

VILLAGE OF BRATENAHL
10300 BRIGHTON ROAD
BRATENAHL, OHIO 44108
(216) 383-0468

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 15, 2023
6:07 p.m.

GINA HUFFMAN, CHAIR
TRACY HOEFLING
ROBERT YONCHAK

DAVID J. MATTY, ESQ.
NANCY L. MOLNAR, RPR, CLR

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1 So since that time since I became the
2 chair, I started having monthly chats with the
3 Police Chief. I think the police department, of
4 course, is instrumental in Public Safety, so I
5 thought that was a good place to start to
6 certainly hear some of the things that are going
7 on in our community and also to take up issues
8 that may have gone unresolved or have not been
9 addressed in their entirety for committee
10 members.

11 So out of my meetings with Chief
12 LoBello, I think we may have had two or three
13 meetings, chats I would say, chats. And at the
14 last meeting, maybe some of you noticed that the
15 reporting he does is called the police activity
16 report. There are going to be Public Safety
17 meetings more frequently now. And there will be
18 a presentation from the police department at
19 those committee meetings, so you can look forward
20 to that.

21 I have also requested that the Chief
22 consider allowing officers to come and give that
23 report so that we can get to know all of our
24 officers in the community, especially when maybe
25 he's not around, the lieutenant is not around or

2

1 MS. HUFFMAN: All right. I'm going to
2 call to order the Public Safety Committee meeting
3 at 6:07. I'll do a roll call for the members of
4 the committee. Tracy Hoefling?

5 MS. HOEFLING: Present.

6 MS. HUFFMAN: And Bob Yonchak?

7 MR. YONCHAK: Present.

8 MS. HUFFMAN: And myself, Gina Huffman.
9 All right. So before we get started, I just
10 wanted to bring up to speed information about the
11 Public Safety Committee that I think hasn't taken
12 place in a minute, so since I became the chair, I
13 just wanted to bring us all up to speed.

14 So we've undergone some transitions and
15 leadership since the exit of Council member and
16 Chair Mary Beckenbach and more recently Rod
17 Taylor. That was in April of 2022. Thereafter,
18 the Mayor appointed me in the later part of 2022
19 as chair of the Public Safety Committee.

20 As part of the charge for Public Safety,
21 as you all can see on the website, if you go to
22 the website, the mission of it is to handle
23 matters of health, police, fire, traffic,
24 streetlights, use of public thoroughfares and the
25 Building Department.

4

1 sergeants are not around, so we all get to know
2 who are protecting and serving our community. So
3 hopefully the Chief considers that and we will
4 get to see some of the officers as well.

5 I believe in professional development,
6 of course, as you all can tell. I will be
7 pushing for things like interns to learn their
8 craft or learn adjacent type of roles, so I think
9 that will be good for them, because careers are
10 long and training always is beneficial.

11 I also want to make mention that I owe
12 an explanation to a resident, but I didn't think
13 it was prudent of me to respond to a resident
14 that had an issue in the community that is still
15 inflax, if you will, before I investigated or got
16 more information to respond to that resident.

17 So since that time, that was in November
18 of 2022, when I received this correspondence. I
19 made an initial reply, but since that time I've
20 done some exploration and some investigating and
21 that has brought forth some conclusions that have
22 led to potential solutions about things that are
23 happening in particular with the dog park.

24 So there are a few things I'm going to
25 answer today that we'll discuss publicly, that

1 were discussed publicly in January, which is
2 lighting and signage and the Ordinance with
3 regard to when the dog park closes and opens.
4 We'll talk about that today amongst our committee
5 members.

6 And at this time, I want to just go out
7 of order. I'm going to go out of order on our
8 agenda so that I make sure I, you know, get in
9 the most pertinent things, because we're short on
10 time. I'm going to ask that Chief LoBello or
11 Lieutenant Dominic give their report and also
12 weigh in on their perspective about lighting and
13 signage and things that they think would bring
14 more safety to the dog park.

