

CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION OCTOBER 4, 2007 MINUTES

Acting Chairman Brian Kern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Chuck Garasic, Fred King and Adrian Van Ginhoven present. Also present were Police Chief Jim Stormont, Fire Chief Mike Davidson and Recording Secretary Marisue Hojnacki.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Garasic moved, supported by King to accept the agenda as presented with the addition of letters received and an informational item under new business. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2007 MINUTES: King moved, supported by Kern to accept the minutes from the regular meeting of September 6, 2007. Motion carried.

OLD BUISNESS:

- 1) Beach Marker Project: Plans to coordinate access points with mile markers; report on status of additional markers at beach accesses; and distribution of "how to" packets. Stormont reported that Rob Andrews of Merritt Engineering is finishing aerial pictures of the mile marker posts with the addresses of the homes. Then he will go out with Lonnie Edgecomb and identify the best access points. Kern felt that it would be easier once the leaves are gone. Stormont agreed, but it had to be done before the weather turned. It was reported that the beach access point markers went up that day. However, they were not done the way they wanted. The lettering is small. Davidson said that he went and got reflective strips one inch wide by 18 inches long to place under the street name. This makes them different from the other markers and identifiable.
- 2) Review of mockup of safety brochure and distribution and discussion of future educational programs. Garasic stated that Union Pier/Townline and Lakeshore Roads are the most heavily walked and that for safety reasons that sidewalks might be a solution for the future. When it was mentioned that it would be taking people's property, he said that it is the road right-of-way and not people's property. Kern said that a lot of the roads are not where they are suppose to be and use only 33 feet of the designated 66 feet. Davidson did not think that if you put sidewalks in that they would be used. People like to walk in the street. Stormont felt that people walking in the roadway was more of an issue in the 1970s than now. Davidson felt that they could start with a bike path that could double as a walking path. King wondered who would pay for the sidewalks. Garasic moved, supported by Van Ginhoven to table the brochure and everyone was directed to take it home and mark it up for the next meeting. Motion carried.

- 3) Discussion on article to be sent to magazines. It was agreed that they should spend time looking over the article for the next meeting. Kern felt that some sort of disclaimer should be included as right now they have not completed coordinating the markers with the easiest access point and given that information to the County. However, in a recent boating mishap the person called in with the mile marker and they were easily found. Davidson felt they should say that the markers will help with a quicker response.
- 4) Follow up – Chief Stormont was going to send a letter to Mr. Schopf with the Coast Guard's number. Stormont said that Schopf was concerned about jet skis and he gave him the name and numbers for the Coast Guard and the Sheriff's Marine Division.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Warning System - Possible installation of warning system at the new water tower and the Sawyer tower. (Lakewood Estate resident requested one on new tower. Supervisor Dudeck wants you to also consider the Sawyer tower.) Davidson said that he researched this project. AEP is responsible for maintaining the towers that are external warning devices that cover a ten mile radius of the Cook Nuclear Plant. They are to warn if there is a nuclear problem, but could be used for tornados, but never have. He said that if you are inside a newer home, you would not hear them. They are tested the first Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. Davidson said that he will research the cost of a siren for the new water tower and the one in Sawyer that would be activated by Berrien County Dispatch and paid for by the Township. Van Ginhoven felt people could get a weather radio that is very inexpensive. All agreed that the local TV stations do an excellent job tracking storms and that sirens are old technology.
- 2) Stormont said that several times the ORV got stuck in the sand and he was looking at a ~~wench~~ winch. He found a place in Las Las Vegas that makes a land anchor and will donate it if they pay the shipping. This he has done and is putting the cost of a wench, about \$700, in next year's budget.
- 3) Stormont read a letter from the Park Board thanking them for their efforts in securing the beaches this summer. He read a second letter from Molly Burke, Dean of Brennan School of Business, about the excellent job officer Todd Taylor did in handling the recent break-in at their home in Harbert.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Place Police, First Responder and Fire Reports on file, hear highlights and ask any questions. Stormont said that he has applied for a Pokagon Grant for \$10,000 to get two new video systems for the patrol cars. He will add that money to \$2,000 in drug money for the much needed equipment. Garasic inquired and Davidson responded that the house burning training session will take place on October 21st.

Adjournment: Garasic moved, supported by King to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Marisue Hojnacki
Recording Secretary