



HOLMEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

119 Wall Street W. - P.O. Box 54, Holmen, WI 54636-0054

www.holmenwi.com

Chief Shane Collins
Lieutenant Cody Spears
Email: hpd@holmenwi.com

Business: 608-526-4212
Fax: 608-526-6944
Dispatch: 608-785-5942

Village of Holmen Law Enforcement Committee April 11, 2023

The meeting of the Holmen Law Enforcement Committee was held Tuesday April 11, 2023, in the Village Hall.

Chair Rodney Stanek called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Present at the meeting: Committee members Rodney Stanek and Doug Jorstad. Also in attendance were President Patrick Barlow, Administrator Scott Heinig, Village Board Members Rich Anderson, Travis Elam and Micah Wyss. Public present at the meeting were, Karen McCathie, Jennifer Woyicki, Lisa Kind, Mike Howe, Chad Lefleur, Matt Kolasa, Lindsey Kolasa, Stan Schwier, Paul Sobkowiak, Dale A. Schefelbine, Jesse Jones, Roger Casberg, Judy Casberg, Laramie McClurg, Karie Johnson, Ryan Johnson, Pat Anderson, Diane Miedema, Scott Stettler, Ray Miedema, James Steinbrink and Becky Schukhammer.

In total, there were between 40-50 public members present but not all signed in and one signature was unable to be read clearly.

Approval of Minutes: Doug Jorstad and Rodney Stanek motioned to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 meeting. Jorstad did want to make a correction that Barb Johnson was not present at the last meeting as noted on the minutes for the March 7th meeting.

Public Comment: Mike Howe voiced support over the passing of the ATV/UTV ordinance for being able to pass through the village.

Chad Leflure spoke in support of the ordinance to not have to trailer a UTV or UTV for access to fuel or food.

Chad Herox spoke in favor of the ordinance and spoke about enjoyment of it.

Scott Stettler spoke in favor of the ordinance benefiting businesses.

Laramie McClurg noted the City of Viroqua having an ordinance and in general it being a positive thing for that community.

Roger Casper mentioned Rice Lake having an ordinance and comparing Rice Lake

to being similar in size of Holmen.

Paul Sobkowiak spoke in support of the ordinance and asked the public that were present to raise their hands if they supported the ordinance. Appeared all public that were present raised their hand in support.

Present Monthly Activity: The Committee reviewed all monthly activity.

Present Monthly Claims: The Committee reviewed monthly claims.

Municipal Court Update: No meeting

Discussion on ATV/UTV Ordinance: Heinig asked the public present to raise their hands if they lived in the Village of Holmen and about half the crowd raised their hand. Heinig provided the members present with examples of other ordinances as they had requested.

Stanek voiced that state traffic and DNR ordinances are important to adopt if the ordinance were to be in place.

Wyss asked about any liability being placed on the village if a manufacturer of an ATV/UTV advises against the vehicle being driven on a road. Stanek spoke about the vehicles being converted to street use and Heinig explained in further detail about Wyss' liability concern.

Stanek discussed the concern that has been raised about excessive noise, and that current law has that the exhaust on these vehicles needs to be factory/stock, and this law is governed by the DNR regulations.

Heinig mentioned to the board to consider whether there would be assigned routes or if usage would be village wide. Heinig talked about the example ordinances he provided covering this. Heinig voiced concerns over having users of the ATV/UTV's up and down the street in a recreational style. He also voiced that the board consider the crossing at Holmen Drive. Stanek voiced crossing HD to be ok but not riding on it.

Heinig spoke about consulting with law enforcement on the issue.

Stanek mentioned instead of marking the routes that were able to have ATV/UTV's ridden on them, to only mark the areas that were not allowed to be ridden on, as other areas do this.

Anderson asked about law enforcement's thoughts on things and Lt. Spears shared concerns over the size of Holmen and it not being a rural community like others who have this; along with what the future growth may bring. Spears discussed hoping for voluntary compliance of the ordinances, but understanding that may not be the case. Spears also noted having residents call over activity that is in fact within the ordinance, and needing to still field those calls and educate the public about the ordinance. Spears also mentioned the subdivisions within the village.

Elam spoke about law enforcement in another municipality that has an ordinance

and about speed not being enforced by law enforcement.

Barlow asked about the seasonality of the usage of the ATV/UTV's and Stanek explained his experience with the usage of them. Barlow further asked about the max speed of the ATV/UTV's and asked if higher speeds were safe. Stanek noted the vehicles being able to keep up with traffic and Heinig mentioned the max speed in the village being 35mph.

Stanek also spoke about pedestrian laws and how riders of these vehicles are to approach pedestrians.

Barlow voiced concerns over impaired drivers and Holmen being a growing community.

Anderson commented that he could see that pretty much everybody in the crowd agreed with the ordinance, but spoke about this going to a referendum and the crowd that was present not being all constituents. He also noted snowmobiles should be allowed as well if the ATV/UTV's were, and Heinig voiced opposition to this.

Elam asked Spears about the Police Department's experience in dealing with ATV/UTV issues in the Town of Holland, and Spears explained that the Town of Holland falls under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office. Heinig noted that riders from the Town of Holland however, have ended up in the village.

Wyss questioned county roads that access the village and usage on them. Heinig noted that all county roads may be accessible if the village passes an ordinance and there is also the option to petition the county roads within the village be changed for usage.

Elam asked Spears about business parking for ATV/UTV's and Spears responded that business parking was private property, and if the parking carried over to the street, that could be something to consider. Heinig also mentioned that it may result in a zoning discussion issue with a business's traffic.

Elam voiced concerns over safety if the ordinance is passed and mentioned a friend of his being hurt severely on a county road related to an ATV/UTV accident. Elam also mentioned there being helmet usage for the ordinance users.

Wyss stated that on the face of it, it makes sense (the ordinance) but he shares concerns with law enforcement. He also noted that outside of this meeting, he did not get a favorable reaction to the ordinance and that if the village was to enact an ordinance, to do it right. Stanek agreed with this.

Heinig asked the committee and board members present if they would like something more formal on where to go from here. Jorstad voiced that he would like to see it move forward at a committee level to follow the process. Stanek agreed with Jorstad. Barlow thought something clearer needed to be seen to move forward. Heinig advised he would work with the Village Attorney and law enforcement to bring something back for them to review.

Discussion on swearing in of new officers: Barlow asked if there would-be a swearing in ceremony for the new Officers. Spears advised there would be, but would not be until May or June to do a few of them at the same time.

Adjourn Doug Jorstad and Rod Stanek motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Minutes By Cody Spears, Lieutenant