow not being removed. Mr. Oliveri expressed he would be monitoring and if necessary reaching out to City of Brookfield if lack of snow removal continued.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Oliveri made the motion to adjourn and Mr. Schindler seconded, motion passed unanimously at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason J. Kubiak
Chief of Police

