

MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Anderson, Brueckner, Lee, Linn, LeBlanc, Pozzini-Stedman; Supervisor: McCune

Absent: Griffin, without notice; Advisor: Christopherson with notice

Present at the Town Offices were Supervisor McCune and Brueckner. The rest of the Commission Members and guest were present via conference call.

Vice-Chair Linn conducted the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Additions/Deletions): LeBlanc moved approval of the agenda as submitted with the rearranging of the schedule for the guest. Brueckner seconded. Ayes all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 4, 2020 (Additions/Deletions): LeBlanc moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2020. Anderson seconded. Ayes all.

CONSENT AGENDA: LeBlanc moved to receive the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Receive Ramsey County Sheriff's Reports; B) Receive Sheriff's Contract Group Minutes; C) Receive White Bear Lake Fire Department Report. Anderson seconded. Ayes all.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Supervisor McCune reported on recent Town Board Action. At the first Town Board meeting in July, the Board decided to cancel **Township Day 2020** due to the inability to police social distancing. The greatest concern was the crowds that gather for fireworks. Polar Lakes Park will be the new home to **Hockey Day Minnesota** either 2022 or 2023, depending on the current strain on large events. Staff and Hockey Day Associates are still in preliminary discussions, but so far there are no major concerns. Construction on the **Street Improvements 2020** are underway in the SE section of the Township, south of White Bear Lake. **Ramsey County Street Improvements** for 2020 include: County Road H2, Bald Eagle Boulevard, near Century Boulevard and Otter Lake Road. **Restrooms** are set to be installed at Polar Lakes Park fall of 2020 for spring of 2021 use. They will be operational seasonally. The Town Board has recently been discussing **nuisance properties**. This includes some absentee landlords, rowdy tenants, and even homeowners. The Town Attorney is tightening ordinance language. It was noted that recently the courts haven't been in session so this item has been on hold a bit. **Township Clean-Up** Day was in July and currently staff and the Board is evaluating how it went. There were some Republic Services hiccups along the way and the organization that was explained prior to the event was not followed-through. It was a big deal to cart away the about 57 tons of recycled materials.

There was some discussion over **water maintenance** that Public Works staff has been working on. A few of the Commission Members noted that they have had manganese in their toilet bowls or tanks. **The Deer Meadow Trail** was discussed and it was noted that the width is yet to be determined, as are the amount of trees that will be planted by Tree Trust. There was some discussion over the Eagle Brook Church event July 29th. The music was so loud one of the Commission Member's glasses of water had ripples. The event seemed to go from 1-8 pm or so

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and the cops where there. When one of the Commission member's called Eagle Brook, they said they had a permit, but the Town Clerk knew nothing of it. There were police officers there on duty. It was the consensus that it seemed very un-neighborly of the church not to notify the residents.

SUMMIT LANE – SLOW/CHILDREN SIGN REQUEST: The Vice-Chair presented this item to the Commission. Resident Debbie Badini, 4163 Summit Lane, is requesting a Slow/Children sign on Summit due to children at play and blind spots along the road. The Commission read through the email request and response made by the Public Works Director. Placing 2 signs would cost \$300, and the Public Works Director noted in his email that the curve of the road and grade of the road contribute to slower speeds. There was some discussion of previous places where residents had requested sign placements. It was noted that the Slow/Children signs often aren't paid attention to. It was the consensus to accept the Public Works Director's recommendation of not placing signs.

Brueckner motioned to officially support the recommendation of the Public Works Director and recommend to not pursue this any further. LeBlanc seconded. Ayes all.

BIRCH LAKE PONDS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION – NO PARKING REQUEST: Commission Member Brueckner reported on this agenda item. He lives in the Birch Lake Ponds neighborhood. He explained that cars often do park in the inner circle of the 3 culs-de-sac in the neighborhood, but the main concern really is whenever there are parties. Brueckner thinks that there should be adequate parking along the streets, should the Board decide to put No Parking signs up. Commission Member Anderson asked to clarify the occurrence, does this happen often? It was noted that it happens for graduation parties mostly. But on an average day when there are a few cars parked around the inner circle of the cul-de-sac they can be hard to see for residents backing out of their driveways. Anderson brought up the temporary parking signs for events like Marketfest, maybe the Board of the Homeowners Association could obtain those if an event were to come up. She also noted that the Fire Department has never noted the Birch Lake Ponds area as a trouble area for maneuvering vehicles.

