

Minutes

Town of Grantwood Village
Closed meeting March 3, 2010,
10:00 am

Attendees:

Trustee Cathy Forand
Trustee Nancy Humes
Trustee Robert Prebil
Trustee Glen Biffignani
Attorney Jeff Duke
Captain Dierkes
Sgt. Tate

Trustee Forand opened the meeting with discussion of past police experiences; Officer 5 on the computer, not willing to put signs in the yards for various resident requests, on the internet for a long period of time, not answering phones. Confused as to what the Officer's can and can not do for Grantwood Village

Captain Dierkes responded with the officers are here to help us any way we need, as long as our requests are reasonable and legal. Dierkes wants to have a set of rules for the Officers and have them communicated from one designated trustee, and it can be anyone. Dierkes indicated the officers do not need internet access while on duty. The only time the officers use the internet is to generate a calendar for the Trustees.

Trustee Biffignani has the officers generate the calendar.

Trustee Forand state the past Police Commissioner would generate the calendar versus the Officer

Trustee Biffignani adamant he did not want to duplicate efforts reproducing a calendar for the Village from the 3rd Precinct schedule.

Sgt Tate reviewed the calendar and stated she would produce an additional Grantwood Village Police Officer schedule.

Trustee Humes requested no outbursts, however, who is responsible for the Police Officers. Humes asked, while they report to the 3rd Precinct, it is under my impression they are under the Grantwood guidelines, and be responsible to the Board; The Police Commissioner in particular. If this is the case, they do not receive direction from the Police Commissioner, which forces requests to come from the Village Clerk and/or the Treasurer.

Capt Dierkes confirmed they fall under the guidelines and specific duties laid out per the Grantwood Village Board, which are then communicated by the Police Commissioner to Captain Dierkes and Sgt Tate.

Trustee Humes indicated there is the problem then, because we have no communication, or knowledge of communication with the Police Commissioner. Therefore, guidelines agreed upon are not communicated. The Police Commissioner has continually stated in the past he is not responsible for the Police Officers, which has caused a conflict with how to handle the responsibilities of the Officer.

Trustee Prebil asked Trustee Forand if she wanted to discuss the Sam's parking lot responsibility.

Trustee Forand posed the question to Captain Dierkes, why do the police spend an hour on Sam's Restaurant Parking lot for the Cor Jesu girls crossing the street.

Captain Dierkes responded, it was in place many years ago since a Cor Jesu girl crossing at this intersection was hit by a car. The current Captain at the time requested the Grantwood Village Officer to be placed visibly on the parking lot to alert all drivers to slow down, due to police presence, and avoid a reoccurrence. Dierkes suggested maybe during that hour patrol, the Grantwood Village police could circle that spot a few different times to have police presence through this area/corner.

Trustee Forand asked about the answering of the telephones.

Captain Dierkes stated the officers were told not to pick up the phone. Unfortunately this was not communicated to the rest of the board.

Trustee Prebil stated he thought it wasn't necessary to answer the phone because it would go to voicemail, and the caller could leave a message for the designated party.

Captain Dierkes suggested a cell phone for the officer on duty would allow anyone wanting to contact the police, would have this cell phone.

Trustee Humes asked how the tickets in Grantwood were returned to Grantwood for prosecution. Humes had a particular ticket which was lost and never made it through the Grantwood courts. The incident occurred at Grant's Farm, the defendant was charged with assault and larceny, and it was the Chairman's Grandson. This raised a deep suspicion with the process in place for receiving tickets from the County Police Department.

Sgt. Tate viewed the ticket, and would research how the ticket was handled.

Trustee Forand discussed the amount of radar taken within the Village and referenced a safety point of view. Forand's concern was the corner of Rock Hill and Laclede Station. Drivers tend to cut through the Forest Haven Entrance, to avoid the light. Potential accident can occur with drivers exiting Forest Haven.

Captain Dierkes will look into this corner, and provide a report. Dierkes indicated any problem spots can have a special spot team assigned, to determine the volume of risk at any particular area and report results to the Board.

Trustee Forand presented an analysis to the Captain on the decline in ticket activity. Concern was either everyone is aware Grantwood is patrolled, and people are simply not breaking the laws, which is great, or are we not paying attention to the violations. Captain Dierkes will review and report back to the Board.

Meeting with the Captain and the Sergeant ended. The Captain and Sergeant will wait for the Board's decision to be communicated to them by the Police Commissioner, on the following items:

- How to handle answering the phone at the town hall – Does the Board want to purchase a cell phone for the on duty police officer.
- How to handle the Sam's parking lot monitoring in the morning

Meeting continues with the following attendees:

Trustee Cathy Forand
Trustee Nancy Humes
Trustee Robert Prebil
Trustee Glen Biffignani
Attorney Jeff Duke

Trustee Humes confronted Trustee Prebil about calling the Grantwood Village Prosecuting attorney and requesting him to make his grandson's larceny/assault ticket within the Village, disappear.

Trustee Prebil indicated it was not wrong.

Trustee Humes reiterated using the Village Attorney and having the Village pay for his request to make his grandson's ticket in Grantwood Village of larceny/assault disappear (approximately \$80, to rid a ticket of a minimum \$1,000 penalty) was wrong.

Trustee Prebil again said it was not wrong.

Trustee Forand questioned Prebil, "Do you think it was wrong to charge the Village?"

Trustee Prebil continued to deny he did anything wrong.

Trustee Humes asked what Prebil thought the residents would think of this action.

Trustee Prebil stated, the residents won't know unless Trustee Humes blabs it to the residents.

Trustee Humes made it very clear she would have to take it to the residents, particularly, since Trustee Prebil indicated he would not resign upon the discovery of this corrupt behavior. Humes stated she did not want to be part of this corrupt activity.

Trustee Forand asked Trustee Biffignani what he felt. Biffignani stated he did not feel one way or the other. Biffignani further added that we are overworked and underpaid for this position, and we are entitled to some perks. Biffignani stated he has never done this for his mother, or grandson or daughter. Biffignani also added, however, if a ticket was torn up and did not make it to the court system at all, this probably is not right.

Trustee Humes further questioned Duke of this behavior.

Attorney Duke stated he always does favors for trustees and he is often put in an uncomfortable situation, however, he sees nothing wrong with billing Grantwood Village and/or hiding a ticket, and not presenting it to be prosecuted, or plea bargained in the Grantwood Village Municipal Court System. However, he would pay the charge back three fold if it would make it right.

Trustee Forand reiterated this is not how our Board should operate and the entire Board has been jeopardized by this activity. Now that the information is validated, we need to take it to the residents for Trustee Prebil's resignation.

Trustee Prebil makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Biffignani Seconds

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 am

Approved: 4.20.2010

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Chairman _____

Nancy J. Humes
Village Clerk