

Village of Fox Lake
Public Safety Committee Meeting
May 26, 2009

Immediately following the Sewer and Water Committee Meeting

I. Call to Order

Mayor Bender called the Meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. Mayor Bender stated that since the Committee assignments will be done at the Village Board Meeting he is asking Trustee Griseta to Chair this meeting tonight.

II. Roll Call

Present were Trustee Griseta, Trustee Murrey, Trustee Mumford, Trustee Burt, Trustee Koske and Trustee Kiesgen. Also in attendance were Mayor Bender and Village Administrator Nancy Schuerr.

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Trustee Griseta asked if there were any corrections or clarification for the minutes for April 28, 2009. There were no comments and will stand as presented.

IV. Police Department

Police Chief Comments/Update

Chief Behan stated he wanted to thank Dan Miller, Street Department for the striping of the parking lot, we had some problems with GTTA as far as parking, and with the parking lot striped it has resolved that issue.

Chief Behan passed out the monthly reports for the Police Department for the month of April 2009.

I have also provided a flyer for chip the dog of cat program that we do. The cost is \$90 per animal but we do it free of charge for any resident. This enables us to be able to locate the owner should it be loose, and we then can return it to the owner with a citation accordingly. We have had this program for 4 years; we normally get between 40-60 people. It is June 6th from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

Skateboard Ordinance Discussion

Chief Behan stated we currently have no skateboarding ordinances; we have an ordinance regarding no toys on the streets. I have been contacted by Ardmn, owner of the plaza for enforcement of no skateboarding in the plaza. We checked the reports and since January 1st we have had 173 times we have told them to leave the plaza etc. I think we need to get an ordinance regarding skateboarding and not just for the Village but also for private property as well. I have talked with other towns as well in regard to their skateboarding ordinances. It is an issue we are going catch a lot for such as bumper stickers "Skateboarding is not Illegal" etc. Some area's it can be, that is what we want to do.

Nancy Schuerr stated an example of what some of the villages are doing about skateboarding is they designate skateboarding areas that can be used and other areas that they cannot. This way there is an area that skateboarding is allowed. Part of the reasoning for the ordinance is for safety. When the skateboards jump up on the sides of the walls, curbs etc. cause damage to the

walls and curbs etc. Looking at some of the other Villages work with they talk about skateboarding not being allowed on any street, sidewalk, structure in the stated downtown area. Parking lots, public streets they list, as areas skateboarding is not allowed, they also then list private property without the owners permission. They then tell them where they can skateboard; on this particular sheet it states skateboards can ride on sidewalks in neighborhoods outside the downtown area, they can ride in downtown areas only on permitted bike trails or city owned bike trails. They point out where they can skateboard so the kids can still skateboard in designated areas. They also set up fines of \$10, \$20 and it is raised if it is a repetitive violations. They explain how they made up brochures to hand out to skateboarders first. They state the reason for the limitation in the brochure is why they are restricting the areas. They state the interaction can damage public and private property; they estimate the damage for public property (such as walls; brick mortar) from \$2,000 and then they say on private property or in parking lots it can be as much as \$30,000 in damages. This is just an example of how to deal with skate boarding and issues that come up with that, and looking at that and a possibility of setting up an ordinance it is a matter of identifying the same areas. We have a skateboard park that was put up.

Mayor Bender asked if the bottom line is you recommending that the Attorney review this and prepare an ordinance for Fox Lake? Chief Behan stated yes that is what we are recommending.

Trustee Murrey stated he thought in 1995 or 1996 he thought that Mayor Hamsher had put an ordinance in place for skateboarding. I just want to make sure we are conflicting ordinances.

Trustee Koske stated she also recollect that when the skateboard park went in; I thought at that time there was an ordinance put in place for skateboarders. It may have only had to do with the Plaza because they were having such a difficult time with the damage, black marks etc.

Trustee Mumford stated I though when the plaza changed hands an ordinance was put in place. I know there are signs throughout the plaza that say, "no skateboarding".

Chief Behan stated we have an ordinance on toys; such as roller blades, skateboards they cannot go into the roadways, you can do it on the sidewalk; there is no ordinance that says you can't. In the plaza is private property; there is no ordinance to enforce no skateboarding in the plaza.

Trustee Koske stated I don't have an issue with an ordinance; we do have a skateboard park. The school doesn't allow the skateboarding on their property.

