

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2024  
6:00 PM  
Council Chambers**

**Members Present**

Councilor Bryan Karolian, Vice Chair  
Councilor Chuck Creteau  
Councilor Kevin Sullivan

**Members Absent**

Councilor Timothy Fontneau, Chair (excused)  
Councilor David Herman (excused)

**Others Present**

Jarrold Norris, P.E. Assistant City Engineer  
Gina Golden-Silvestro, GIS/AM Technician  
Deputy Chief Andrew Swanberry, PD  
Paul Callaghan. Mayor  
William Burke, 29 Lupine Lane  
Suzette Richards, 5 Walnut Street

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

- 1. Approve Minutes from October 18, 2023 Public Safety Meeting Councilor Sullivan *MOVED to approve the minutes from October 18, 2023. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

**2. Public Input**

William Burke of 29 Lupine Lane was present to discuss sidewalks being added to Chamberlin Street. He is concerned that when walking or jogging in the area between Franklin Street and Whitehall Road there are no sidewalks and there is not enough room for pedestrians to move over when vehicles are approaching. He has had about 10 issues in the past few years with close calls of getting hit. Vehicles are speeding in the area as well. He stated he has mentioned to several neighbors about getting sidewalks and they say they agree as well.

Suzette Richards of 5 Walnut Street was present to discuss her concerns about traffic coming from the traffic circle onto Walnut Street. She lives at the beginning of Walnut Street and is concerned pulling out of her driveway that they will get hit. She would like a blind drive sign for this location. She also is concerned with how fast traffic goes around the circle onto Walnut Street and Washington Street and through town. She asked if speed could be monitored in these locations. There are many people walking in the area. She also asked if a flashing sign showing speeds is possible. Councilor Karolian asked the Deputy Chief Swanberry for his input. Deputy Chief Swanberry said for traffic enforcement they get input from forums like this and the public as to where are the best places to steer their efforts. He will use the input about the circle and add to the list to target. The speed trailer can display what your

speed is, or it can display nothing and collect data. Councilor Creteau lives in the area and said that vehicles are speeding when taking the turn from North Main Street to Walnut Street and he almost got hit today. He would like to see a sign that posts the speed coming off the turn to around 25 MPH. Councilor Karolian asked to keep in committee to see what the options are.

### **3. Chestnut Hill Road**

Councilor Karolian asked Deputy Chief Swanberry to give an update. Deputy Chief Swanberry stated that patrols were increased for the months of October and November. There were 112 traffic stops made during this period. Councilor Sullivan asked if this motion addresses the concern. Deputy Chief Swanberry said yes, a citizen came in for public comment with speeding concerns with children on the road. ***Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.***

### **4. Flashing Lights and Raised Table Policy Discussion**

Councilor Karolian asked Deputy Chief Swanberry if he has any updates. Deputy Chief Swanberry had no updates at this time. ***Councilor Creteau MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)***

### **5. Chestnut Street-Speed Control**

Councilor Karolian asked if there were any updates at this time. Councilor Sullivan asked if this was an item from the current meeting or a previous meeting. This is an open item from a previous meeting. ***Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)***

### **6. Rangeway Drive**

Councilor Karolian said this item was in committee from a previous meeting and asked if there were any updates. There were no updates at this time. ***Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)***

### **7. Pickering Road/ Brickyard**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue. Jarrod Norris said in reviewing the location for the crosswalk request this would not be a good location for a crosswalk. With there being two intersections here and adding a crosswalk to an already busy area would not be recommended. He stated that new sidewalks and a flashing beacon is planned to be completed in the Pickering Road /Railroad Avenue area next year. Councilor Sullivan asked what the concern was where they want the crosswalk. Mr. Norris said that with the traffic flow and the two intersections having a crosswalk at that location

is a concern. Councilor Sullivan said he sees the challenge and asked if the foot traffic was high in the area for the demand. Jarrod Norris said that this was a request from one individual, and this services less than 10 properties. He said they did do a review of the school zone in this location, and it was recommended that the pedestrian traffic go back up to Railroad Avenue and back down to get to the school. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

