

Police Committee Meeting

November 7, 2013

Meeting called to order by Chairman Coon at 6:30pm.

Trustees in attendance: Coon, Nolan, Smith, Tibbs Karker (6:45pm)

Also in attendance were Mr. & Mrs. Bergman and Mrs. McLaughlin who were involved in the matter being discussed in this meeting.

-Chief Cupi explained the events of November 1, 2013 and how it came to pass that the vehicles belonging to Mrs. Bergman and Mrs. McLaughlin were towed at the owner's expense. Chief Cupi included the steps taken by herself and Officer Kitts on the above date. Chief Cupi then referenced Ordinance 11-3-14 (Removal of abandoned motor vehicles) from the Village of San Jose ordinance book as the basis for the tow. Chief Cupi reported that the main issue was the vehicle that was parked directly outside of Village Hall due to it being left on a work day (Friday) and the limited amount of parking available at said building. Chief Cupi explained that contact with the vehicle owner had been attempted twice on said day but was not able to make contact. Chief Cupi pointed out that the only information available to her after these vehicles had been parked for over 15 hours was that the plates were valid and registered to individuals in Mason City. No other information was available for her, therefore; the vehicles were towed. The owners returned to the village and asked Officer Kitts for the tow trucks to be contacted and have the vehicles brought back to the village to which Officer Kitts complied with this request. The vehicle owners were required to pay the tow bill of \$225.00 each for their respective tows.

-Chairman Coon asked the owners of the vehicles for their statements. Mrs. Bergman provided IL state statutes that indicate if the village has stricter parking laws than the state laws, there should be signs posted.

-Tibbs questioned the needed signage and the Police Chief's knowledge of said laws.

-Karker asked questions for clarification from Chief Cupi due to her late arrival to the meeting.

-Chairman Coon voiced his opinions of the job performance of the Chief of Police being a job well done based on the information and reasoning that she had stated prior.

-Chief Cupi explained the events and contacts she had made in regards to this matter on the Saturday and Monday following the incident. Cupi also indicated that in the future similar situations will be handled differently with possibly using stickers for alerting owners of potential tow.

-Smith explained his opinion of the job which Chief Cupi had executed as being well done and recapped the entire situation giving his reasoning for feeling the potential need for repayment of the tow bill based on the proper signage not being in place.

-Tibbs and Chairman Coon had a heated discussion about the performance of the Police Chief which was ended by Chief Cupi explaining her concerns and reasoning for the events that have occurred. Chief Cupi also apologized for the inconvenience caused to the vehicle owners and for the amount charged for the tow, however; this was out of her control due to the facts that she knew at the time of the tow.

-Chairman Coon polled all trustees present on their opinion of repayment of the tow bill to both individuals involved. Tibbs, Karker and Smith indicated they would pay the tow bill back. Nolan explained that she would entertain possibly paying half of the total tow bill back due to feeling that Chief Cupi had done her job and it was up to the board to support such actions.

-There was discussion about why the tow fees were not reimbursed initially, due to the need for board action for such an amount as \$500.00.

-The following two recommendations were decided to take to the November 11, 2013 board meeting for final action to be taken:

1. Half of incurred towing fees will be reimbursed to Mrs. Bergman and Mrs. McLaughlin.
2. The entire towing fee incurred will be reimbursed to Mrs. Bergman and Mrs. McLaughlin.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Coon at 7:15pm.