

Menomonee Falls Neighborhood Watch Inc.

www.mfnw.org

Minutes: September 12, 2019

Executive Board Present: Cathy Mariscal, Brian Fritsch, Jim Cline and Officer Jay Weber
Members at Large: Eileen Curran & Pryia Czubowski

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept by Harry Goetz; 2nd by Don Greif

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer not available for meeting; financial report shows a balance of \$4,531.97 monies are earmarked for window clings and metal signs. Each sign costs \$50; department will install. Motion to accept report by Don Greif; 2nd by Barb Hilbert

Message from the Chief: Chief Ruzinski introduced several department members present: Officers Jason Cychosz, Nathan Hall, the newest member of the police department, who is from Tampa, FL and Lt. Matt Lewek, night patrol commander. Chief Ruzinski honored Chaplain Reverend Russ Knoth with distinction, respect and esteem for his 30+ years' service to the Police Dept. The Chief clarified the existing situation between the fire and police departments. Chief recently resigned as Director of Protective Services, ending her supervision over the fire department, a position she held since 2012. She will remain as Chief of Police. The Police & Fire Commission will be responsible for hiring a fire chief. Chief reported Part 1 crime, which is major crime, is down in the village; however, there's been an uptick in part II crime, which includes burglaries. MFPD has a 30% clearance rate, much higher than surrounding communities. Chief encouraged members to attend the third week of October and first week of November Village Board meetings when police and fire will be more fully discussed. Chief stated Menomonee Falls was recently rated the 10th safest city in WI with populations over 15,000. Members were asked to get the word out to their neighbors regarding taking garage door openers out of cars parked in driveways; this is the best way to avoid further crime. Chief announced Menomonee Falls is a Dementia Friendly community; 1 in 10 Americans over the age 65 has Alzheimer's; at age 85, that increases to 1 in 2. The Purple Tube initiative has been implemented in the Falls. Purple tubes are placed in the refrigerator/freezer which contain vital information about the dementia resident regarding medical history and instructions on how to interact with the resident. Dispatchers will have a purple tube list so they can alert emergency crews to look for them. The school district has adopted a no vaping allowed standard; Officer Weber stated he has added the vaping issue to his DARE program for 5th graders. The situation with the crossing guards was remedied after the company providing them, WI Personal Protection Services, went out of business. The crossing guards volunteered to work for free until they were then hired by the Police Dept. The MFPD is interested in finding participants to do this job, which is part-time and pays \$12/hr. Applications accepted at the Police Dept.

Executive Board Report: Board met August 8th, 2019. President asked for new ideas from members regarding fund-raising.

Menomonee Falls Youth Awards: We are looking for nominations; members encouraged to be aware of deserving youth who help in neighborhood; Officer Weber also requested names to recognize.

Guest Speaker: Police Chaplain Reverend Russ Knoth acknowledged he received the Outstanding Service Award from the International Conference of Police Chaplains, District #4. He explained the duties and responsibilities of the chaplain position. Rev Russ extolled the virtues of the police department, as well as the increased risks they face, including the highest rates of suicide, divorce and health issues.

Old Business: The 3rd of July parade has need for member participation to hand out information. Picnic had good turnout of officers and members. Discussion regarding a separate law enforcement / first responder's picnic will be held next year.

National Night Out had good response. Two caravans attended 10 block parties; many young families were involved creating an opportunity to recruit new membership.

Police Report: Officer Jay Weber stated in the last 3 nights, two unlocked vehicles had their garage door openers stolen. Arrests made in burglaries at Ulta Beauty and Best Buy; arrests made for three thefts on Townhall Rd.

Buy/Sell fake Facebook ads continue to present problems, especially for electronics. Reminder to always meet at safe places to conduct transactions, e.g. public places, police department parking lot.

Lt Matt Lewek explained about accessing the **Current**, the Village of Menomonee Falls' quarterly newsletter, @ www.menomonee-falls.org/thecurrent and receiving notification by subscribing online to the **Newsletter Notify Me**.

Another good resource can be found on **Twitter @ ProtectThe Falls**

Lewek advised the suspects apprehended for robberies at Ulta & Best Buy were responsible for over \$1 million in stolen goods.

The **Current** is the Village of Menomonee Falls' quarterly newsletter. The aim of the newsletter is to concisely inform residents about some of the noteworthy things happening across the Village. The **Current** is designed as an interactive online document that allows readers to other links.

New Business: The annual Halloween Downtown Trick or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 24th from 4-7 pm. An opportunity to raise money and NW exposure was discussed. Volunteers are needed to sell hotdogs, hot chocolate, etc. at this highly attended event. The idea of selling LED dawn-to-dusk light bulbs will be discussed further at the Executive Board meeting.

Elections will be held in November for the Executive Board positions of President and Treasurer; each is a two-year term. Current treasurer, Nick Weissenborn is respectfully not seeking another term. Two Members at Large positions, currently held by Eileen Curran and Kris Ochocki are also up.

The need to generate funds for NW was raised; ideas welcomed.

Brian Fritsch and Don Greif are co-chairing a membership drive; bring-a-friend-to-meeting would increase membership.

Discussion held on how to better communicate with the community. Social media presently used – are there better ways, e.g. advertise meetings in Falls Express, include information about NW in tax bills.

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Garrett Schumacher; 2nd Toni Schumacher

Future Meeting: November 14, 2019 – meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Village Board Room