

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, May 14, 2020

**Present:** Chair Trustee Katy Cornell, Trustee Kim Irwin (Left meeting at 7pm), President Neil Palmer, Committee Members, Ms. Barbara Decker, Mr. D.J. Richlen and Mr. John Schindler.

**Members Excused:** None.

**Also Present:** Village Manager David De Angelis and Police Chief Jim Gage.

### 1. Call the meeting to order

The meeting was called to order, at 6:03 pm, by Trustee Cornell.

### 2. Review and approve minutes from December 13, 2018.

Trustee Cornell entertained a motion for approval. President Palmer made a motion for approval of the minutes of December 13, 2018, with D.J. Richlen seconded. Motioned carried.

### 3. Review for possible approval “Dangerous Intersection” sign for Pilgrim and Watertown Plank Roads.

Trustee Cornell asked Chief Gage to briefly discuss the opinion, from the Village Attorney’s Office, regarding advisory signs. Chief Gage indicated that the Village Attorney does not recommend “Dangerous Intersection” signs, since such signs are not approved as a uniformed traffic control device as defined by the Wisconsin Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (WMUTCD).

Trustee Cornell asked Chief Gage to provide an accident history for the intersection. Chief Gage relayed that there were twenty-one accidents from 2017 to 2019 (approximately 7 accidents per year). Chief Gage also provided for comparison, accident information for the same time frame for Bluemound Road and Moorland of fifty-eight accidents (approximately 19 accidents per year).

Trustee Cornell asked when the intersection paint may be refreshed and if the village would consider reflective tape at that location. Mr. De Angelis indicated that the intersection is scheduled for painting in the next 30 to 60 days as a part of the normal maintenance schedule for roadway painting and that he would research the possibility of utilizing reflective tape.

President Palmer asked staff to review whether there may be larger signs or other appropriate signs, in the WMUTCD that may be considered for this intersection. He also asked for a closer look at accident causes to see if there may be a trend in the accident causation. Mr. Schindler asked if there may be a sign that warns drivers of a “double signal” or otherwise warns of multiple or closely associated intersections. Mr. Richlen asked if there may be a “rumble strip” type warning method for the intersection, as well. Mr. De Angelis indicated that some of our options may have to be approved, or may already have been considered, by the Department of Transportation (DOT), when they reviewed this intersection and its relationship to the Bluemound Road and Moorland Road intersection. Staff will review options and report back to the Committee.

Mrs. Mary Inden of 14745 Watertown Plank Road, asked if the Committee would consider improvements of placing an overhead signal for each lane for Pilgrim Parkway, like those located at Bluemound and Moorland Roads. Mr. De Angelis indicated that he believed that it would be approximately \$200k for signal upgrades, but would inquire with his DOT contact regarding funding or upgrade opportunities for the intersection.

**MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA:** President Palmer made a motion to amend the agenda, moving item #4 “Review whether residential chicken coops are safe” to position #6 of the agenda to accommodate citizens waiting for less time consuming topics. This motion was seconded by Mr. Schindler and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Review crosswalk request for Legion Drive and Elmhurst Parkway.**

Mr. Bruce Davidson of 1620 Legion Drive, requests cross walks on Legion Drive at Elmhurst Parkway. Mr. Davidson relates his perceptions that vehicles are regularly speeding on Legion Drive and that pedestrians are facing unsafe conditions, while crossing Legion Drive. Mr. Davidson further related that drivers are parking cars on the west side of Legion, just south of the intersection, further causing visual obstructions for pedestrians and drivers.

Chief Gage relayed that over a 23 year period there have been two accidents at that location, one when temporary stops signs were in place on Legion, due to detoured traffic resulting from roadway construction in the area at the time. The other occurred when there were no stop signs on Legion. None of the accidents involved pedestrians. Chief Gage, while acknowledging that the area is a popular crossing point to the park, felt it is no more popular a crossing point than Legion at Nicolet Ave. or Ridgeway at Juneau Blvd. or Elmhurst and 124<sup>th</sup> Street.

There was considerable discussion that acknowledged that the intersection was a popular crossing point and that vehicles parking on Legion are a visual obstruction. The Committee

also discussed the possibility of adding electronic speed advisory signs to Legion, as a part of next year's budget process.

President Palmer motioned to request a formal pedestrian and vehicular safety analysis for the intersection for the purpose of determining whether or not crosswalks without stop signs are warranted. Seconded by Mr. Schindler. Motion carried unanimously.

