



Village of New Richmond

Safety, Rules & Laws Committee



Date: April 10, 2023

Location: New Richmond Village Hall

Attendees: Ryan M. Woodruff (Chairman)

Richard Feldkamp (Councilman)

Jon Tharpe (Councilman)

Bob Lindhorst (Interim Administrator, Planning/Zoning Administrator)

Eric Williams (Police Chief)

Tim Feldkamp (Fire/EMS Chief)

Members Absent: Glenn Ewing (Mayor)

Guests: Jim Serger (Resident), Dennis Dalton (Councilman)

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / WELCOME

Chairman Woodruff called the meeting to order at 17:55 hours.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Interim Administrator Bob Lindhorst had no new business to report.

Chairman Woodruff asked about the village street/stop sign project and a timeline for completion. Bob is going to get with Rob the Maintenance Foreman to plan to get this project rolling and completed.

There was an open discussion on Quarry Street property and other blighted properties in and around the village. All members were asked to be on the look-out for unsafe structures in the village. Discussion was made in ensuring we identify potential hazards and exercising our rights to secure these unsafe structures.

Chairman Woodruff asked to get an update from our solicitor on where we are with the Front Street Campground and the non-compliant structure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Williams mentioned the need to add an additional cruiser to the fleet, however he is waiting for council to determine the direction they will be heading regarding a levy. Councilman Feldkamp requested to know what the average fleet mileage was on the cruisers we still utilize. Chief Williams mentioned the older cruisers we had were well over 100,000 miles. Councilman Feldkamp believes we should retain vehicles up to or beyond 150,000 miles.

Chief Williams gave a brief discussion on adding additional officers to cover some of the weekend, high volume days over the summer months. He is looking at adding roughly an additional 108 (8 hour) shifts to the year. This would help with giving our part-time staff hours to work, being regular. This would potentially result in a \$20,000 increase in the appropriations to their budget. Chief Williams was asked to finalize the plan and numbers to present to the Personnel & Finance Committee.

As a supplemental notice the police department will continue the off-duty special detail services for large scale events in the village to help add policing numbers for those events while lessening the cost to the village.

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Chief Feldkamp provided call for service detail in members mailboxes. The Fire/EMS Department had been utilized as Mutual Aid on a structure fire with Central Joint Fire/EMS. Our medic unit was initially requested and later requested our air trailer. The Chief stated he issued a recall for staff to help cover New Richmond in the other unit's absence. The

medic unit was also requested by Washington Township to cover their station and most of the southeastern portion of the county due to a structure fire a week ago as well. The Chief gave a highlight discussion on Fire/EMS member Areas of Responsibility (AORs) that was presented to members during the Personnel & Finance meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / MEMBER COMMENTS

Jim Serger shared that he thought we (Village) are missing great opportunities to share our road maintenance work that has been taking place on social media. He felt that despite some of the negative comments that tend to happen we gain a lot of positive influence and perspective by sharing the happenings and work being done in and around the town by our personnel. He also asked about US 52 Eastbound 4 lane to 2 lane interchange, who is responsible for maintenance of that area, and can we maintain it to clean it up? There was a discussion that we may have a vested interest in cleaning that area up since it is public perception it is ours. We have the equipment out and doing similar work right up to that point, we should just finish it out. Mr. Serger also requested permission to paint fire hydrants around the town in specific places that he had chosen. He also mentioned that he and his staff went out and cleaned all the center culvert drains on US 52 and noticed we have several missing grates and that they all needed a 5ft concrete troth to aid in water removal. He offered his services on a volunteer basis to correct those culvert grates and handle the concrete work. The committee had no issue with him performing any of the service items he requested permission to do, he was asked to fill out the volunteer waiver form before performing the work. It should be noted that this idea of community service should be broadly accepted and praised, as we have many members of this community who are called to this type of community service but may not know where or how to start. We should work to enhance opportunities for volunteerism and possibly have a running list of service items that could be done from small projects all the way up to much larger ones.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

With no further business needing discussion, Chairman Woodruff adjourned the meeting at 18:55 hours.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Ryan M. Woodruff