

Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, January 15, 2013 7:00 p.m.
DEWITT CHARTER TOWNSHIP
1401 W. Herbison Road, DeWitt, MI 48820

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice-chairman Tom Hendrickson called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS/ROLL CALL: Members present- Tom Hendrickson, Bonnie Oetman, Joe Galardi and Trustee David Seeger. Member absent- Sam Vosovic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda was supported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (June 17, 2012): Motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2012 meeting was supported.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Palmiter addressed the Committee. Mr. Palmiter explained that he and his family have encountered vandalism and harassment at their home. Mr. Palmiter expressed frustration with the Townships handling of the situation. Police Chief Russell explained that efforts have been made to address the situation and the police department will continue to work to provide resolution to the issue.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business was brought up for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of PSC Officers: Trustee Seeger nominated Tom Hendrickson for chairmanship. Bonnie Oetman supported the motion and the Committee affirmed the nomination. Trustee Seeger nominated Bonnie Oetman for vice-chairmanship. Tom Hendrickson supported the nomination and the Committee affirmed the nomination. Trustee Seeger nominated Joe Galardi for secretaryship. Tom Hendrickson supported the nomination and the Committee affirmed the nomination.
2. DTPD Update: Chief Russell shared with the Committee that Officer Stump is making progress. Chief Russell commented that the department recently lost one officer to resignation and indicated the potential of another officer resigning in the near future. Chief Russell stated that the department detective has a high caseload right now. Chief Russell commented that break and entering crimes rates increase this time of year but are comparatively low right now compared to previous years. Chief Russell stated that a road safety audit will take place soon on a stretch of U.S. 27. Chief Russell and other Township staff will be onsite when the audit is performed. Chief Russell stated that school safety plans are being revisited given the recent school shooting in Connecticut. The DeWitt High School is the only school

in the Township, but Chief Russell stated that he participated in discussions regarding school safety plans with the DeWitt City Police Department.

3. DTFD Update: Chief Koos stated that the fire department had 1,248 runs in 2012, up from 1,222 in the previous year. Chief Koos stated that there are more than 30 volunteer department members and indicated a continued struggle of recruiting volunteer members from the south-central part of the Township.

4. Fire Station project: Chief Koos stated that a facilities review of Fire Station 1 is ongoing. Chief Koos indicated that there are a variety of concerns, ranging from roofing issues, heating systems and increased automobile traffic due the use of the park facilities, which require greater attention to the future of Station 1. Chief Koos stated that thought has been given towards the creation of a community-lead analysis that will take into consideration the previous study while also examining future needs.

5. Property Maintenance Code: Trustee Seeger provided a high-level analysis of the property maintenance code and the potential role the Public Safety Committee might have in the appeals process. Trustee Seeger indicated that Supervisor Galardi assigned three trustees to review the current property maintenance code and further indication of the Public Safety Commission's role will be identified at the conclusions of the review.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: No extended public comment was made.

TRUSTEE REPORT: Trustee Seeger had nothing more to report on beyond what was stated above.

BOARD COMMENTS: Tom Hendrickson questioned how often the Committee should meet. After further discussion it was determined that the plan was to meet on a quarterly basis and as needed in between scheduled meetings. The hope is that meeting more often will keep the Committee better informed of Township public safety issues. Bonnie Oetman questioned what the appropriate next steps should be with the Palmiter situation in Saffron Hills. Bonnie Oetman is the Saffron Hills neighborhood watch leader and wanted to make sure this issue was receiving the necessary consideration. Chief Russell informed Bonnie Oetman that the police department has given this situation greater attention than what is normally given for comparable scenarios and they will remain vigilant with the follow-up.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by David Seeger to adjourn and 7:52 P.M. was supported, voted and carried. Minutes taken by Joe Galardi