

Village of Wellington

*12300 Forest Hill Blvd
Wellington, FL 33414*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

7:00 PM

Village Hall

Public Safety Committee

Ron Herman

Jacqueline Hutman

Mohammad Junaid Akther

Matt Kurit

Steven Rosenblum

Andrea DiFonte

Ernie Zimmerman

I Call to Order

Mr. Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 6:59

II Pledge of Allegiance**III Roll Call**

Mr. Kurit, Mr. Rosenblum, Ms. Hutman, Mr. Herman, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Akther were present. Ms. DiFonte was absent with prior notification. Also present were Ms. Edwards, Lt. Shaivitz, Captain Silva, District Chief Mike Arena, John Schwiner and Laura Aldrich.

IV Opening Comments

No opening comments

V Approval of Agenda**A. [PSC-064](#) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Rosenblum made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Kurit. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. DiFonte was absent.

VI Approval of Minutes**A. [PSC-065](#) APPROVAL OF THE MINUES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2017 REGULAR MEETING**

Mr. Rosenblum noted that there was an error in the minutes regarding the 12 month pilot program related to the towing contract. He indicated that the minutes should show that it was Mr. Rosenblum who had made the motion rather than Mr. Herman.

Ms. Edwards read an email which had been received from Ms. DiFonte noting an error in the minutes related to the motion made regarding the towing contract. Ms. Edwards read the email into the record, which stated "Please note that I would like the record to reflect there is an error in the minutes on page 4. The motion mentioned near the top of the page did not pass unanimously. I was not in favor but was not offered the option to oppose by the chair."

Mr. Zimmerman asked for a motion

Mr. Rosenblum made the motion, seconded by Ms. Hutman. Motion passed 6-0 to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. DiFonte was absent.

VII Reports**A. [PSC-066](#) STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Edwards deferred to PBCFR, PBSO and Mr. Schwiner for their reports ahead of the staff report.

Subsequent to those reports, Ms. Edwards provided a staff report. She invited the committee to the Village wide neighborhood watch meeting which would be held at the Wellington Community Center on April 19th. She encouraged the members to attend and meet all of their neighborhood watch members.

Ms. Edwards provided an update on the presentation by Westway Towing from the last meeting, noting that, at the direction of the Village Manager, the towing contract had gone out for bid. Three bids had been received and were currently under review. The contract would go to Council subsequent to the selection committee's review.

B. [PSC-067](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY FIRE RESCUE REPORT

District Chief Arena noted that they had presented the PBCFR annual report to the Village Council at their last meeting and there had been a slight increase in response times, dropping to the 2013 level. District Chief Arena reviewed response times for the last three months of the current year as compared to the same time period in 2016. He noted that although call volume had increased, response times had generally remained the same. Although there had been an increase in calls, it was not consistent each month.

Mr. Zimmerman questioned whether traffic increases affected response times.

Mr. Kurit questioned the effect of equestrian season on call volume and response times.

Mr. Akther questioned whether there was a target response time that needed to be reached each year.

Mr. Kurit asked whether the Chief could suggest any areas where the Committee might be able to assist or make a recommendation to the Village Council.

Chief Arena noted that it would be helpful to remind residents to get out of the way of emergency response vehicles, noting that drivers oftentimes were distracted.

C. [PSC-068](#)

PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISTRICT 8 WELLINGTON REPORT

Lt. Shaivitz presented a summary of the Annual Report which had been recently presented to the Village Council. The report covered crimes by category and Operation Bump which had been deployed to address the crash rates, traffic stops, warnings and citations. Lt. Shaivitz reviewed cases of interest related to residential burglary and commercial business burglaries and reported on the various special events that had taken place in the community during the year. He also touched on the various drug related programs that were in place including the 911 Good Samaritan Act, Operation Pill Drop and the Too Good for Drugs Program. Goals and action plans included decreasing property crime, addressing traffic crash rates, increasing traffic stops and addressing juvenile crimes. Wellington had also recently added two CMV (Commercial Vehicle) enforcement officers. Another goal was to aggressively

address juvenile related crimes.

Mr. Rosenblum asked whether the decoy cars were part of Operation Bump and questioned the locations of the vehicles.

Mr. Zimmerman asked whether the Lt. was satisfied with the speed limits posted in Wellington.

VII Old Business

There was no old business.

VIII New Business

A. [PSC-070](#) NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH GROUPS - JOHN SCHWINER

Ms. Edwards introduced neighborhood watch captain John Schwiner, who was the watch captain for Greenvew Shores I.

