

1 Minutes of the meeting of the  
2 South Barrington Public Safety Committee  
3 Thursday, May 5, 2009  
4

5 Chairman Abbate called the Public Safety Committee meeting to order at 7:05 pm.  
6 Present: Chairman Joe Abbate, Trustee Steve Guranovich, Trustee Paula McCombie and  
7 Chief Michael Deegan. Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.  
8

9 Also present: Village President Frank Munao, Trustee Tony Navitsky, Former Trustee  
10 Gary Anton, Police Commissioner Therese Cohen, Residents Sharon Cohn, Christine  
11 Turner and others.  
12

13 Approval of Minutes. Trustee Guranovich motioned to accept the minutes of the April 2,  
14 2009 minutes as written. Seconded by Trustee McCombie, the motion carried by voice  
15 vote.  
16

17 SBPD Staffing History. Trustee Abbate presented a short history of the police department  
18 since its inception. He noted that the present staffing levels for patrol have been in place  
19 for over a decade and that a patrol unit consists of two officers and one supervisor.  
20

21 Present Staffing Levels. Trustee Abbate identified the current staffing allocation for  
22 sworn personnel at the police department:

- 23 1 Police Chief
- 24 1 Deputy Police Chief
- 25 1 Senior Sergeant
- 26 3 Sergeants
- 27 1 Detective
- 28 8 Police Officers
- 29 12 part-time Officers  
30

31 Chief Deegan explained that of the part-time officer pool, there are 4 vacancies that have  
32 not been filled. Currently there are 8 officers on staff, 2 of whom are new hires and have  
33 not yet completed their field training. Another part-time officer is expected to move into  
34 full-time employment as soon as there is a vacancy in the full-time officer pool. Chief  
35 Deegan stated that he expects two retirements this year. Senior Sergeant Jim Weidig has  
36 announced his retirement in July. Officer Steve Dorgan has been out on Workman's  
37 Comp for a year and the possibility exists that he will not return to work. The chief stated  
38 that both of these vacancies will likely be filled by existing part-time officers, leaving an  
39 even bigger gap in staffing levels for part-time officers.  
40

41 Considerations for filling vacancies of current staffing levels. The Committee discussed  
42 with the Village President, the Police Chief and Village residents strategies for filling the  
43 current vacancies. Chief Deegan fielded questions from residents.  
44

45 Resident Sharon Cohn asked about the number police officers who are on patrol at any  
46 given time. Chief Deegan answered that the police department requires a minimum of

47 two officers on duty at all times but that most of the time there are three officers. He  
48 added that on power shifts (Friday and Saturday nights) the police department strives to  
49 have four officers on duty. He cautioned that because of personnel shortages the part-time  
50 officer is oftentimes the third man on shift instead of the fourth. At the last reported home  
51 burglary, there were three officers on duty. However, two officers were processing a two-  
52 person DUI arrest that required at least two police officers. That left only one officer to  
53 respond to the burglary call. Chief Deegan stated that the officer was able to secure  
54 assistance from nearby Barrington Hills Police Department to help secure the house.  
55

56 Resident Christine Turner asked about the number of calls for service and the length of  
57 time it takes to process one call. Chief Deegan responded that it takes more time for some  
58 calls (i.e. theft or burglary calls) and less time for others. The resident asked about the  
59 impact of the western portion of the Village on calls for service. The chief stated that  
60 between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009, the police department logged 330 calls at The  
61 Arboretum and 236 calls at residences in The Woods.  
62

63 Resident Cohn asked what the number of patrol cars is on the street. Chief Deegan  
64 replied that there are at least two squad cars on patrol and many times there are three.  
65 Mrs. Cohn then asked about whether the Village has a plan to increase the number of  
66 patrol. Village President Munao responded that an increase in personnel should keep pace  
67 with the Village's revenues. He stated that the revenues from the Arboretum and the  
68 Woods have yet to be fully realized and he felt it prudent to wait until the Village is in a  
69 better financial position before hiring additional officers. Trustee Navitsky, chairman of  
70 the Finance Committee, was consulted to offer an opinion on how much it would cost to  
71 add an additional four officers. Trustee Navitsky stated that it takes 1-2 years to realize  
72 the property taxes from new homes.  
73

74 Police Commissioner Gary Anton expressed his concern that the Police Commission and  
75 Board of Trustee are moving too slowly with regard to hiring more full-time officers. He  
76 stated that his reason for attending this meeting was to look for a commitment from the  
77 Village including specific dates on when residents may expect an increase in police  
78 officer staff. Other residents echoed those sentiments.  
79

80 Police Commissioner Therese Cohen called for a utilization study of the police  
81 department, including a review of the dispatch call-logs, to assess and value those needs  
82 and project the Village's personnel requirements. The Committee discussed the study and  
83 what was necessary to accomplish it. Both Trustee Navitsky and several residents  
84 requested that a concrete time-line be established for the study and that the Commission  
85 report back to the Public Safety Committee in a timely manner.  
86

87 Proposed new beat system. Village President Munao spoke about the Police  
88 Department's concept of a new beat system, which assigns officers to specific areas of  
89 the Village so as to make for shorter response times. The beat system in place now is a  
90 two-beat system which splits the village in half. Chief Deegan stated that the police  
91 department does not currently employ the use of the beat system due to the shortage of  
92 patrol personnel. He added that he would be a strong proponent of the beat system if we

93 had enough squads to cover each beat. He said that assigning officers to a specific area  
94 increases police visibility in the neighborhoods. With increased manpower the beats  
95 could be broken down even further for special patrol operations activity.

96  
97 All agreed that an increase of police presence in the neighborhoods is the goal for the  
98 Village. President Munao talked to residents about some of the things they can do to  
99 better protect their homes from crime. He cited having lights on timers as an example of a  
100 deterrent to intruders. President Munao also updated residents on the Village's disaster  
101 plan and pharmaceutical distribution plan.

102  
103 Resident Sharon Cohn said that she was interested in maintaining a communication  
104 network of factual information between the Village and the residents.

105  
106 Old Business

107  
108 There was no old business.

109  
110 New Business

111  
112 There was no new business.

113  
114 Trustee McCombie motioned to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Guranovich seconded;  
115 motion carried by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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118 The minutes of the May 5, 2009 Public Safety Committee are respectfully submitted by  
119 Recording Secretary Mary Lampugnano.

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122 Approved on June 4, 2009