**8. Autumn Street/ Salmon Falls Road**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue and asked Deputy Chief Swanberry if the speed trailer was placed at that location. Chief Swanberry stated that the trailer was put out for one week in the beginning of November. One week in each direction. The average speed was 31.55 mph. The 85 percentile was 37 mph. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

**9. Lowell Street- Streetlight between Westview and Royal Crest**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue. Mayor Callaghan said the concern is when you are driving towards Somersworth between Hillside Drive and Royal Crest MHP it is very dark in that area. Pedestrian traffic has increased in the area and there have been a few accidents as well. Mr. Norris said he would like to share the streetlight policy for the new members to stay consistent. Mr. Norris read the policy that a streetlight should be installed no closer than every fourth pole. Gina Golden displayed the GIS image on screen and stated that there is a 950-foot span in this area that does not have a streetlight. There are three existing poles in the 950-foot span that a light could be installed on. Mayor Callaghan asked what the cost is to install a light. Mr. Norris stated it is around \$300.00. Mr. Norris had a concern if there are properties located by the light being installed that they would have concerns. Councilor Sullivan asked Mr. Norris to provide the streetlight policy. **Councilor Creteau MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

**10. Church Street – Handicap Parking Spots**

Councilor Karolian stated that this item has already been resolved and recommends taking it off the agenda. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

**11. Charles Street- Flashing light / Signage**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue. Mayor Callaghan said this is from November. The women's son walks to William Allen School and is concerned about the traffic coming off from Knight Street onto Charles Street. He referred the

committee to page 8 of the agenda to review the email. The email states that the cars are speeding through and not stopping or just slowing slightly while inching towards the crosswalk while there are pedestrians there. Councilor Karolian asked Deputy Chief Swanberry for his input. Deputy Chief Swanberry said this particular intersection has not come up on his radar as a problem. Councilor Karolian asked if Deputy Chief Swanberry could put this on his list. Deputy Chief Swanberry agreed. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

## **12. Chamberlain Street- Sidewalks**

Discussed during Public Input. **(kept in committee)**

## **13. Meaderboro Rd/ RT202A- Intersection**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue. Mayor Callaghan stated that Director Peter Nourse has this on his CIP that includes major improvements to the intersection. Mayor Callaghan recommended keeping in committee. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to keep in committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote. (kept in committee)**

## **14. Flat Roch Bridge Road- Hidden Driveway**

Councilor Karolian summarized the issue. Mayor Callaghan asked Mr. Norris what the policy is for hidden driveway signs. Mr. Norris said he would need to review what the definition is for a hidden driveway. Mr. Norris visited the location, and stated this is clear flat land to the intersection. Mr. Norris believes the vegetation might be overgrown but the shoulder appears clear, the trees belong to the property owner. Councilor Karolian suggested reaching out to the property owner to let them know that the trees are not in the right of way and are their responsibility. Councilor Karolian also asked Deputy Chief Swanberry to put this on the list as well to monitor for speed. **Councilor Sullivan MOVED to remove from committee. Councilor Creteau seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.**

## **15. Other**

Councilor Karolian asked if anyone has any other items. Deputy Chief Swanberry said the speed trailer was out on Crow Hill Road in early October. The speed limit is 30 MPH. The average speed recorded in just over a week was 19 MPH. The 85 percentile was 24.65 MPH. Councilor Karolian asked Deputy Chief Swanberry how many speed trailers the department currently has. Deputy Chief Swanberry said they have one speed trailer, and it is used to provide data to the committee as well as putting it in locations that they know have issues.

Mayor Callaghan asked Mr. Norris to provide a cost estimate next month for the sidewalks on Chamberlin Street and if there are any domain issues in doing this.

**Councilor Karolian ADJOURNED the meeting at 6:43 PM.**

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Ronda Boisvert, Administrative Assistant II