

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-June 2, 2015

A regular study session meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor LaJoy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. **Roll Call** Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sneiderman, Williams, Yack Members Absent: None Staff Present: Director Tim Faas, Director Mutchler, Building Official Robert Creamer, Deputy Chief Deb Newsome, Deputy Chief Scott Hilden, Lieutenant Patrick Sullivan, Fire Chief Joshua Meier, Deputy Fire Chief Chris Stoecklein, Battalion Chief Wendy Murphy-Stevens; Patricia Esselink, Police Officer – Community Relations Coordinator Guests Present: Holly Vaughn, DNR and Marissa Babbitt, Michigan Humane Society **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Bennett, seconded by Anthony to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously. **ACTION ITEM: STUDY SESSION ITEM: PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE (PSD) Window Signage in Canton Businesses:** Municipal Services presented existing problems regarding window signage on commercial buildings, and a proposed ordinance amendment to address the issues. Building Official, Rob Creamer presented proposed changes to the township sign ordinance addressing the new types/styles of window signage now available for commercial application. These signs allow for one way vision looking out the windows. This presents a safety hazard as Public Safety Officers are unable to see inside a business when they approach. Mr. Creamer explained the process would be to consult with the township attorney to make amendment to the Sign Ordinance (Section 6A.15 Window Signs), have a review by the Planning Commission with the DDA and citizen involvement, 2 readings by the township board, communicate the ordinance changes to the business owners, implement the changes and then enforce them. Sgt. Harrison explained a criminal would rather rob a store with the windows blocked. **Public Safety Ongoing Operational and Service Quality Improvement Update:** Director Mutchler highlighted the department's engagement in the community above and beyond what people normally see as the police function. In the last couple months there was a Community Forum held. They have just completed the Citizen Police Academy. There are ongoing efforts to engage the community. **Coyotes Presentation:** Holly Vaughn, Wildlife Outreach Technician for DNR spoke on the increasing coyote population in Canton. For the past few years, residents have been reporting an increasing number of coyote sightings in the community. According to Michigan's Department of Natural Resources, coyotes can be found throughout the state, in both urban and suburban areas, including subdivisions. Coyotes are most likely to be spotted during their breeding period, which occurs in Michigan from mid-January into March. Coyotes are active day and night, however peak activity usually occurs at sunrise and sunset. Coyotes can be difficult to distinguish from a medium-sized German shepherd dog from a distance. The size and weight of coyotes are commonly overestimated because of their long fur masking a bone structure that is slightly smaller than most domestic dogs. When running, coyotes carry their tail below the level of their backs. In urban areas coyotes are attracted to garbage, garden vegetables and optional pet foods. Coyotes are opportunistic, and will prey on unattended small dogs and cats. However, because coyotes are known to have an instinctive fear of people, coyotes rarely attack humans. According to public health authorities, bites from snakes, rodents and dogs are a far greater possibility than from a coyote. To assist in minimizing a potential conflict with a coyote: Never approach or touch a coyote Never intentionally feed a coyote Eliminate all outside food sources, especially pet food Put garbage out the morning of pick-up Clear out wood and brush piles; they are a habitat for mice and may attract coyotes Do not allow pets to roam free when coyotes are present— consider keeping pets indoors or accompany them outside, especially at night Because we share the community with wild animals, a coyote sighting should not automatically be considered a cause for concern. "If residents feel they are in danger of a coyote, or if they observe a coyote in obvious distress, they should contact the police department," says Special Services Lt. Craig Wilsher. "Otherwise, residents are encouraged to follow the tips provided to minimize interaction with wildlife." Reports of a coyote in distress or causing a threat can be called in to Public Safety's non-emergency line at 734/394-5400. Emergency situations should always be called in through 9-1-1. **Feral Cat Presentation:** DC Newsome covered the following Feral Cat information with the Board: Feral Cat is not socialized to humans and not an "owned" cat Feral Cat Colony is a group of feral or stray cats that congregate, more or less, together as a unit and share a common food source. TNR is a method of managing feral and stray cats known as Trap-Neuter-Return (Release) TNR Caretaker Concerns: -Feral Cat "problem" in Canton (200 per year) -Humane society of Huron Valley (HSHV) accept "intake" unlimited amount of cats/separate room & after hours (SNR) -HSHV \$20 with contract/\$75 without -HSHV performed TNR in addition to Caretaker efforts/MHS does not provide service -Michigan Humane Society (MHS) offers TNR only on Sunday and limits the amount feral cats per Caretaker **FERAL CAT FACTS:** -No documentation supplied by HSHV -Data from Caretakers initially unorganized and offered limited facts -Not tracked by geographical locations (zip codes/geocoding) -All agreed feral cats exist in all communities -TNR efforts