15 CHIEF LOBELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
16 So first the activity report for January 23rd for
17 the police report. We did 11 alarm drops; two
18 animal complaints; two cases of criminal
19 damaging; 46 disabled motor vehicles we assisted;
20 we assisted the fire department once; six calls
21 of debris in the middle of the road; three
22 drug/narcotic violations; we responded to eight
23 erratic driver calls; two fire calls; we have one
24 instance of documented fleeing and eluding; one
25 fraud call; two liquor law violations; five OVIs;

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1 21 traffic crashes; four reports of shots fired;
2 we assisted EMS 16 times; four receiving stolen
3 property calls; one vehicle was stolen; five
4 general suspicion calls; one theft; 116 traffic
5 stops; one unwanted guest; one vehicular assault;
6 five weapons law violations; and eight welfare
7 checks. Again, this is on the website as well.

8 MR. BENJAMIN: Madam Chair, may I ask a
9 question? Hi Chief. Can you provide a little
10 more detail on the vehicle that went through the
11 bollards and into the new fence at the end of
12 Bratenahl Road? And then I know we had another
13 major incident this past weekend at the Haslam
14 house.

15 CHIEF LOBELLO: I believe those both
16 happened in February, so not on this report. But
17 the one that was involved with an north end of
18 105 was an intoxicated driver who went through
19 the fence and the bollards.

20 MR. BENJAMIN: And went all the way
21 to --

22 CHIEF LOBELLO: Very nearly into the
23 lake, was close to teetering and going into the
24 lake, was transported to the hospital and was
25 arrested for OVI. The other one at the corner of

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1 Bratenahl Road and Lake Shore Boulevard just this
2 past weekend, another intoxicated driver
3 traveling westbound on Lake Shore, lost control
4 at a high rate of speed, took out a pole, the
5 traffic signal box, and part of Mr. Haslam's
6 fence. A 26-year-old Bratenahl resident was
7 driving. He was arrested, transported to the
8 hospital for observation. He is insured, so a
9 private resident and the Village can get
10 reimbursed for expense.

11 MR. BENJAMIN: Do we know if the driver
12 went over the bollards and into the -- is that
13 insured as well?

14 CHIEF LOBELLO: I don't know yet.

15 MR. BENJAMIN: Thank you.

16 MS. HUFFMAN: Chief, you wanted to also
17 during our chat talk about something that
18 Lieutenant Dominic was able to successfully
19 accomplish at Bratenahl 2.

20 CHIEF LOBELLO: Yes. Again, over the
21 weekend we had a carbon monoxide emergency at
22 Bratenahl Place 2. There was a generator inside
23 whose exhaust system malfunctioned, causing
24 carbon monoxide to get in units. Thankfully one
25 of the unit's carbon monoxide detectors went off.

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1 What I'm told is they initially thought it was
2 battery change. The manager went up, thankfully
3 brought the own handheld carbon monoxide monitor
4 and the levels were indeed high, so the fire
5 department was called.

6 And ironically, just weeks prior,
7 Lieutenant Soric had on his own reached out to
8 the management companies of Bratenahl 1 and
9 Bratenahl 2 to get lists of residents who need
10 assistance in the event of an evacuation. So we
11 have both of those lists on file, as well as with
12 management companies, so any incidents in the
13 future like this we'll have the list to be used
14 to assist in evacuations.

15 MS. HUFFMAN: Okay. So thank you,
16 Chief. So that brings me to a discussion that
17 our committee needs to have about the Ordinance
18 for the Village dog park and what the language
19 says and if we need to craft language, that the
20 Council can approve so it's clearer for those who
21 are using the dog park, which certainly can
22 address some of the concern that one of our
23 residents has.

24 I can read and cite where this ordinance
25 or these ordinances are so that committee members

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1 can read them. And when we have our stand-alone
2 meeting, perhaps we can come together and figure
3 out what we'd like our ordinance to reflect so
4 that it can possibly be approved by Council
5 members at large.

6 So in the Village Ordinance 925.09,
7 Bratenahl Village dog park, A, sub letter A, it
8 says the dog park hours are 8:00 a.m. to dusk.
9 Okay? There is another part of the ordinance
10 that says dark, it says dark. So you have one
11 that says dusk and 925.09 and you have one that
12 says -- well, 925.01 says dark.

13 So what we need to determine is problem
14 language. So I would just ask the Chief and
15 Lieutenant to weigh in on what kind of language
16 may be helpful to us for those who are wanting to
17 utilize the park, but we want to have a proper
18 ordinance in place.

