

BROWN DEER TRAFFIC AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MARCH 4, 2021 MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order by Trustee Spencer at 5:30 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Trustee Spencer, Trustee Springman, Dale Gass, Bob Wazniak,

Also, Present: Michael Hall, Village Manager, Matthew S. Maederer, PE, Director of Public Works/Village Engineer; Jonathan Schmitz, Interim Chief, Brown Deer Police Department

Absent: Ron Hightower, Wayne Reineck, Deno Teat

II. PERSONS DESIRING TO BE HEARD

Trustee Springman requested that meeting attendance of committee members be discussed at the next Village Board meeting. Mr. Hall stated that he would add an agenda item to the next Village Board Meeting Agenda.

III. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: October 8, 2020

It was moved by Mr. Wazniak and seconded by Trustee Springman to approve the October 8, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORT OF STAFF/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Maederer updated committee members on Public Works activities including Winter/ Snow operations. Stop signs for North 64th Street will be installed once the snow is gone, Mr. Maederer has updated area residents. Trustee Spencer inquired how long it will take to install the stop signs, Mr. Maederer stated not more than a few hours.

Trustee Springman inquired about a social media post regarding damage to gates at the Public Works yard. Mr. Maederer and Chief Schmitz provided information regarding damage to the main gate off of Arbon Drive and stated that the Police are actively investigating and that a story will run on Fox 6. Damage is estimated at \$20,000.

Interim Chief Schmitz informed the committee that increased patrols will be in the school zones as school is back in session. Mr. Gass stated that the Police are doing a good job.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and/or Action to Revise Village Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 – Animals, Article I – In General, Section 6-1 – Definitions, “At Large” to Require Leashes when “Off-Premises

Interim Chief Schmitz stated that a complaint was received regarding a large breed dog being walked off leash. A request was made for a leash law to be in place. Interim Chief Schmitz recommended that the current ordinance covers off leash with the “At Large” designation. Trustee Springman, Mr. Wazniak and Trustee Spencer agreed with Interim Chief Schmitz.

Mr. Gass stated that he objected and was not in agreement at all. Mr. Gass stated that six neighboring communities have leash laws as well as the City of Milwaukee. Mr. Gass further stated he had prepared a presentation and accompanying documents if the committee members were interested in seeing them.

Trustee Springman and Mr. Wazniak questioned if the police would have discretion under certain circumstances. A discussion ensued regarding specific examples of training, the people in control of the dog and the unpredictability of animals. Mr. Wazniak inquired how many incidents have taken place in Brown Deer versus the surrounding communities with leash laws.

Mr. Gass opined that one incident of a child being bit is too many, he wanted the ordinance to be proactive. Mr. Wazniak felt this was extreme.

Interim Chief Schmitz stated that he was not opposed to a leash law, but the ordinance would need to include control of the dog and provide exclusion for working police dogs as well as discretion for Officers in various circumstances.

Mr. Maederer recognized that there are passionate arguments on both sides of the issue and suggested that a next step be to prepare a sample ordinance. Mr. Gass stated that he had an ordinance prepared that included an exemption for police dogs. Interim Chief Schmitz stated that he would want to have it reviewed by Attorney Fuchs.

Mr. Gass shared other community ordinances as well as a sample ordinance for Brown Deer. Mr. Maederer requested that Mr. Gass send his document to him for review by the Village Attorney. Trustee Springman suggested that the drafted ordinance include the word animal instead of specifying cat or dog, Mr. Wazniak agreed.

It was moved by Mr. Gass and seconded by Trustee Springman to recommend that the Village Board Revise Village Code of Ordinances Chapter 6 – Animals, Article I – In General, Section 6-1 – Definitions, “At Large” to Require Leashes when “Off-Premises allowing for committee review before submission to the board. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Wazniak and seconded by Trustee Springman to adjourn at 6:19 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.



Matthew S. Maederer, PE

Director of Public Works/Village Engineer