Mr. Schwiner provided background on his history with Crimestoppers and the crime watch groups as well as his work and naval service history. He reported that the Crimestoppers program had been very successful within the school system, providing an avenue for students to report issues while remaining anonymous and allowing the program to become as much a crime deterrent as a system for reporting crime. He had heard about ongoing issues in and around the 12th Fairway neighborhoods and was asked to make a presentation at one of Wellington's Neighborhood Watch groups and he saw a benefit of having both PBSO and Wellington staff at the meetings. There were now approximately 30 active neighborhood watch groups in Wellington.

Mr. Akther asked whether watch participants underwent any specific training.

Mr. Schwiner responded that the Crimestoppers organization was a 501c3 that was a national volunteer program run by volunteer citizens.

Mr. Kurit asked what Mr. Schwiner might recommend that the committee work on or what they might recommend to the Council.

Mr. Schwiner suggested that the Committee attend some of the neighborhood watch meetings.

Ms. Edwards stated that the Community Services office had various documents available for residents related to neighborhood watch and code enforcement. Members and residents were advised to contact the Community Services office to start a neighborhood watch group.

B. [PSC-069](#) GOLF CARTS

Mr. Zimmerman asked the committee why they requested that golf carts be placed back on the agenda.

Mr. Herman stated that he wanted to see enforcement.

Mr. Zimmerman pointed out that the current State statutes related to the use of

golf carts had been included with the agenda.

Ms. Edwards suggested that they table the topic and bring it back at the next meeting under old business for more detailed discussion.

Mr. Akther was in agreement.

Mr. Akther made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting, seconded by Mr. Rosenblum. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Hutman commented that this topic had been previously discussed by the Committee at length, including presentations.

Mr. Kurit stated summarized that it was his understanding that the Committee's concerns were related to continued visible use of golf carts in the community and the lack of safety equipment or insurance.

Mr. Akther reminded the Committee that there had been a motion to table the discussion until their next meeting.

Ms. Edwards suggested that, if the Committee's desire was to bring forth an Ordinance or something of that nature, that they discuss it in more detail at their next meeting.

Mr. Kurit stated that the Committee had recommended that illegal use of golf carts be enforced.

The motion on the floor to table the topic until the next meeting passed 6-0. Ms. DiFonte was absent.

IX Public Comments

Mr. Novak addressed the committee. He touched on topics such as call volumes and response times, license plate imaging cameras, training for neighborhood watch group volunteers, background checks and illegal golf cart use in Wellington.

Mr. Novak reminded everyone that use of golf carts was illegal and felt there was a critical need to enforce their use. He further stated that it was his contention that the statute was incorrect and that DOT must provide authorization for a roadway to allow golf cart use, not the Village. It was his desire that golf carts be equipped with safety equipment and that operators be licensed and have insurance or be ticketed. He also wanted anyone operating a golf cart to be required to have training. He believed golf cart accidents went widely unreported.

Mr. Akther responded, stating that the Committee was also concerned about the illegal use of golf carts and reminded Mr. Novak that they had tabled the discussion until the next meeting and that the Committee was not ignoring the issue as Mr. Novak had contended. It was the Committee's desire to provide a solid recommendation to the Council.

Mr. Zimmerman noted that the statute was very clear.

Mr. Herman also clarified that it was a Florida Statute.

XI Closing Comments

Mr. Kurit stated that neighborhood watch coordinated very well with PBSO in addressing issues and educating the volunteers on how to correctly respond to given situations.

Mr. Rosenblum noted that there had been numerous events going on simultaneously at Village facilities and inquired about the use of PBSO resources for security.

Ms. Edwards responded, stating that the Village Manager was responsible for the deployment of PBSO units for special events and that it would be his decision to increase that number. She agreed to take his concerns to the Manager.

Ms. Hutman noted that there was a visible PBSO presence at all the amphitheater events.

Mr. Herman asked whether the next golf cart discussion would be a working session.

Ms. Edwards stated that it was her suggestion that the discussion be productive so that the Committee could provide a recommendation to the Council.

Mr. Zimmerman inquired as to the possibility of having Village staff provide transportation for senior events at the WCC to take seniors from the parking lot to the building.

Ms. Edwards responded, stating that this had also been discussed at a recent Senior Advisory Committee meeting and she had spoken with the Parks and Recreation director, however, at this time the Village had provided benches in front of the WCC, as requested, allowing the driver to drop their passenger in front prior to parking the vehicle. Village staff was not available to provide that service on a regular basis.

Mr. Zimmerman noted that if anyone wanted to add something to the next agenda please email the liaison.

XII Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm

Ernie Zimmerman, Chairperson

Date

Laura Aldrich, Recording Secretary

Date

