

Minutes
Public Safety Commission
Town of Boonsboro
January 19, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.
Boonsboro Town Hall Annex
21 North Main Street
Boonsboro, MD

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Kim LaBrush

Present: Kim LaBrush, Ena Martin, Harry Nogle, Kyle O'Connor, Rick Stevens, Greg Seymour
Chief Kevin Morgan – BPD, Marilee Kerns, Council Liaison

Absent: Jay Metz, Bo Quinn, Brian Smith

Guests: none

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the November 17, 2022 meeting were emailed to the committee for review. There was a correction to the minutes – Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company Report – correct to *Jay Metz reported the Rescue Company is requesting signage and flashing light to warn traffic of emergency vehicles entering the roadway at the top of the hill between Chase Six Blvd. and the Rescue Company. The Opticom system would be connected to all traffic signals that are within the town limits to allow emergency vehicle traffic to flow smoothly during an emergency response.* The minutes were approved with noted correction by a motion from Kyle O'Connor, second by Ena Martin and vote by commission.

Citizens Comments: none

Old Business:

Commission Appointments: New appointees were not in attendance to discuss terms of either 2 or 4 years. Chair LaBrush will reach out to appointees.

School House Manor: BVFD Kyle O'Connor gave an update on School House Manor stating Washington County Housing Authority met with Fire Chief and were given two recommendations, if no action Fire Chief will let the mayor know and maybe the Town could write a letter of formal request to support the recommendations.

High Street Traffic: Chief Morgan gave report of traffic study on High Street – total of 351 cars travelled North on High Street during a one-week study: 125 cars travelling at or under posted speed limit of 15 mph; 205 traveling greater than 15 mph but less than 25 mph, 20 cars over 25 mph, 1 car over 35 mph – which Chief believed may be an error. Total of 299 cars travelling South on High Street during a one-week study: 117 cars travelling at or under the posted speed, 179 traveling greater than 15 mph but less than 25 mph, 3 cars over 25 mph. Based on the volume of traffic, speed study and citizen input – the Mayor and Council did not recommend placing any Do Not Enter signage. There was a recommendation to install Children at Play signage. BPD will continue to monitor. The Town Manager, Public Works and Fire

Company representative met with resident of St. Paul Street and have remedied the parking on St. Paul that hindered the Fire Truck exiting the Fire House in an emergency. Chief Morgan suggested repainting of red curbs in the spring. Maybe students can get SSL hours for this project or Boy Scouts could assist as a project. Box trucks parked at curve on St. Paul Street are due to a house renovation and hoping this situation will resolve itself when renovations completed. Car parking on near Firehouse Alley and St. Paul still a hazard due to curve and narrow street – site needs accessed for red curb and no parking signage.

Opticom Traffic Signal: Town Manager spoke with Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) regarding installing an Opticom system. Town submitted a formal request to SHA for signage, flashing light and Opticom system.

Knox Boxes: There was mention of the Knox Box program in the Town Quarterly Newsletter. www.knoxbox.com - Maryland – Washington County Division of Emergency Services Town Manager suggested it be included in the EDC business newsletter. Chief Morgan and BVFD representative Kyle O’Conner stressed the importance of emergency contact information being on file with 911 Dispatch. Developing a form for business to complete and submit to 911 Dispatch was discussed. This would allow all emergency personnel to have access to necessary information. Information to include: Primary & Secondary contact, alarm company, access codes, utility companies. It was suggested to put an article informing residents and business to provide this information. 911 Dispatch Non-emergency # 240-313-4345.

The Ap called Smart 911 that was discussed at last meeting is not supported in Washington County.

New Business:

Noise/Vehicle Complaint in Kinsey Heights: Commission Chair Kim LaBrush reported that there has been a vehicle parking in the community in the morning playing loud music. BPD has been notified and will patrol.

Town Sidewalks: There was some discussion regarding the town sidewalk ordinance and safe sidewalks. The Commission will request a copy of the sidewalk ordinance and suggested it be posted on Town website and maybe an article in the quarterly newsletter reminding residents that the sidewalks are their responsibility to keep in good condition. The commission can plan to do a walk around town in the spring to identify problem locations. It was stated that tree roots have damaged sidewalks and rough areas around water and sewer accesses. The commission discussed giving residents adequate time to repair due to expense to homeowner. There was some discussion regarding a scale of need to repair and giving additional time for more expensive repairs. It was asked if there is any town assistance or grant monies available.

Stop the Bleed Program: It was suggested that maybe Stop the Bleed and CPR demonstrations could be done in coordination with town events: GreenFest, National Night Out, Etc. Currently the Rescue Company does not have the equipment needed to do demonstrations. The cost of demonstration material is \$ 995.00 for Stop the Bleed Training Kit and \$737.95 for Life/Forms CPR training demonstration kit. Chair Kim LaBrush stated the commission received donations in excess of budget for NNO and would like to purchase the equipment to sponsor these

programs. Council Liaison Kerns asked her to provide the detail budget information and she would bring this request to the Mayor and Council for a vote. The commission can not just approve spending non-budgeted expenditures. Second option would be to put this request in the 2023-24 fiscal budget for the commission. The equipment would be donated to the Rescue Company for community use. The Commission felt the promoting of CPR training is a community need and highlighted in the news due to the NFL player Damar Hamlin injury.

Boonsboro Police Department – Chief Morgan

Nothing new to report. Chief did not have an update regarding cars broken into at Inn Fit. Chief stated new officer will be graduating from the academy on February 3, 2023 – this will bring the department to full employment. Chair LaBrush requested BPD monitor the speed on Route 66/Maplesville Road near entrance to Kinsey Heights.

Boonsboro Fire Department Report – Kyle O'Connor

Thanked town for the No Parking signs on St. Paul Street – this has helped deter the truck unloading situation blocking emergency vehicle traffic. Request for BPD to monitor the Do Not Enter on Center Street. The BVFD would like to know update on crosswalks on Main Street by park and if there was anything they or residents could do to get this project done. Council Liaison Kerns reported that we are on track with SHA for Spring 2023 installation of Crosswalk lighted signs.

Boonsboro Ambulance & Rescue Company Report – Jay Metz

(via email - unable to attend) Smart 911 App. currently Washington County doesn't have the capabilities to support this app. This doesn't mean that you can't sign up. The app travels with you and if you call 911 in an area that is supports Smart911 it will populate at the 911 call center. Currently University of MD College Park and Washington DC has 911 centers that support the app. Stop The Bleed and CPR - Boonsboro Rescue Co in conjunction with the Town could set up demonstration areas at Town events, like Green Fest, July 4, Boonsboro Days. Stop the Bleed and CPR equipment is expensive, and the Rescue Company doesn't have any the equipment. Can the Town assist with the purchase or possibly submitting grants to cover the purchase of this equipment?

Council Liaison Report – Marilee Kerns

Marilee Kerns reported the town was awarded funding from the County Commissioners for the school intersection. Chair LaBrush requested the commission be kept informed as Safe Paths for School project develops and other issues concerning safety commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by motion from Rick Stevens, second by Kyle O'Conner and commission consensus.

Next Meeting Thursday, February 16, 2023 – 7:00pm Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,

Marilee Kerns