President of the Board of the Homeowners Association, Mark Miller, was present to answer any questions and report on his findings. He stated that they've found that in a couple areas around the culs-de-sac with so many cars parked along the inner circle it could be hard for emergency vehicles to enter. He is looking for a uniform application to prevent a public safety concern. There was a question of how far guests would have to walk if there was no parking along the culs-de-sac. On average, Miller thinks about 100-150 feet. He has seen people walk over 400 feet for graduation parties.

It was noted that the service workers, electricians, plumbers, cleaners, etc. park along the culs-de-sac. If the Homeowners Association wanted signs, how many would they want and what would that cost? There was discussion around these questions. Miller said 9 signs, which would cost at least \$1,350. If they only want 3 signs it would be at least \$450.

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It was decided that the Commission should table this discussion to the next meeting so that Anderson can discuss this with the Fire Marshall, the Commission can ask for Public Works' input as Township vehicles would have similar concerns, and Miller can obtain a sort of agreement from all homeowners in order to proceed.

LeBlanc made the motion to table this discussion for no parking signs on the 3 culs-de-sac in the Birch Lake Ponds neighborhood until the noted additional information is received. Anderson seconded. Ayes all.

4TH STREET/NORTHWEST AVENUE – STOP SIGN REQUEST: The Vice-Chair presented this agenda item to the Commission. The original concern at the intersection of 4th Street and Cedarwood Avenue came up in 2004. Recently the Town received a “Report A Concern” request to have a type of speed inhibitor, like a stop sign or speed bumps along 4th street. The “Report A Concern” is in the packet, but a young man was speeding and ended up stopping a few blocks later, so a resident told him to slow down and the young man gave him the middle finger.

It was decided that the Town would not put speed bumps due to plowing in the winter. And there was discussion around the concept of slower speeds don't slow speeders down, they slow law-abiding citizens down. Likewise, stop signs don't matter to people who want to speed, they may not fully stop or just blow past it. There has to be some diligence done. If an officer waits near an intersection and tickets speeders, that may show effect. This is what the Town did when there were resident concerns of speeding past the dance studio on 4th Street.

It was noted that it would be good to invite the Ramsey County traffic deputy to talk over issues, especially since the Commission received 2 on the agenda for tonight's meeting. The Commission can receive guidance of where to go from here and how to respond to these types of requests. There was a note of the Commission's desire to receive feedback on the Portland Electronic speed signs.

There was consensus that the Commission is Recommending staff to send a message to Ramsey County Sheriff's Department for more surveillance and request a traffic officer to attend the next Public Safety Commission meeting.

LIAISON REPORTS: Brueckner reported that he is waiting for a call back from the principal of Otter Lake Elementary. They will open up again on the 31st of August. Currently they have a need for bus drivers. It was noted that they are working on a specific plan for control of facemasks. There was some discussion of Ramsey County's construction of County Road H2 and how that may be an issue.

FUTURE MEEING DATES / NEXT MEETING DATES: The next Public Safety Commission Meeting will be held on September 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

It was noted that Night to Unite has been postponed until October 6th for now. The Township is considering cancelling Township Day.

It was noted that the Town Clerk should put into the *News & Views* section of the *White Bear Press* that residents should not be burning treated deck wood as it puts fumes into the air.

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SPEEDING ON WHITE BEAR PARKWAY: The Town Clerk reported that he had received an email regarding a speed issue on White Bear Parkway north of 96. It was determined during the meeting discussion that that area is considered White Bear Lake's jurisdiction. Staff will be in contact with the resident.

SPEED ISSUE ON WEST BALD EAGLE BOULEVARD: The Town Clerk reported that another report of speeding has come about on West Bald Eagle Boulevard. There was some discussion of the street and the potential location of the speeding incidents. It was noted that there were 2 flashing speed signs around this area. There was discussion on how this should be handled. The Town Clerk will be in contact with the resident and ask for additional information. The members suggested having Ramsey County Sheriff's Department patrol there during those times.

OPEN TIME: Chair Steve Lee noted for the Commission Members to be aware that there have been some thefts at the Cub on Centerville recently. Wallets and purses have been stolen. He shared some examples.

ADDED AGENDA ITEMS: There were no added agenda items.

LeBlanc moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Anderson seconded. Ayes all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan R. Cavanaugh
Recording Secretary