

Public Safety Committee
Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda

Village of Cross Plains
2417 Brewery Road
Cross Plains, WI 53528
(608) 798-3241

Tuesday, February 4, 2020
7:00 p.m.

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Pledge of Allegiance:

Lori Zander called the regular Public Safety Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Zander gave direction on meeting purpose and function.

Present: Lori Zander, Randy Swingen, Doug Brunner, Terry Walker, Kevin Engeliem, and Chief Tony Ruesga

Not Present: N/A

Others Present: Meeting Attendance Signup Sheet is attached to minutes.

II. Public Comment – Bill Brosius discussed the idea of reducing speed limit on Main Street from 30 mph to 25 mph.

III. Chief of Police Report

Chief Tony Ruesga provided an over-view of his first few weeks. He has attended several community meetings and events. He attended the week-long New Chief of Police Training in Madison presented by DOJ. He held a CPPD staff meeting to set expectations and present the department with their new mission statement and core values. Chief Ruesga has met with his staff one on one to determine officer career development, responsibilities, and changes needed. He provided the community with his 90-day goal; meeting as many people in the community as possible and going into every Cross Plains business. Chief Ruesga provided the community with his one-year goal; reviewing department policies, review field training program, and helping update the Village of Cross Plains Emergency Operation Plan. Chief Ruesga reported there were 120 calls for service within the month of January. He also reported that the department would be getting new badges to celebrate the Village of Cross Plains Centennial.

IV. Committee Discussion

1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding ATV/UTV Routes in the Village of Cross Plains.

There was lengthy discussion about the topic. Amalia Hicks informed the committee there were 169 people who have signed a petition in opposition of ATV/UTV routes

within the Village of Cross Plains. Ms. Hicks stated her opposition was because of safety and lack of sidewalks. Brad Statz spoke in favor of ATVs and didn't feel there was a safety concern. Mr. Statz believed that people in opposition do not like ATVs. Jim Wenzler spoke about his membership in the Badger ATV Club and offered to assist the community, committee, and the board with education and resources to help us all better understand ATV/UTV laws. Bob Sagwoen provided his experience as an ATV safety instructor and tried to ease the safety concerns expressed by the group. Mike Wollmer spoke in opposition and stated he was concerned with safety and noise levels. Mr. Wollmer stated he was not against ATVs, but against them being operated on village streets. Mr. Wollmer further stated that people within the village are concerned but are unwilling to sign the petition. He recommended the issue be placed on a referendum.

Pam Born was opposed and stated she was concerned with speed, no sidewalks, and noise. Ms. Born also stated she wondered where people would park their ATVs and felt having a referendum would be the fairest way to resolve the issue. Dale Kelton spoke in favor of ATV routes, but complained about stop sign violations, speeding, and people using their cell phone when driving. Mat Brosamle spoke in favor and believed it would help grow the community's economy. Mike Sweitzer also stated he was in favor of ATV/UTV routes. Mike Hamstra was in favor and did not believe noise was a problem, stating lawn mowers make more noise. Jill Heczko stated change was inevitable, but ATV/UTV routes were not worth it. Ms. Heczko concerns were children safety and the lack of sidewalks. Brian Bonti spoke in opposition due to safety and lack of sidewalks. Mr. Bonti stated he would have never moved to Cross Plains had he known this was being considered.

Cody Bratton spoke in favor and stated ATV safety was not a concern, especially since people share roads with autos and buses. Deborah Cutler spoke in opposition stating she was concerned with road damage and did not believe there was an economic advantage for the village. Greg Embertson spoke in opposition stating his concerns were with regards to safety, speeding, distracted driving, and lack of sidewalks. Kevin Ripp spoke in favor of ATVs and believed people from other communities would not be coming to the village to cause problems. Mike Halcarz spoke in favor of ATV stating noise was not a concern, because motorcycles are louder. Mr. Halcarz believes the Badger ATV Club can assist with education and enforcement. Daren Dreser stated he is a business owner and supports ATV/UTV routes. Emily Spahn spoke in opposition stating her concerns surrounded safety and noise. Ms. Spahn believed that only a small group is being heard and that ATV/UTV routes are not in the best interest of the community.

Jamie Dahlk spoke in support and did not believe autos are more dangerous on the roadways than ATVs. Chris Zimmerman stated he was in favor of ATV routes. Holly Reardon spoke in opposition stating her concerns were safety and noise. Michael Reardon also spoke in opposition and stated he has found several community members who also oppose ATV/UTV routes. Mr. Reardon stated he was in favor of

referendum. Seth Johnson spoke in support of ATV/UTV routes on a trial basis. Mr. Johnson stated he has children and is not concern with ATV safety issues, but rather auto safety issues. Katie Brintlinger spoke in opposition stating she was concerned with safety, noise, and keeping nature intact. Ms. Brintlinger did however support an ATV trail route. James Russell spoke in opposition stating his concern was safety.

