

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
OF JULY 6, 2016, 7:00 A.M.**

Members Present:

Sheila Hansen, Chairman
Berry Allen, Trustee

Others Present:

Chief Pam Church, LES
DC Brian Budds, LES
DC Gary Mayor, Fire & EMS
Mike Jurusik, Village Attorney

Electronic Attendance: None.

#1 Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. After a couple of corrections were pointed out, a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2016, meeting was made by Trustee Allen. Chair Hansen seconded, and the motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

#2 Public Comment

Karen Coffman asked why dog incidents are not published either in the paper or the daily patch. Deputy Chief Budds addressed this issue by saying that criminal and arrest reports are released to the media. Dog incidents are not crimes so they are not reported and the media isn't asking for them. People are also not necessarily reporting them. Ms. Coffman feels that other dogs and small children are at great risk. She feels three attacks in three years are too many. Chair Hansen also said that we don't control what the papers print and don't print. Chief Church also said that we notify Cook County Animal Control of all bites that are reported to the department. Our power and authority is limited to the Village ordinances only.

Ms. Coffman also asked if people can notify police about a dog out by text. They answer is no, we do not have that technology yet, but there is the non-emergency number that can be called.

#3 Review of animal control ordinances

Public comment moved into this agenda item. Chief Church gave some statistics from 2015 to year to date for citations that were issued for dog or cat at large prohibited. 38 citations and one warning were issued. There were also seven barking dog prohibited citations issued.

Attorney Jurusik explained that the general rule of thumb in Illinois is that the first dog bite is free, and that the second bite is what triggers an investigation. However, if the first bite is vicious, one bite may be enough. All dog bites are reported to the Cook County Animal Control.

Chair Hansen asked Attorney Jurusik if there was anything that could change with our animal control regulations. He said our code is very comprehensive. Some additional

regulations that could be considered for ordinance revision are licensing or adding insurance provisions as far as pet insurance through the homeowners insurance or a waiver or exemption for dogs (6-2-3). We could also look at the complaint procedure (6-2-10). Finally, we could look at Fierce, Biting and Barking Dogs to add a sentence to the vicious dog statute stating that we follow the newer state law (6-2-14). The last thing to consider is looking at how far you want to go with fencing. There are different fences such as electronic, solid, security, etc. Some communities have adopted Pitbull regulations that if there is a Pitbull, or any mix of Pitbull in a home, there could be detailed and restrictive regulations as far as requiring a six foot fence and the dog being muzzled with a leash if being walked. Attorney Jurusik can provide revisions to consider if needed. Trustee Allen asked who determines the fines. The fines are determined by ordinance. The fine is \$35, but the hearing officer determines how high the fine is up to \$750.00 if someone decides to go to the hearing. Chief Church also stated that 23 tickets were issued in the past year and a half for no license. We will post the dog regulations/requirements on Facebook, the Tower Topics, and the Village website.

#4 Other

Chief Church informed the Committee that at Monday's Board meeting, Officer Sara Magnuson, Auxiliary Officer Braunty Baum, and Records Clerk Karen Brosius will all be formally sworn in.

Deputy Chief Mayor explained that they have two promotions, one appointment, and one retirement coming up. Both Lieutenants Zak and Gough, who were promoted to Lieutenant last year, have decided to resign the position due to time commitments which takes them away from their families more. Both of these members will still remain on the department. Bill Tomczyk and Steve Smith will now be promoted to Lieutenant and serve a one year probationary period.

Also, with the retirement of Assistant Chief Dave Ogren, Captain Thomas Dillon has been named acting Assistant Fire Chief until a Captain's promotional test is run in September. Once a Captain's list is finalized and a replacement is named, Captain Dillon will be permanently promoted to Assistant Fire Chief.

Finally, Firefighter Jim Regan retired after 20 years of service. He will be recognized at the Board meeting on July 25th.

#5 Adjournment

Trustee Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 a.m. Chair Hansen seconded, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammi L. Albrecht
Department Secretary