

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2021  
6:00 PM  
Council Chambers**

**Members Present**

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair  
Councilor Peter Lachapelle  
Councilor Palana Hunt-Hawkins

**Members Absent**

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson (Unexcused)  
Councilor Chris Rice (Excused)

**Others Present**

Councilor Steven Beaudoin  
Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician  
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD  
Richard Sliwoski, 255 Old Dover Road  
Chris Bowlen, Director of Recreation & Arena  
Kyle Repucci, Superintendent, Rochester  
Schools

**Minutes**

Councilor Hamann brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. **Approve Minutes from October 20, 2021, Public Safety Meeting.**  
*Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*

2. **Public Input**

Richard Sliwoski of 255 Old Dover Road was present to talk about item number 11 Old Dover Road-Speeding Concerns that items was moved up on the agenda.

3. **Old Dover Road-Speeding Concerns**

Councilor Hamann summarized. Mr. Richard Sliwoski was present to talk about the speeding concerns on Old Dover Road, the Committee moved this item up on the agenda. Mr. Sliwoski stated that he brought this concern up to Councilor Lachapelle, the Police Commission meeting and the Ward 3 meetings regarding the traffic and noise on Old Dover Road. For the last 20 years there has been an increase in traffic on Old Dover Road and number of people using the road. He stated this is due to a number of things, the expansion of the mobile home park Briar Ridge, an apartment complex that was created with at least 100 units and there is also 19 acres of land for sale that he thinks is going to be developed, that will bring more traffic to the area. The traffic on this road is going to Rochester, Somersworth and Dover and also taking Tebbetts Road, to Old Dover Road,

Whitehouse Road to Maine. He stated depending on the time of day it could be bumper to bumper traffic. He said 70 mph is not unusual for Old Dover Road. He wanted to bring it to this committee's attention. He said first of all you have to educate the drivers of the speed limit, speed limit signs are needed. He said if you go on Blackwater Road to Somersworth onto Old Dover Road to the Somersworth town line you will see no speed limit signs. You don't see a speed limit sign until you get to Old Dover Road by Cormier Drive which is over a mile. Lowell Street and Whitehouse Road is 30 mph and Old Dover Road is 35 mph, he said he is confused as to why some roads 30 and if you are on Tebbetts Road and you head south on Old Dover Road and it's right there. He feels that 40 mph is not appropriate for the level of traffic on Old Dover Road. He thinks the roads should be reevaluated in the area to reduce the posted speed limits. He thinks the speed should be reduced to 35 mph on Old Dover Road and should have speed limit signs placed on the road. The second thing is to put up driver feedback signs or radar signs, it flashed when going too fast to slow down. He said enforcement would go a long way. The third thing he suggested T stops for Lowell Street, Old Dover Road and Whitehouse Intersection. Councilor Lachapelle said that a lot of this area is State maintained. Mr. Bezanson said that Old Dover Road from Tebbetts Road to the Somersworth city line is State maintained. Mr. Sliwoski also mentioned that speed tables might work. He also said the noise of the vehicles is loud. Deputy Chief Boudreau said there is not much that can be done about vehicle noise as that is regulated by State requirements under inspection laws. Mr. Bezanson will talk to the State again about the speed limit in the area.

#### **4. Flat Rock Bridge Road/ Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety Concerns (kept in committee)**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that this past month he was able to talk to the surveyor that completed a survey in the area of this intersection. One of the issues discussed was the width of the City's rights-of-way. The width of both Flat Rock Bridge Road and Salmon Falls Road rights-of-way were shown on the survey as being 4 rods wide, which equals 66 feet in width. That coordinates well with the tax maps for Flat Rock Bridge Road, but not Salmon Falls Road. They talked about how the surveyors concluded that Salmon Falls Road was a 4 rod right-of-way, and they agreed to provide documentation. Mr. Bezanson also asked the surveyor for a proposal to survey the entire intersection, not only for the immediate safety concerns, but also to plan for repaving Flat Rock Bridge Road at this intersection in the near future. Councilor Hamann asked if they could put a "no parking" sign up. Mr. Bezanson said that until the right-of way is conclusively determined it would be difficult to enforce. Councilor Lachapelle said he does not want to put up a sign to put a sign up, would like to wait until concrete information that way it can be enforced. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he received an email on Monday from the original complainant with a picture of a mobile tool truck parked near the property, but by the time the police got there it was gone. She stated in the email that the property at 107 Salmon Falls Road has been sold and she included the new

owners in the email. This was kept in committee until resolved; as Mr. Bezanson gets information he will update the Committee.

**5. Washington Street (Route 202), Estes Road Intersection-Reduced speed and stop light request**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said there was an opportunity to apply to NHDOT for a Road Safety Audit. He stated the Police Department pulled the crash reports together and now they should be ready to submit the application, probably by the end of this week. There are two reasons that an application for this intersection is able to be submitted at this time: first, there was a recent fatality at the intersection, and, second, the prior safety improvements at the intersection were completed in May 2016, which meets the requirement of more than 5 years ago.

