

TOWN OF NORTH GREENBUSH
Public Safety Committee
Thursday, March 4, 2021; 6:30 pm

ATTENDEES:

Chief Dave Keevern
Michael Masone
Supervisor Joe Bott

Bill Stewart
Mark Premo
Kathy Allen

Jim Schirmer
Deputy Supervisor Kelly Hoffman
Chief Bob Durivage (via zoom)

COVID-19 SCREENING

Upon entry, all attendees wore face masks and had their temperature taken. Committee members were seated at a distance. Record of attendance, temps, contact info is filed.

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Supervisor called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. All committee members were in attendance including Chief Durivage via zoom. Items on the agenda were reviewed.

NORTH GREENBUSH POLICE REFORM AND REINVENTION COLLABORATIVE 2021

Chairwoman Hoffman provided background regarding the call by the Governor's office related to the plan and thanked Chief Keevern and members of the public stakeholder panel for their work on this topic. Chief Keevern provided a detailed explanation of the purpose of the plan and highlights. Bill Stewart had several comments to the plan and will be meeting with Chief Keevern to explain in further detail but provided a summary of his recommendations. Some suggestions were to include the department's accreditation logo on the plan and provide the process the NGPD goes through every four years that is reviewed by an independent review board. Use of force by male and females was discussed. Chief Durivage suggested the plan be reflective of what is attainable and not to include unattainable expectations. He also suggested the plan include the department's force continuum. Chief Keevern talked about the impact of mental health on cases and has been in conversations with Commissioner Kathy Coons from Rensselaer County. Discussion ensued around employment opportunities at the NGPD and the recent lateral hires. Upon lengthy review, the Public Safety Committee recommended the plan move forward.

STOP SIGN AND OTHER REQUESTS

The committee reviewed stop sign requests for the following locations:

- * Lorenzo and Nadia (Pastures) due to site distance (approved)
- * Bentley and Crell - missing stop sign (hold)

The committee reviewed other requests for the following locations:

- * East Avenue - reduced speed (hold on signage for more information); Chief Keevern will put up speed trailer as soon as weather allows. Need to address reduced speed limit expressed by Mr. Slyer. (approved)
- * Avenue B East - deaf child (approved)

RESTRIPING OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS

Chairwoman Hoffman reported several crosswalks throughout town need to be repainted. Mark Premo has used the County's striping machine but said it would be worthwhile to purchase our own for the town. Mark will followup with pricing to purchase our own striping machine. Action plan for addressing crosswalk striping will be done in the Spring. The committee noted the striping on Brookside helped with speeding. Also, the striping at stop signs was very effective.

INTERSECTIONS AND CROSSWALKS OF CONCERN

* Bloomingrove and Winter St Extension: Chairwoman Hoffman expressed concern over the history of accidents at this location, per Chief Keevern. Chief Keevern indicated this is a dangerous intersection for accidents. The committee recommended a meeting with County Highway Superintendent Joe Teliska to discuss potential mitigation measures. The committee indicated additional stop signs on both sides of the road, reflectors, temporary light or 4-way stop are recommended but would look to the county for recommendations.

* Main Ave - Proposed New Hardware Storage (Bowling Alley) - Chief Keevern expressed concerns about potential traffic issues at this location. Chairwoman Hoffman indicated a report from Mike Miner from the building department indicated there would be no parking at the front of the building; that area will have a new facade with canopy. The hardware store may need a parking variance; they will not be using the lot crossed the street or American Legion. Parking issues will be addressed by planning/zoning board.

* Main Ave - Town Hall / Library - Additional pedestrian signs were installed, along with moveable sign in the median. Chief Durivage indicated it would be helpful to have something more permanent at this location since there is high activity/traffic at this location, therefore Mr. Premo indicated the crosswalk will be restriped. Followup-up with Mr. Germano regarding funding opportunities for a solar powered flashing light at this location. There was additional discussion regarding a crosswalk added closer to the town hall (park side) entrance of Main Ave; however, a crosswalk should not be added if it does not dead-end at a sidewalk. Because this is a busy entry and exit into the town hall parking lot, it was determined by the committee it was not safe to add a crosswalk to this area.

* Main Ave - Intersection of Brookside and Rhodes - discussion around safety at this location because the intersection is not aligned, suggestions of left turning light from Main Ave on to Brookside. The state DOT installed new pedestrian crossing signs at the location. The committee felt there was no further action needed at this time.

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSES AND JOINT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Chief Keevern reported the department has (2) alert trainers (Run, Hide, Fight) and offers training to town residents and other organizations. The committee agreed this is something the police department could offer to the residents in the future.

AMBULANCE UPDATE

Kathy Allen provided an update on the working plan to address staffing needs and a potential plan for additional location on the Defreestville side of town. Kathy is willing to work with local, state and federal officials regarding funding and understands this would be an expensive proposition. Staffing needs to be addressed as soon as feasible as weekend calls have been

increasing and the ambulance has been doing more calls to Van Rensselaer Manor. With the opening of several new businesses, the committee questioned if the town could apply a surcharge for the increased utilization to businesses like WellNow who will be placing an increased service on the ambulance service. The committee also thanked Commissioner Masone for his work on this.

OTHER

Jim Schirmer suggested as part of the curriculum in our school districts, it would be great to have our police officers teach the children what to do when they encounter a police officer; this would be part of our community policing effort. There was also discussion about having the NGPD participate in community events, safety checks like child carseat events, etc. The committee suggested once things open after COVID, it would be great to offer more events like this to our community.

ADJOURN

On motion by Mr. Schirmer, seconded by Mr. Masone, the meeting was adjourned.