

VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD
MINUTES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MEETING
September 28, 2021

The Police Department Meeting was held in person at Crosspoint Lutheran Church, 8505 RedTail Drive along with Zoom viewing. It was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Stavropoulos. Present at Crosspoint Lutheran Church were Trustees Babischkin, Barron, Fischer, and Runge. Absent were Trustees Augustine and Berman. Also present were Village Manager Jean Heckman, Village Attorney Scott Puma, Village Clerk Jeanette LoBosco, Chief of Police Mike Roth, Director of Public Works Gary Zickuhr, Administrative Services Manager Sue Villie, Resident Liaison Liz Delzell and many members of the public.

PRESIDENTS'S OPENING REMARKS: In addition to welcoming everyone present, President Stavropoulos thanked Crosspoint Lutheran Church for use of their facility and service to the first in a series of Village Department Meetings. He also gave recognition to Trustee Runge and Resident Liaison Liz Delzell in facilitating the formation of these meetings.

He addressed the goals of the Department Meetings are to gather staff and resident input, and provide transparency in addressing needs during the budget planning process.

INTRODUCTION BY LIZ DELZELL, RESIDENT LIAISON: Liz Delzell likewise welcomed those in attendance and invited continued participation during the various departmental meetings.

Areas to be addressed this evening will focus on current status, as well as issues and opportunities for the Police Department and for the Village.

PRESENTATION BY CHIEF MIKE ROTH: Chief Roth presented an overview of recent updates, current challenges, and future considerations of the Police Department.

Updates: Recently implanted was the speed reduction along with installation of crosswalks along Lake Avenue with the Gates Area; passing of the Golf Cart Ordinance; continued support during special events; an addition of a ninth full-time officer (23 years have passed since the last increase to roster); implanted an intern program; extensive equipment updating is near completion, including the replacement of seven expired Kevlar vests and addition of four body cameras.

Challenges: State Mandates to meet equipment and training requirements place a heavy burden on small communities; current society negative perception; internal difficulty in meeting a healthy schedule balance for officers.


Future Considerations: Anticipating continued residential growth, in addition to the development of the Route 47/176 corridor and proposed park will increase the demand for police response. Currently, the area of Route 47 between North and South Route 176 poses a concern while responding to vehicle accidents, adding the growth factor increases a potential strain for responding officers; whereas current responding officers have no additional help from another officer.

Officer Sean McGrath provided a brief synopsis of recent criminal activity in close proximity to the Village boundaries. In addition a Crime Grades Map was presented depicting the reporting of criminal activity in the surrounding area.

For these reasons, Chief Roth recommends the addition of a tenth officer to the Police Department Roster will be beneficial to the department as well as the community.

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeanette LoBosco
Village Clerk

Dated: October 12, 2021