Errol Phillips spoke in opposition and believed the entire village should have a say. Mr. Phillips complained about lack of enforcement stating already created ordinance should be enforced first. Emily Hamstra spoke in favor and stated she has three children and is not concerned with ATV safety issues. Pam Born was allowed to make further comment and stated if an ordinance is passed to allow ATV/UTV routes it should contain a sunset clause and the machines should be required to have blinkers. A 52-year old resident spoke in favor of the routes and believed a group of residents were fear mongering. Jonah Brunner spoke in favor and stated he successfully passed a safety course that has prepared him to operate safely. Rachel Achers spoke in support of ATV/UTV routes and believed it was unfair to compare them to speeding vehicles. Steve Douglas spoke in opposition and stated there was extensive data available from the University of Iowa regarding off road and on road ATV operation. Jim Wenzler invited the group to the next Badger ATV Club meeting scheduled at Hooty's on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Several people spoke in favor of having the issue on a referendum on the April ballot. Bill Brosius stated it was too late to put it on the April ballot, but could be considered for the November ballot. Michael Wollmer commented that the issue was not urgent and should be on the November ballot. Jonah Brunner commented that he believed a trial period was a good idea. Michael Reardon commented that licensed drivers should be a consideration for the ordinance. Brad Statz commented that referendums cost money and elected official should make the decision. Kristy Malott questioned speed limit ordinances that would regulate ATVs. Vicki Fohl questioned whether routes would be all village streets. Kim Morgan submitted her questions and concerns in writing and asked the committee to get the answers. The document will be included in the packet for the next meeting. Pam Born made a comment about her concern with 16-year old's driving around the village streets and asked the committee to consider an earlier operation end time. Teddy Zander spoke in favor and stated noise was not a concern. Mr. Zander commented that there is more noise from snowplows, trains, and motorcycles.

The group was thanked for their participation and several people left the meeting. The committee took a short break and then resumed the meeting.

2. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding right turn no stop at Brewery Rd and Thinnes.

The concern is that due to developments in the area it would be safer to have a four way stop rather than allowing people from the right not to stop. Seth Johnson spoke in favor of removing the sign to assist with traffic flow and pointed out the sign needed to be updated to current standards. Janet Gray spoke in support of removing the sign and pointed out that there are several stop sign violations at that intersection. Ms. Gray recommended a lighted stop sign.

After discussion, Motion by Swingen, second by Brunner, to Support and recommend to the Cross Plains Village Board to remove the right turn no stop sign at Brewery Rd. at Thinnes. Unanimously carried.

3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding stop sign addition at Continental and Bourbon.

The concern is speeding on Bourbon Rd. and pedestrian traffic, especially in the summer months. Pam Born commented that there should be painted lines at the intersection as well as the stop sign. Amalia Hicks was in support of the stop sign, because of summer camps. Bill Brosius was in support of slowing down traffic and spoke about the stop sign on Bourbon Rd. at Hillenbrand. Michael Wollmer stated he would re-route the Ice Age Trail if a stop sign was erected. Seth Johnson stated he was a traffic engineer and wanted the group to know that stop signs should not be used to regulate speeding concerns.

After discussion, Motion by Engeliem, second by Brunner, to allow the CPPD to evaluate the area and report back in April. Unanimously carried.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding stop sign at Baer and Stumpf.

The concern is speeding with a recommendation to add a stop sign to control speeding.

After discussion, motion by Engeliem, second by Zander to deny request. Unanimously carried.

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding diagonal parking partially in the ROW – Wilson Street

The concern is that angle parking on Wilson Street is causing traffic hazards.

After discussion, Motion by Swingen, second by Brunner, to allow the CPPD to evaluate the area, Chief Ruesga to speak with owner at Main Street Lanes, and report back in April. Unanimously carried.

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding speeding – Tilda Tr./Gil's Way

The concern is speeding on Gil's Way.

After discussion, Motion by Swingen, second by Walker, to allow the CPPD to evaluate the area and report back in April. Unanimously carried.

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Alternate Side Parking

The concern is there are no options for people without driveways or garages to park. Deb Cutler spoke against having to park on her yard. Ms. Cutler suggested over-flow parking at Baer Park.

After discussion, Motion by Swingen, second by Brunner, to deny alternate side parking request, but to allow Chief Ruesga to discuss over-flow parking with Public Works Director Jerry Gray and report back in April. Unanimously carried.

8. Discussion Emergency Operation Plan

Chief Ruesga informed the committee that President Jay Lengfeld wanted the EOP to be a priority. Kevin Engeliem recommended that the flood plan be the first topic addressed. Cross Plains Fire Chief Dale Lochner stated he was not aware the EOP would be discussed and wanted to be involved in the process of developing the plan. Chief Ruesga commented that he believed not only should the fire department be involved, but also Cross Plains Area EMS and other interested departments.

V. Future Items of Discussion:

Kevin Engeliem requested an item be added to the April agenda. Mr. Engeliem would like to see some discussion and possible action on a four way stop sign on Valley at Lewis.

V. Schedule Next Meeting Date:

Committee agreed to have future meetings scheduled on 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Next meeting scheduled on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., at the Cross Plains Fire Department

VI. Adjournment: Motion by Engeliem, second by Swingen to adjourn at 9:22 p.m. Unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Tony J. Ruesga
Chief of Police

This meeting notice constitutes an official meeting of the above referenced group and was posted in accordance with all applicable laws related Open Meetings Law. It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of

members of other governmental bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Village Hall at (608) 798-3241 or bchang@cross-plains.wi.us.