Trustee Burt asked if the other Villages you looked at do they provide another type of penalty beside a dollar amount, such as requirement for community service? Nancy Schuerr stated she would look into that possibility.

Administrative Hearing Ordinance – Red Flex

Chief Behan stated he had asked Attorney Morizon to attend this evening to go through the Red Flex. Chief Behan stated Red Flex is photo enforcement; we are looking at Route 12 and Route 134. This has been in the process for the last two years. We are averaging 1.87 accidents a week there. The stats showed two years ago we went back to 100 accidents, and it showed 92 out of 100 went to the hospital; it is a serious intersection we actually have our own landing area there. We need to do something with this; we went with Red Flex, it is photo enforcement; it is not a picture but an actual video that is sent to the Police Department to review to decide if a ticket is to be issued. We control it, we set the bar, and it is not no red turn on red. They just came out and they determined we have more blow through the lights than turning on red. We had 10-11 over as 12-hour period that is on northbound and then again on westbound. That is the problem of going through a red light.

Chris Morozin introduced himself to the Board; to recap in December the previous Board approved a contract between the Village and Red Flex to do the photo enforcement. That contract calls for several steps to ultimately getting to the goal of getting the equipment set up at the intersection to be monitored by these cameras. A couple of the things that we needed to do is one set up an Administrative Hearing ordinance as well as an ordinance that allows us to do administrative adjudication of these violations. The Chief and I have met on a number of occasions, and have come up with these ordinances. I have given you each two ordinances to consider. Where we are in the stages, are upon approval of the ordinances, we have to submit them with our application to IDOT to get approval to install these red light cameras in place. There is a checklist of 7-10 things that we have to submit. We are working with Red Flex and will ultimately submit the requirements. We have to have the ordinances approved, we have to indemnify IDOT for any of the work being done, and Chief will have to put together the stats of the last three years of accidents. This is one of the worst intersections of the 5 in Lake County. Red Flex was out there in the last month and we have not received the formal study yet; they determined where they would want the cameras. One is the southbound on Route 59/12 and the other one is westbound on Route 134. We are confident that IDOT will approve our permit. We need to approve these ordinances in the next two meetings to be the time frame for approval of the permit; otherwise it will delay and we would not get approval from IDOT until next May.

Trustee Griseta asked what is the cost to the Village? Red Flex handles all cost with the placement of the camera etc. The Village is charged a monthly fee of \$4,395, Red Flex gets that from the violations and then we get any violation over that cost. If in fact there aren't enough violations to support the cost then there is an accounting at the end contract so ultimately it is not to cost the Village any dollars. Trustee Griseta asked how many are appealed? Chris Morozin stated they estimated less than 3%. The tickets are P-tickets, so it does not go against your record unless you fight it and then it could go against your record. Chief Behan stated also in January and February we may not have as much traffic as say June, July and August, which is why, it is prorated. Chris Morizon stated the Village would be required to do a public awareness campaign about the cameras at the intersection. There are a lot of misconceptions of these cameras; this is not a tool to raise money but to make the intersection safer.

Trustee Griseta asked what other towns in Lake County have these cameras in place? Mike Behan stated Wauconda, Waukegan, Lake Forest, Gurnee, Lincolnshire to name a few that have actually Red Flex. Other Villages have a different vendor.

Chief Behan stated other Department has done it as well, where the first month is just a warning ticket, signage is put up so everyone is aware. There is a required period for trial tickets. Chief Behan stated they stressed to us it would be no different than an officer being there and watching the violation.

Trustee Mumford stated I am in agreement this is the worst intersection in town. I did some research for another item for the Fire Department and just the fire accidents were 180 car accidents last year, half of those accidents were at Rt. 12 and Rt. 134, and I am sure there were a lot more from the Police Department. I know the State has lowered the speed limit on Route 12, the yellow light seem short. There is no delay from when the lights turn red; the other light for the other way turns green immediately. We have other intersections in town that have delayed green lights; have you talked to the State to try and get them to consider this. The cameras are a great idea, but we will be writing tickets but the accidents won't slow down. Chief Behan stated coming down the hill on Route 12 is an optical illusion, you think you have the time but in actuality you still have another 500 feet.