President Palmer made a motion to install no parking signs on the west side of Legion Drive to the Legion Village Park entrance. Trustee Cornell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Review request for crosswalks and stop signs at Church Street and Juneau Blvd.**

Mr. and Mrs. Linn of 1155 Church Street make a request for stop signs on Juneau at Church Street, with the possibility of adding crosswalks and extending the pedestrian pathway east from the intersection.

Chief Gage related that in the past 23 years there have been four accidents at that location, all involving drivers failing to yield from a stop sign on Church Street. None of the accidents involved pedestrians.

TRUSTEE IRWIN HAD TO LEAVE THE MEETING AT 7:00P.M.

Both President Palmer and Mr. De Angelis confirmed that the Village is unable to extend a formal pathway to the east, from the intersection, since the Village lacks sufficient right-of-way to accommodate a pathway. Mr. Palmer suggested that Mr. and Mrs. Linn approach St. Mary's staff to consider a pathway extension or to have St. Mary's staff approach the Village to pursue a mutually agreeable solution to accommodate pathway construction.

There was considerable discussion regarding the feasibility of properly installing a crosswalk at the intersection. Due to culvert locations and the misalignment of the intersection in general, the conversation centered on the need for stop signs on Juneau Blvd. The general consensus was that, especially during times of church services, pedestrians would benefit from the presence of stop signs on Juneau Blvd. to cause a break in traffic to allow for pedestrians to cross. The Committee also discussed extending the sidewalk on the east side of Church Street, along Town Bank, to Juneau Blvd., and placing a crosswalk across Juneau Blvd. on the east side of the intersection.

As a result of this discussion, President Palmer made a motion to declare the portion of Church Street that intersects Juneau Blvd a "through roadway", allowing for the posting of stop signs on east and west bound Juneau Blvd. at Church Street. Motion seconded by Mr. Schindler. Motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Review whether residential chicken coops are safe.**

Mr. Chris Powell of 1185 Terrace Drive requests the ability to have a residential chicken coop on his property.

President Palmer reviewed a memo written by Mr. De Angelis, outlining some of the issues for review in consideration of residential chicken coops. President Palmer indicated that there are a number of interrelated issues, concerning approval of residential chicken coops, but felt it was best to obtain model policies from surrounding communities that have already addressed this issue. Mr. Richlin asked if there was a way to get a feel for the Board's acceptance of this issue, prior to engaging in the staff work, to save time if there is no chance of it passing. Mr. De Angelis indicated the Village Board will have an opportunity to opine at the next Board meeting during the update from this Committee. Mr. Palmer and Mr. De Angelis felt that the most efficient way to bring the matter to back to the committee for discussion and decisions based on the memo was through a draft ordinance prepared by staff, based on this discussion, for the next committee meeting.

Mr. Schindler expressed concern, through his research, over the increase of salmonella cases in communities that allow residential coops and the general nuisance issues of odor and the attraction of fox and coyotes to the residential yards.

Ms. Decker indicated that she is not opposed to the idea of residential chicken coops, but would like to hear more on the topic before making a recommendation for approval.

Trustee Cornell directed staff to create a draft ordinance and report back to the Committee for further review of the issue. Possible ordinance models to be obtained from Fox Point, Wauwatosa or Reedsburg.

## **7. Review of pathway ranking as set by the Committee of the Whole.**

President Palmer reports that the Watertown Plank Road extension is completed, leaving Hollyhock Lane and Gebhardt Road still on the list. There was discussion about the Berkshire pathway that extends along the east side of the Pilgrim Park Middle School property, from Westover Road to Terrace Drive. There was also discussion about enhancements to the intersection of Highland Drive and Gebhardt Road, to add turn lanes at that location, per a study conducted by Mr. Wayne Higgins of Traffic Engineers. Trustee Cornell also requested that village staff secure a cost analysis for a Highland Drive pathway, from Juneau Blvd. to North Ave., since there is considerable interest among community members to fundraise for the project.

## **8. Review 2019 car deer crash summary.**

Chief Gage presented the 2019 car deer crash summary, citing no real changes over last year and no identifiable trend or correlation concerning crashes and culling years.

**9. Other Business.**

There was no other business.

**10. Adjournment.**

Trustee Cornell entertained a motion to adjourn. President Palmer seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James P Gage

Chief of Police