

Village of Bellaire
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2012

Members Present: Anne Wendling, Butch Dewey & David Schulz
Absent: N/A
Others Present: Chief Brad Rowe, Treasurer Cathy Odom, Colette Stanish

- ◆ **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wendling at 3:20 PM

- ◆ **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

Motion by Schulz, seconded by Dewey, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

- ◆ **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Schulz, to approve the December 11, 2009 minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

- ◆ **Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None presented.

- ◆ **Old Business:** None presented.

- ◆ **New Business**

- a) **Amerigas:** Chief Rowe informed Council that he spoke with Amerigas about the smell and the burning of propane. He stated that they weren't doing anything wrong, that they have been doing this in their business long before this current complaint and they are working within our ordinance and that what they are doing is standard practice. Dewey stated that he spoke to some area businesses who have said they don't think it can be stopped due to the type of business it is, but it seems worse than ever before. Dewey also stated that there's a safety concern about the flame height and the grass around the pole is gone because of the heat. He also mentioned the possibility of a car running into the pole.

Chief Rowe stated that they are following standard procedure for tanks that have to be scrapped. He also stated that the burning has nothing to do with the odor. The smell comes from inside the tank when the valve is opened and comes from the metal that is impregnated with the chemical. He said he would be happy to talk with them and see if they can do the procedure for scrapping the old tanks at a different facility.

Schulz did some minor research about ethyl mercaptan, which is the chemical added to propane, is considered hazardous and when released should be collected in something like sand so that it can be absorbed and disposed of. Chief Rowe stated that ethyl mercaptan is added to liquid propane and the company loses money if they lose liquid propane. They do not dump it, they reuse it. Wendling suggested leaving this as is. It is what the company does.

Chief Rowe stated that he would talk to Amerigas and see what might be able to be done to help address the complaint. It was also suggested that a representative from Amerigas attend a council meeting, which may help shed more light on the process.

- b) **ORV Ordinance:** Dewey stated he read in the paper today that Mancelona has adopted an ORV ordinance and we could copy this with some exceptions and it is built from the County

ordinance. Wendling stated that when this was previously discussed, we had questions on the definition of an ORV. Time of day use was discussed with the Mancelona ordinance not addressing this.

The County allows for 1/2 hour before sunrise and 1/2 hour after sunset, unless the ORV is equipped with lights. Schulz likes the black & white 1/2 hour before and 1/2 hour after. Use of the walking path was discussed and Chief Rowe stated that the ordinance addresses streets. Dewey stated we would have to exclude use on the walking path.

Chief Rowe stated that track vehicles are listed in the County ordinance as an ORV and we allow snowmobiles on the walking path. Schulz stated that Mancelona calls out an exception for snowmobiles and they are not considered an ORV in their ordinance.

Schulz discussed the prevention of using the streets just to ride. Chief Rowe stated the ordinance would allow this, but that the ORV would have to be licensed. Dewey asked if we could put “for reaching a destination only” language in the ordinance that would prevent younger aged riders from using the streets just to ride back & forth. Chief Rowe stated that they are making decisions that is in the best interest of the residents and asked what benefit is this ordinance to your residents.

Schulz also stated that we could choose the roads they are allowed to travel on. Chief Rowe will find out where golf carts fall within the realm of ORVs.

Motion by Schulz, seconded by Dewey, to have Clerk Janet Koch review the new Mancelona and the existing County ordinance, look for common points and differences and draft an ordinance for the Village. Motion carried by voice vote.

◆ **Discussion Items**

- Chief Rowe informed the committee that a resident of Bellaire has medical issues that prevent the resident from being a safe driver. The resident’s family would like us to handle it. The resident is on the list for a driver’s re-exam but the state is behind in getting them done. Chief Rowe wanted council members to know the police department is currently doing everything they can legally do.

◆ **Communication/Informational:** None presented.

◆ **Member/Public Comment**

- *Colette Stanish:* asked the committee to please pay attention to side street use when the ORV ordinance is written.

◆ **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Compiled by Cathy Odom, Treasurer

Approved: _____
Anne Wendling, Chair

Date: _____