Trustee Koske stated when they first put those lights up; the State came out and adjusted the lights because of the heavy traffic flow on Route 134. We have to take all of that into consideration when we talk about adjusting the lights. Trustee Mumford asked if they did a traffic study yet? Attorney Morizon stated they just did, but we haven't received it yet. Attorney Morizon stated the statistics state that after about a month you will see a drop of around 35%. Trustee Koske stated she had one more question; the traffic administrator is basically going to be the Village Administrator? Attorney Morizon stated yes and it is going to be very nominal as far as workload. The majority of the work is going to be Red Flex, and then personnel time from the Police Department. Mike Behan stated he anticipated an hour of officer's time daily to review the video and approve the appropriate tickets via email or Internet; then Red Flex sends out the tickets.

Mayor Bender asked if they were going to be ready to have them placed on the Agenda for the next meeting? Chief Behan stated yes.

V. Fire/ Rescue Department

Fire Chief's Comments/Update

Chief Hoehne stated some months ago I had mentioned that we sent two of our firefighters to New Orleans and I had promised to bring these gentlemen in to be recognized. I finally have received the certificates. I would like to bring them to a meeting next month to get those awarded.

We are having our annual festival July 17th, 18th and 19th and you will see a permit application for outdoor music again this year.

VI. 911

Communications Supervisor's Comments/Update.

Annette Wolf read the following statement. I would like to take a moment to award this year's Telecommunicator of the Year.

9-1-1 Dispatcher's are a rare breed. To be a Telecommunicator you must successfully complete all interviews, written tests, and background checks, but what makes a dispatcher great is their compassion for others, dedication to the mission of the organization and ability to work as a team.

Everyday Police Officers walk into a scene of chaos and disarray, Firemen run into the buildings while others are running out, and EMS personnel must answer the plea of a persons eyes who is telling them to save their loved one.

9-1-1 Telecommunicators pick up the phone when the number 9-1-1 is dialed and as one of our other Telecommunicators quoted "is the voice of reassurance in the callers time of need". This need ranges from a person locked out of their car to a child not breathing. It is Telecommunicators job to try and give them help and comfort until help arrives.

As of January 1,2009 Our Telecommunicators have assisted with the delivery of 8 childbirths, 34 cardiac arrests and 8 choking assists. All this is possible by with the dedicated and caring people in the chairs to use the technology and training that we have at Fox Comm.

The star program was initiated at FoxComm to recognize Telecommunicators that commit to the mission and take extra steps to improve the center and the services we provide. Every quarter a Telecommunicator is awarded the Star of the Quarter certificate. The recipients of the Quarterly Star Award are then nominated for the Telecommunicator of the year. Each nominee is listed and the Center as a whole is asked to vote for the recipient.

I would like to introduce you to FoxComm's 2009 Telecommunicator of the Year Senior Telecommunicator II Tracey Roberts. Tracey has been with Fox Lake for 5 years. Tracey first worked for Fox Lake under the Norcomm contract in 2003 for one year, taking time off for family life, and then coming back to Fox Lake 9-1-1 operating as FoxComm in July of 2005. Tracey is certified as a Training Officer and Emergency Medical Dispatcher; and has taken the data analysis tasks associated with assisting in the Quality Assurance Program in place.

Tracey makes it a distinct point to provide excellent customer service and is always willing to help with tasks and projects that will assist the center operations and quality.

I would like to invite any of the board member's new and old to visit the 9-1-1 Center and meet the Telecommunicators and see the equipment and technology that is making a difference everyday.

I would like to recognize the other nominees at this time, their continued dedication and commitment is greatly valued.

Supervisor Lindsay Linneman

Telecommunicator II Jaclynn Drehobl

Tracy Roberts thanked Annette and the Village Board for the award.

VII. Committee Comments

None

VIII. Audience Comments

Diane Sur, Atwater Park I just want to ask how is the skate park publicized, I didn't even know it existed. Do the high school and grade school kids know where it is? We need to make sure it is publicized.

Trustee Mumford stated it was advertised when it was built, and it is passed down. Mayor Bender stated we will get it on the website and send it to the papers as well.

Glenn Close, 37 Fairfax - I have a couple comments. I agree with Trustee Mumford that on the Red Flex. I think if it is truly done in the mindset of safety there should be some kind of a delay on the yellow light. That would be more important than the other things. The 2-second delay would prevent a lot of the accidents.

IX. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss the Committee Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Carol Ward
Deputy Clerk