

Safety Committee Meeting Minutes:

Date: January 6, 2022

Present: Mayor Carol Bailey, Police Chief Jim Darling, Councilman Daniel Angel

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 4pm

Items Discussed:

1. Radar Speed Signs:
 - a. Chief tried pulling data from the new radar speed signs. He said there is a gun lock on the signs added by the Streets Department. The key that was given to the police department does not fit the lock. The police department plans to have those locks cut off and replaced with different ones already owned by the Village.
 - b. Chief plans to have the data pulled and available for the next Council meeting on January 18th.
 - c. Chief stated the cable used to pull the data appears to be long enough to do the job. This was a concern when the signs were first mounted.
2. Replacing 2 officers:
 - a. Chief stated that it looks like the Village will be losing 2 officers soon: Moore and Schweifwert. If that happens, Chief plans to replace Moore's full-time position with current part-time officer Zieman. Zieman is currently working 36 hours per week. Chief would like to replace Schweifwert with part-time officer Shaffer. However, the salary needed to do that will need to be adjusted from Schweifwert's current rate of \$18.50 to \$21.50. This issue will be passed on to the Finance Committee as they set salary rate recommendations for all Village employees.
3. CPT:
 - a. The State of Ohio requires all officers to participate in training to maintain their credentials. COVID is making that very difficult for many departments and Pemberville is no exception. These scheduling issues are at the State level which means Pemberville has no control over the process. There is no current concern that our officers will be penalized if they fail to finish the required training this year, but it is something the Chief is keeping an eye on moving forward.
4. Morning Patrol:
 - a. The Mayor asked Chief about Council's request for an officer to be on patrol at 7am. The Chief stated that over the last 6 months, there have been numerous morning patrols by him and other officers covering the morning shift on his day off. However, this is not something the department can provide every day. It was discussed that the department does not have the manpower and the Village does not have the available funds to provide overlapping coverage to the extent needed to commit to this patrol. The Mayor asked that there be a few 7am patrols per month and Chief said he will work to make sure that happens.
 - b. Current coverage averages from 8am-3am, depending on part-time officers' availability. Some nights coverage may end at 2am while others may end at 4am.

5. The Chief's Job:

- a. The Chief spent some time explaining the difference between his job requirements and a normal patrol officers requirements. He reminded the committee that Chief of Police do not patrol their community. A Police Chief is an administration position with requirements set forth by the State of Ohio on top of expectations from the local municipality. Larger departments provide a staff to help met those requirements. Most smaller departments do not have that option but the requirements still remain. The Chief welcomes anyone who is interested to contact him to learn more.

6. The Chief's Hours:

- a. Councilman Angel asked the Chief if he is working 40 hours per week. The Chief said yes. Angel asked if he worked any of that scheduled time at home. Chief said no. Angel informed the Chief that an accusation has been made that he was claiming billable hours on his time sheets that he was not working. The Chief vehemently denied that accusation.
- b. Chief requested that Councilman Angel extend an invitation to whomever made the accusation to speak about it.
- c. Councilman Angel apologized for bringing up the question. However, he felt his duty to provide oversight of the Police Department required him to follow up on the accusation as best he could.
- d. Chief added that there are times when he does work from home. The Chief explained that he is on call 24 hours a day. These times include when he is taking phone calls from members of Council, the Mayor, and other officers while the Chief is not in the Village. However, the Chief says he does not count those incidents towards his paid work time. Also, he stressed that there have been times when he has left his family to address issues for the Village. The Chief stated that he rarely takes vacation time and when he does, it is usually single days.

7. Police Reports to Council:

- a. Councilman Angel asked Chief to continue to provide more details to Council concerning traffic stop locations. Angel stated that accusations that occurred in the Spring of 2021 claimed the Police Department was not patrolling certain locations in the Village. Angel stressed that the extra detail helps Council to better understand what the officers are seeing on their patrols. Chief agreed and will continue to provide that extra data.

Concluded: 4:55pm.