19 CHIEF LOBELLO: Thank you, Madam Chair.
20 Like you said, the dog park ordinance
21 specifically says dusk, Village park ordinance
22 says dark. It seems how the Village park
23 encompasses the dog park that could be an issue,
24 whatever word they say. As far as what is going
25 to be the ultimate close time, whether it be

1 dark, dusk, a set time, sunset, that's up for the
2 committees to decide. Some of the options that
3 I've heard are there are other village parks and
4 city parks throughout the area who their language
5 reads park closes 15 minutes after sunset. And
6 sunset is an arbitrary term, but if you were to
7 list national weather services, everyone has a
8 Smartphone these days. Everyone can find out
9 what the official time for sunset is, so that's
10 an option.

11 The other option is a hard and fast
12 time, which brings up a problem of the Spring and
13 Summer, it's dark at 9:00 at night, so the park
14 can stay open to nine and in the winter it's
15 5:00. It will have to be almost an adjustable
16 sign, so to speak, to follow-up on sports
17 analogy, it's kind of like the score board inside
18 the Green Monster at Fenway Park. You have to
19 have somebody actually changing what time it
20 closes depending on when it gets dark, which
21 seems kind of time intensive.

22 So the committees are going to have to
23 come up with a way, the law director as well, to
24 come up with the crafting of the proper verbiage
25 for the ordinance. And that way there will be as

1 ambiguity when it comes to what time the dog park
2 closes.

3 MS. HUFFMAN: Which I think will be
4 helpful. Although it may not be a 100 percent
5 remedy, but it's a step in the right direction to
6 address some of the issues that have been brought
7 to our attention about those who are utilizing
8 the dog park.

9 CHIEF LOBELLO: If I may, figuring out
10 the language in the ordinance is the first step.
11 The second step is going to be putting said
12 ordinance on a sign that's visible for the
13 visitors to the park. Currently you have one
14 sign and it's not very visible, the font is very
15 small. So I would prefer to recommend that we
16 put a new sign with whatever type of sign is
17 agreed upon in the parking area for Village park,
18 not the park by Village Hall, but the few spots
19 that are along the drive that goes to the back.
20 Put a sign there so when people get out of the
21 car, they can see it. And supplement that with
22 another sign at the entrance to the dog park
23 itself, because if someone misses it, they
24 literally have to look at the sign that's on the
25 gate to get into the dog park, so there's no

1 excuse. They can't say they didn't know because
2 they walked past two signs.

3 Furthermore, at least for the sign at
4 the parking spots, I believe there should be some
5 illumination on it. So that if somebody pulls up
6 at dark can't say they didn't know it was closed
7 because it was too dark to see the sign that said
8 it was closed. It's a multi-tasking approach,
9 but I think if we put our heads together, come up
10 with it, throw some money at it, figure out a way
11 to make it plausible for everybody.

12 MS. HUFFMAN: So that does bring to the
13 committee the issue -- or not even the issue, but
14 the subject of money, because we will need some
15 funds to cover lighting for the area that Chief
16 has identified and for the signage that needs to
17 be put together. I understand that our Service
18 Department may be able to help us with that, but
19 we still need to decide on a budget.

20 I hope we can do that in a subsequent
21 stand-alone meeting sometime this month to
22 discuss the signage language, to discuss a budget
23 for lighting, to discuss a budget for signage.
24 And possibly the Public Improvements committee
25 can help us with that. It may require an RFP, I

1 do not know. This is not my area of expertise,
2 but I know that there are enough people who can
3 be helpful to help us figure that out so we can
4 get it in force as soon as possible.

5 MS. KREINER: Ms. Huffman, also I did
6 want to say because it came across in Mayor's
7 Court, if those changes that are made to 925.09,
8 925.09 is not included in a penalty phase of our
9 codified ordinances. It only list 925.01 through
10 925.08. And it came up in Mayor's Court because
11 if it's a minor misdemeanor, what's the penalty
12 phase for that, the charge. So we have an
13 ordinance that's sitting out there that's not
14 included in the penalty phase. I don't know
15 where that goes, but as long as when you're
16 making those changes, you incorporate that into
17 the penalty phase of our codified ordinances.

18 MS. HUFFMAN: Thank you.

19 LIEUTENANT SORIC: Along with everything
20 the Chief mentioned, we discussed a lock on the
21 actual dog gate with a photocell that would
22 basically just lock and there would be no access
23 to the dog park at all in the dark, so that will
24 be a concrete time when it's closed and everybody
25 would know at that point, but I'm not sure what

1 the cost would be at that point, but it would be
2 a solution.