on-going for 8-10 years in Canton -No ordinance specific to cats (domestic or feral) -No complaints by public (feeding/trapping) -No ordinance prohibiting/allowing TNR MHS PROGRAM/CONTRACT: -MHS does offer a program (free of charge) Includes rabies vaccine Live traps for sale \$33 plus shipping. -Offers training and support for Caretakers -One Sunday a month – organized/limited -In & out the same day – no sheltering (charge to Township) If you intake an animal – laws apply 3 or 5 day hold Property of Township under shelter (Not Authorized) Do not recommend Township sponsored program Township could then be held liable (Spay/Neuter Pet) Track & monitor feral cat colonies by zip codes -MHS will work with us toward collective resources **RECOMMENDATIONS:** -Remain status quo -TNR Caretakers work with Varmint Police and MHS on collection of data for a period of one year (ID colonies/provide facts/educate)-Review Ordinances: Three Options Model TNR Ordinance (Sponsor-based) Model TNR Ordinance (Caretaker-based) Prohibit TNR completely (Livonia/Redford) Feeding & Trapping Using the MHS statistical data presented to the board, Trustee Yack asked why 50% of Canton's feral cat population comes from the area of the Wagon Wheel Mobile Home Park. Ms. Babbitt replied areas surrounding the parks are more open. Also, loose underpinning on a mobile home provides space where the cats are able to get shelter and receive heat from above. **Police Department Staffing Update:** -Restore to full-strength of 86 sworn officers Currently at 81; with 2 candidates in the background process -Re-establish the (4) member SEU Three officers have been selected for the Special Enforcement Unit Officers have completed motor carrier training & motorcycle training. SEU officers slated to begin working new assignment by September -Re-establish Community Relations Position One officer selected for the position – Patricia Esselink -Re-establish the TEAM program Currently have 7 trained officers; 3 to attend training this summer Program will be back in the schools this fall **Body Cameras:** -Need for body cameras – well-established Canton researched in 2012; put on hold for financial constraints Purchased storage infrastructure compatible with L3 System TYPES OF CAMERAS: -Over 20 types of cameras available Canton initially eliminated many based on anticipated needs Five were selected to be tested Two of the five models are compatible with existing infrastructure/software **CONSIDERATIONS/RECOMMENDATION:** -Formal recommendation to Director after testing is complete Looking at policy considerations -Financial considerations Researching alternate/supplemental funding options Approximately \$900 per camera 30 cameras = \$27,000 (approx.) **Fire Department Strategic Plan Update:** **FIRE ACCREDITATION:** -Commission on Fire Accreditation International (CFAI) -International registered agency -CPSE accreditation consortium Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana -Applicant agency October/November 2015 18 months to complete the process **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:** -Staffing update 3 firefighters hired for fire suppression John Oltman promoted to Fire Marshal Replacing 1 fire inspector position -AFG grant funded equipment Cardiac monitors – Advanced Life Support Engines Battery-powered extrication equipment in service -Ambulances have been ordered -Command/Leadership training Blue Card Incident Command Training (Command and senior firefighters) -EMU Staff and Command School Two captains -Company Officer (Leadership Development) All command and senior firefighters -Achieve Global Leadership Development Program All command -Leadership Canton One captain **FIRE PREVENTION UPDATE:** -John Oltman was promoted to Fire Marshal Extensive internally assessment process -Establish short and long term goals for the Fire Prevention Division Develop a department benchmark for occupancy inspections Internal plan reviews/fee schedule Pre-fire survey program -Adopt a new/updated Fire Code for the Township -Assist in the accreditation process Community risk assessment **HONOR GUARD** -Team was selected in 2014 and is currently up and running with 5 members -Team has performed at 3 public events including the department's awards ceremony -Great addition to the department. **Prioritized Dispatch:** **HISTORY OF DISPATCH** -1972: Fire cadets answered calls & dispatched firefighters -1989: PSSO's staffed combined dispatch/call center for Fire & Police -2005: Station #3 is opened to accommodate a steady increase in population Township is divided into 3 response districts 12 Additional Firefighters are added to the department -2015: Prioritized dispatch desired method Call volume in Canton has increased. 6121 in 2011 6487 in 2012 6624 in 2013 7387 in 2014 Projected 7700 in 2015 **CURRENT DISPATCH PROCEDURES** -PSSO's answer calls and gather pertinent information -Tone alert all 3 stations simultaneously -Shift Commander utilized the dispatched information to assign units **HOW PRIORITIZED DISPATCH WORKS** -PSSO's answer calls and gather pertinent information -Tone alert sent to station(s) based on location and incident type Pre-planned algorithms Response policy revisions -Commander has authority to override assignments **ADVANTAGES OF PRIORITIZED DISPATCH** -Consistent accurate reporting -Pre-determined response algorithms -Fully utilizing new technology (tablets) -CAD program integrating GIS Mapping for more efficient response times -Delegation of dispatch responsibilities from the command staff to the PSSO staff **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None **ADJOURN:** Motion by Sneiderman, supported by Williams to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. **Terry G. Bennett, Clerk**