

Village of Rapids City
Safety Committee Meeting to discuss Police Contract and Concerns
September 2nd, 2020

President Mire called the meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 6:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Clark, Fowler, Rankin, Schneider, Mire

Absent: None

Others Present: Richard Fiems (Trustee), Michelle Reyes (Hampton Clerk), Kevin Hamilton (Hampton Trustee), Steffanie Adams (Hampton Trustee), Chris Bornhoeft (Hampton Trustee), Rick Vershaw (Hampton President), Donna Enright, Donnie Hunt, Pam Tone, Bryce Frennell, Ryan Tone, Dennis Hanks, Tyler Patterson.

President Mire called this Safety Committee Meeting to order to discuss the Police Contract and Concerns as required by the mutual contract between the Village of Hampton Police Department and the Village of Rapids City. Concerns of the resident concerns were also discussed during the meeting. Mire handed the meeting over to Committee Chair Fowler.

Fowler first noted resident concerns of lack of visibility of the Police Department. Department presents was much higher with previous leadership. Residents have been stopping Trustees asking were the Police Officers have been as they are not seeing Officers. Residents are also stopping Trustees with concerns of a man on a green bicycle taking pictures of children and woman. Fowler noted these are issues that the Police should be patrolling for. Fowler stated this is not the same quality of service the Village has received in the last 15 years. Fowler opened the floor to others for discussion. Officer Hanks states a report was taken in the matter of the person taking pictures. Rankin states communication needs to be better so complainants' or mayors know how a resolution reached with each case. Residents and Village Officials need to know matters are being addressed and resolved. Chief Tone states because his car is unmarked the residents may not realize he is patrolling. Fowler suggested he purchase a magnetic emblem that can be removed when needed. Fiems stated the perception of the Department varies by the party looking at the situation. It was explained some of the lack of patrolling is due to the new Chief and his employees having to now take over administrative duties they have not previously done. Mire stated the residents do not want to hear that and want to see their Officers within the Village. Mire asked Chief Tone if he printed and posted meeting notices within the Village of Rapids City and if he made derogatory remarks when doing so. Mire also inquired with the Chief contents of an email and conversations with Officers, business owners and residents concerning the future of the relationship with Department and Village of Rapids City. Mire feels the conversations Chief Tone initiated caused undue stress. Chief Tone states the way the notice was published he was concerned the Department was losing the Village of Rapids City. Mire pointed out there shall be a 60-day notice prior to cancelation of the contract. Hampton Clerk Reyes stated she is getting complaints that the style of policing is different from former Chief Engle. Officer Patterson states business owners text him and know him by his first name. Fowler reiterated residents have stopped Trustees to express concerns of the presents of officers patrolling. Rankin noted part of the contract is to conduct patrols. The Department does not want residents or business owners afraid to communicate and interact with them. To wrap up the meeting Chief Tone stated he did send an email to notify his Officers of this meeting without the intent to scare them, adding he is not Chief Engle, additionally the Department does have a checkered past but he believes he has outstanding set of Officers who want to help the community at this time. Tone stated he and his Department will try to do better. Mire thanked all in attendance for coming to the meeting. Mire gave a final statement that he and the Board appreciates what all the Officers do, adding this meeting was not to come off as hostile but only to address issues that residents wanted communicated. Hampton President Vershaw added Hampton enjoys working with Rapids City.

Having no further business to conduct at this time, Fowler adjourned this Safety Committee Meeting at 7:57pm, all in attendance concurred.

Carolyn A. Fowler
Village Trustee