**6. Squamanagonic Gate Discussion**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle admitted that during the initial conversation the Disc Golf community was not included, but he's glad they have been involved in recent discussions. He stated he is still for having the gate. He knows Disc Golf brings a lot of value to the site and great exercise. He said they could walk to the site and signs can help to know when it *is open*. Chris Bowlen Director of Recreation & Arena was at the meeting to discuss the alternatives and he stated that Disc Golf folks spoke with the Recreation Commission this past week. They are working with them to make this a formal group, it's a newer activity in this area, more formalized out west. Looking for a formal agreement for next year. Mr. Bowlen said that they were asked to look into an automatic gate by the City Manager. They are looking into the gate options; power will have to be reintroduced to the site. Mr. Bowlen said they would like to keep the hours at one half hour before sunrise and one half hour after sunset. He thinks they're on their way to solving this issue. He would like to keep this in committee and Mr. Bowlen will get cost numbers for the gate as soon as he gets the information he will bring to the Committee. **(kept in committee)**

**7. Lowell Street-Signage area of Arena (kept in committee)**

This was moved up on the agenda, Mr. Bowlen was present to discuss this request as well. Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bowlen said the request was brought up by Mr. Edgerly, a neighbor at 48 Lowell Street, who has been very helpful with the parking plan at the arena for big events. He stated that traffic coming from Route 125 on Lowell Street come up over a rise in the road. When pulling out of a driveway onto Lowell Street in this area It is difficult to see vehicles coming from either direction with obstructing views like utility poles and signs. This was kept in committee to come up with appropriate signage for the arena.

**8. Charles Street-Request for “no parking between hours of 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM” on northbound side of Charles Street between Academy and Hope on Haven Hill Driveway**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Steven Beaudoin said he originally submitted this request. He said he drives this area all the time. He said vehicles back up on Charles Street waiting to make a left turn at Granite Street for afternoon pick-up at the William Allen School, and there is no way to go around these vehicles on the right when there are vehicles parked there. He thought if there were designated “no parking” signs for the hours that the children get picked up, through traffic could pass around the vehicles waiting to turn left. He stated that recently it has been better than it used to be; usually it works, just not when cars are parked there. Councilor Hamann said that 5 years ago the principal sent out notices to parents regarding pick-up time. Superintendent Repucci was present to discuss this issue. He said staggered pick up for different grade levels doesn’t seem to work because some parents have more than one child attend the school and wouldn’t want to pick them up separately. Mr. Repucci mentioned efforts underway to address parking around the Maple Street Magnet School. Mr. Repucci said he is more concerned about Chamberlain Street School; they are backed up on the main road where through traffic tends to pass at high rates of speed around vehicles waiting to turn into the school, creating a safety issue for student and parent pedestrians. Councilor Hamann asked if a letter could be sent out about pick up and again in January. Mr. Repucci will continue messaging to parents. **(kept in committee)**

**9. Autumn Street Safety Issues and Request to Install Sidewalks  
(kept in committee)**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. This agenda item will be brought up tomorrow evening at the Public Works & Buildings Committee meeting.

**10. Portland Street and Salmon Falls Road-Requesting 4-way signs to be added to the “stop” signs**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said that the MUTCD speaks to this; such intersections should have “ALL WAY” signs installed below the “STOP” signs, rather than “4-WAY” signs. Mr. Bezanson will have DPW replace/reinstall the proper signage.

**11. Tebbetts Road and Blackwater Road Intersection-Safety Concerns**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Councilor Lachapelle said the resident across the street has a couple of concerns. One of the concerns is the brush is growing back again. The resident was wondering if a guardrail would be able to be installed. They also would like a streetlight installed at the Blackwater/Tebbetts Road intersection. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a streetlight at the intersection of Blackwater Road and Tebbetts Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** Mr. Bezanson will look into the guardrail request. Mr. Bezanson will have DPW trim the brush in the area.

#### **12. Old Dover Road-Speeding Concerns**

The Committee revisited the Old Dover Road speeding issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau will have the speed trailer placed in the area. Councilor Beaudoin asked how much the radar signs are. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he had been looking into the cost; there are several different options with different price ranges.

#### **13. Chamberlain Street Speeding Concerns**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Not much that can really be done in this area. Deputy Chief Boudreau will see if they can put the speed trailer out before they put it away for the winter.

#### **14. E911 Update**

No Update

#### **15. Emergency Management Update**

No Update

#### **16. Other**

##### **Tebbetts Road**

Councilor Hamann summarize the issue. A resident sent a letter to the City regarding the Tebbetts Road renumbering issue, but also mentioned a safety concern with truck traffic on the road. 16 and 18 wheeled trucks use Tebbetts Road as shortcut to/from Route 108. Tebbetts Road is a narrow residential road with ditches close to the road on both sides. The road is not in good condition; and, the question was asked whether there is a weight limit on this road. It was mentioned that there is State policy regarding truck travel within one mile of established truck routes. Mr. Bezanson said if there is an issue with the condition of the road, weight restrictions can be applied. **(kept in committee)**

##### **Brock Street - Holy Rosary Cemetery**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. People park in front of the mausoleum on Brock Street; people park there because they are picking up their children from school. Deputy Chief Boudreau said you can't park in front of a driveway. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the church can put "no trespassing" signs on their property.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

***The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin. Assistant II.***