

Public Safety Committee
Councilor Chambers
January 21, 2015
7:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Council David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Jake Collins
Councilor Robert Gates

MEMBERS ABSENT

Councilor Donald Hamann
Councilor Peter Lachapelle

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor James Gray
Scott Dumas, Deputy Chief P.D.
Michael Bezanson, PE City Engineer
Patrick Cyr, 30 Betts Road

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Public Input

The only member of the public present was there for item #4 of the agenda.

2. Betts Road-"Blind Driveway" Sign

Councilor Walker stated that Patrick Cyr of Betts Road was present to discuss the need for a "Blind Driveway" sign, so this item was moved up on the agenda. Patrick Cyr has lived at 30 Betts Road for 31 years. He stated that traffic travelling Betts Road from Cross Road goes over two hills with a dip in between. When pulling out of his driveway, you cannot see vehicles over the crest of the hill in the dip. There have been many near misses and one accident in this area over the years. He said there will be an increase in traffic on Betts Road when the new mall on Route 11 is completed. Mr. Cyr stated that the Newhalls that live across the street at 31 Betts Road would also benefit from the "Blind Driveway" sign. He said he would like to put it by his boundary marker coming from Cross Road. He also said that, if necessary, he would be willing to pay for the sign. Councilor Walker said who pays for the sign depends on the situation. He said the sign is warranted for awareness. Councilor Collins said when he sees a "Blind Driveway" sign, he pays attention to it. **Councilor Collins made a motion to install a "Blind Driveway" sign on Betts Road. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous**

voice vote carried the motion. Councilor Collins asked Deputy Chief Dumas if the speed was checked on Betts Road. Deputy Chief Dumas said there haven't been any issues reported in that area until now, so it has not been checked; but he can have the speed trailer placed in this area.

2. Sheepboro Road-Bus Stop Safety Concerns (update)

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Councilor Walker stated that he went to the bus stop on three separate occasions. Each time there were only two vehicles waiting for the high school bus and one waiting for the grammar school bus. The parents that were at the bus stop did not want the bus stop to be moved; they think it is fine. The parents actually seemed a little upset that the situation had been reported as a safety concern. Deputy Chief Dumas said he thought there was a concern with vehicles stacking up. Councilor Walker said when he was there it was not bad. Councilor Walker said he was a little reluctant to change the bus stop for two vehicles that actually do not want it changed. No action was taken.

3. Discussion-New Hampshire Highway Safety Grants, DWI Saturation Patrol and Speed Enforcement

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Dumas explained that they apply for two grants every year and there are no roadblocks involved. These grants are for overtime for extra patrols. DWI Saturation Patrol involves overtime when there is a higher volume of occurrences, which is Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Holidays 9-3 PM. The Speed Enforcement grant will be during the high volume traffic 8am to 12 PM. Councilor Collins asked if there was a difference in the amount of DWI from last year. Deputy Chief Dumas said there about the same as last year but accidents are down this year. Deputy Chief Dumas said that even though they deauthorize money every year, the hours are being worked and the work is getting completed. When they apply for the grants, they need to make projections based upon the highest pay rate, but because some officers are paid at a lower rate there is generally an excess amount remaining at the end of the year.

Councilor Gates made a motion to accept the Highway Safety Grants. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

5. Other

Old Wakefield Street "No Littering" signs

Mr. Bezanson said that Old Wakefield Road is state jurisdiction. He contacted the state about the "no littering" signs but he said that the state no longer uses these signs. Councilor Walker asked Mr. Bezanson to send a letter to the woman who requested the signs to let her know it was a state maintained road and they no longer place "no littering \$250 fine" signs.

Councilor Gates made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Collins. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by
Laura Miller
Secretary II, DPW