

VILLAGE OF WRIGHTSTOWN
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING MINUTES

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Committee of the Whole, of the Village of Wrightstown, was held at Wrightstown Village Hall, 352 High St., Wrightstown, WI, on **Tuesday, November 15, 2022**, and was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Village President Dean Erickson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Present – Village President Dean Erickson; Trustees Sue Byers, Andy Lundt, Mark Leonard (*arrived at 6:03 p.m.*), Terry Schaeuble (*arrived at 6:05 p.m.*), Dan Segerstrom, Keith Wendlandt

Also present: Brian Roebke (Wrightstown Spirit); Administrator Travis Coenen; Public Works Director Andy Vickman; Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Seidl; Fire Chief Mike Schampers; Police Chief Greg Deike; Residents: Corey Bereza, Karen Durst, Kathryn Lick, Jeff Moreau, LuAnne Moreau, Dalton Rupiper, Brad Sigmund, Julie Sigmund, Deb Tews

Motion made by Trustee A Lundt with a second made by Trustee D Segerstrom to open the Tuesday, November 15, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Motion made by Trustee A Lundt with a second made by Trustee S Byers to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, November 1, 2022. **Motion carried.**

2023 Squad Leases vs. Squad Purchase: Chief Greg Deike provided data showing the cost of leasing squads on a 3-year rotation compared to the cost of purchasing outright. After 2023, purchasing will save approximately \$6,000 per year. The concern is that due to the steep initial purchase price, the scheduled rotation will not continue in future years. Since the maintenance agreements on these vehicles are for 36 months, it is important to stay on schedule to protect their value. If the decision is made to purchase in 2023, the budgeted levy will not change to accommodate the added expense, the Economic Development and Marketing budget line will be reduced to offset. The \$14,531.00 moved into the Police Department Equipment Replacement account earlier in 2022, due to the Village being unable to secure a vehicle as a result of the shortage, will be used toward either option.

Trustee Dan Segerstrom concurred that the Board of Trustees must continue on the 3-year rotation since the decision was made, and the effort put in, to keep Village squads up to date. He fears that purchasing rather than leasing may be backward progress.

Trustee Mark Leonard responded that the goal is to save money. There is no intention of changing the current rotation schedule. The purchase option also allows for flexibility if problems arise with any of the vehicles prior to the end of their 3-years.

Addition of Full Time Officer for 2023: Chief Greg Deike outlined the benefits of hiring an additional full time officer in 2023:

- Call response times will be quicker

- Village officers will cover almost 24 hours daily, from the current 100 hours per week currently being staffed
- Trained medical assistance will arrive at call site faster since County Rescue's current response time is approximately 20 minutes. All Village Officers are certified first responders with Narcan and defibrillator capabilities
- Part-time officers can be used to cover officer time off
- Number of Village calls being handled by the Wisconsin State Patrol, Brown County Sheriff's Department and Outagamie County Sheriff's Departments can be reduced
- Relationships between Department staff and the community will continue to grow
- Community involvement can be increased

Provided statistics:

- 2,033 recorded incidents in the Village in 2021
- 2,001 recorded incidents in the Village so far in 2022 with two months remaining
- Average call volume per month is 203 currently. In 2021, the average was 192, so call number is increasing
- 154 calls were handled by outside agencies from January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022

Officer Heather Martin is the Village's designated investigator. Up to half her time is spent on investigations and follow up. So far in 2022, coming out of the COVID pandemic, there has been a significant increase in investigative matters

Administrator Travis Coenen noted that hiring and additional full time officer in 2023 will be a positive step toward the goal of having a full time department by the time the Village population reaches 5,000.

Trustee Andy Lundt agreed, especially in light of the struggles with finding EMS/First Responder volunteers. Also, the Village is anticipating significant growth in the coming years and adding additional officers is a natural result of that growth.

Trustee Sue Byers reminded the Board of Trustees of the issues with getting call responses in the Royal St. Patrick's subdivision due to the 911 communication breakdown. Adding an officer will increase the likelihood of trained help arriving quickly to assist.

It is estimated that the new developments in the Outagamie County portion of the Village of Wrightstown will add approximately 800 residents.

Motion made by Trustee Dan Segerstrom with a second made by Trustee Sue Byers to close the Committee of the Whole meeting. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Michelle Seidl

Clerk/Treasurer

Posted: 12/7/2022 MS