3 MS. HUFFMAN: So that's the Bratenahl
4 Lieutenant. We talked about a few things. We
5 talked about maximizing the use of technology
6 with something like a lock. We talked about some
7 lights that would come on at dusk or dawn that
8 would indicate when the dog park was opened or
9 closed. We will certainly address that in a
10 stand-alone meeting sometime this month. And I
11 guess not to decide on the date now, but we will
12 put together a date and we will ask that it be
13 post as a courtesy so people have time to make
14 plans.

15 The last thing I wanted to talk about is
16 the -- as I looked at the website for the Village
17 and as Councilman Benjamin mentioned, the
18 pandemic kind of got us turned around, all of us,
19 so there are routines that we used to have that
20 we've been off kilter. There have been a lot of
21 changes. As I mentioned in the beginning, I just
22 became Public Safety chair. There have been
23 transitions. There have been changes that have
24 happened. They are not reflected on the website.
25 They should be reflected on the website.

1 So for instance, there's no mention of
2 Committee of the Whole at all. I know that's a
3 committee that we have. It's not mentioned
4 anywhere. Any resident that wants to come to a
5 Committee of the Whole meeting, they wouldn't
6 have a clue of when that is.

7 Also, I know that as I look at the
8 website, we have a newer member of Council. He's
9 only listed under the Rec Commission. I know
10 he's on other committees, not just the Rec
11 Commission, but we should think of it in terms of
12 residents who may not know how to navigate or are
13 not even looking to navigate the whole website,
14 they just want to go where they want to go and
15 get the information.

16 So I know that Council put some dollars
17 toward making sure we had that website
18 maintained. And so I'm asking the administration
19 to look at the website, make sure that it's
20 accurate and it's up-to-date, because there are
21 some gaps there that should be filled.

22 Does anyone have any other questions?
23 Mayor.

24 MAYOR LICASTRO: I was giving you a
25 thumbs up on that.

1 MS. HUFFMAN: Thank you.

2 MR. OREL: I've talked with Chief
3 LoBello about welfare checks. I just wanted to
4 put it in your area as well of -- for some of us
5 that don't have anybody, you know, I could be
6 dead for two weeks before somebody would realize
7 that I'm dead. So it would be nice to do some
8 sort of follow-up, some sort of call or text.
9 And I know the Chief has been looking into it,
10 but I just wanted to also mention it to you as
11 well.

12 CHIEF LOBELLO: Thank you, Mr. Orel. As
13 Mr. Orel said, he and I have had conversations
14 about that. We used to have a service through
15 the Chagrin Valley Dispatch that dealt with this,
16 but they stopped using that company. They
17 currently don't have a company that they use.
18 The Chagrin Valley Dispatch is communicating with
19 other dispatchers is in the area to find the best
20 program or service to accomplish the goal. So
21 it's been a long time and we're still looking
22 into it. And I'll hopefully light a fire under
23 CVD to get on it.

24 MR. OREL: I'm worried. My cats would
25 only have about a week of my flesh before it goes

1 rancid. (Laughter.)
 2 MS. HUFFMAN: Any comments from the
 3 committee? Tracy?
 4 MS. HOEFLING: No.
 5 MS. HUFFMAN: Rob?
 6 MR. YONCHAK: Thank you.
 7 MS. HUFFMAN: Any comments from our
 8 constituencies? Pat.
 9 MS. MEADE: Yes. To respond to the
 10 Chief's comment, if CVD, if it's a low priority
 11 for them, could Bratenahl investigate a software
 12 for Bratenahl residents use?
 13 CHIEF LOBELLO: I'm sure it could, yes.
 14 MS. MEADE: Thank you.
 15 MS. HUFFMAN: If there's nothing else.
 16 MR. MATTY: Right on time.
 17 MS. HUFFMAN: I want to --
 18 MR. MATTY: On time and under budget.
 19 MR. BENJAMIN: You got nine seconds,
 20 hurry up.
 21 MS. HUFFMAN: I'll make a motion that we
 22 adjourn the meeting. Can I get a --
 23 MR. YONCHAK: Second.
 24 MS. HUFFMAN: -- motion?
 25 MS. HOEFLING: So move.

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1 MR. YONCHAK: Second.
 2 MS. HUFFMAN: All in favor?
 3 AYES: 3. NAYS: 0.
 4 (Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.)
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