

Chief Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 9:05 hours

Members Present: Chief Kilcullen, Ted Gillen, Mayor Michael Doenges & Commander Whitehead

Members Absent: John McCann and Bradley LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

Unless someone has something that wasn't presented to Nora for the Agenda. No.

Other New Business - NONE

Other Old Business

Under Old Business, we have a few things. Let's start with the Winter Parking Ban.

Winter Parking Ban

Chief stated that he doesn't know where it's at with the referral or was it referred back here from the full Board. Was it? Ok. Bob had presented that apparently Barre was looking at the same thing. They just put something in place, too. Currently in Barre from November 15th to April 1st, there is No Parking on any City Streets from 1:00 am to 6:00 am. Ours is December 1st to March 31st there's No Parking from Midnight until 6:00 am. Very similar. They're looking to make some modifications as they say it's too rigid, like we felt. It has inequitable impacts on Renters and other communities have found more Nuance solutions. Kind of like what we've talked about here. So, they've got some different rules. Winter parking went into effect this Winter will only be in effect for known or expected weather patterns that may require plowing and the ban will continue from 1:00 am – 6:00 am. Kind of what we talked about informally here, too. As we were talking earlier, I think the issue is. I think it makes sense, the issue is communication. How do we communicate that to everyone? Feel free to chime in.

Ted Gillen stated, Just what they had listed. One option being people download apps and they get text message notifications, automated emails and if they don't have smart phones, it seemed that there was a setup that could ring their Home phone, if they have one. None of these one ideas is going to solve everything for communication. An older population that is not tech savvy, we've got to take that into consideration, too. So, it's probably multiple things, depending on how effective we want to be at it and what we can afford. I think the notifications by an app is probably very inexpensive. We've also talked about having random lights at T-intersections and heavily travelled roadways and obviously that's more expensive. That we have to be in some sort of lam with a standard plaque on it that just says when light is on or flashing, parking ban is in effect. Street's department turns them all on on a Tuesday for a pending storm coming Wednesday. Just think about those lights that you see on College Campuses, you know, the Blue lights that people just press. Something like that on a pedestal and the highway manager just sends out a few guys and they turn them all on or if we could set up for it to be remote. That would be pretty costly, though.

Mayor Michael Doenges stated that it's not surprisingly that he agrees with Ted. It's going to have to be a stack of systems but it could all be administered through a single trigger. So, there are pieces in place, Municipal notifications where people can sign up for text messages or get phone calls, email alerts and the lights. I do think that we can't, in this particular community, I believe it's going to be very difficult to reach all of the population in one way. Even multiple ways is hard. But, there are, I have been looking into, There are kits that you can get like a LED light and a sign that is under the LED light that has a cellular connection which is like \$10 bucks a month to run and when you push that trigger button, you can turn all those lights on and it's all done remotely and they are easy to mount. They're solar, one of those little solar panels keeps everything charged. They are about \$4 Grand a location. So, if you want to do 10 locations, that is \$40 Grand. That might go in well with our Camera deployments, too because we want to do that at some point. Ted said that he threw out a number yesterday about putting up 6 but that was based on nothing. Mayor Doenges said that we could probably build them for 2 Grand if we wanted to take the time to do it ourselves. But I do think that it needs to be a multi thought approach. I like the text and on the sign it can even say "text to get

notifications” It can be on the same sign the light is on. You could have a QR. Yeah. Chief Kilcullen said, as far as residence anyway, if everyone has, if we do a survey or something or have a series of Community meetings. Not that everyone comes out. They’re terribly attended but if we could get some sense of what capability people have access to. If they have access to a phone, do they have access to the internet, do they read the Herald. Those three things. If everyone says Yes, then we don’t have to do lights. They are costly. It wouldn’t be cheap. Mayor Doenges said the problem is, Can we get everybody to sign up, because we don’t have everyone’s phone number, right? That’s the key. Commander Whitehead said, say along that line that you get out of State people who are here overnight. He said this happened to him in Burlington when I went to visit a friend at College and I had no idea when the lights came on that, well, my car was towed, the lights, yeah, I think it’s definitely one out of the whatever, 3. Mayor Doenges stated how many ways, well, there’s only so many ways out of the City. Ted said it’s not just in and out of the City, you’d want to put them inside at critical intersections where a lot of people pass through like at the Rutland Intermediate School. There’s certain areas where everybody is driving. Stick with like the North end of Grove, obviously the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest areas but internally, too. Corner of Grove and Kendall, maybe stick something midway on Route 7, Crescent Street or high visibility areas. Commander Whitehead mentioned at West and Merchants. Ted said that it could be 10 or could be 20. We could highlight it on a map in 5 minutes and debate it. Chief Kilcullen said that I mean, if we’re going to incur a significant expense, I’d rather have permanently mounted like sign boards, electronic sign boards. We can use them for so many other things. Mayor Doenges inquired, like message boards? Chief stated Yes. Mayor said if it’s going to be like 4 Grand. Commander Whitehead said that that would be good if we have an incident going on somewhere, we could say “Stay away from whatever area”. Ted asked if we could do a combination, not just Message boards. Maybe Message boards on Route 4 & Route 7 and lights and sign, elsewhere. I was just thinking that if we could do like 10, 15, 20 message boards, it might not be all that attractive. Chief said it would be effective, though. He said we’ll get nice ones, Ted. Ted asked what size message boards was he thinking? Not like what we’ve got. Something smaller, and they’re permanently mounted, height to be determined. Kind of like you see, the Vermont Credit Union’s got one. It’s built into their sign. Mayor said that it actually breaks the Ordinance. Chief said, does it? Well, we have to change that then if we’re going to do it. Ted said that he thinks there would be push back on a lot of those. He just has that feeling and doesn’t think that they’re very attractive. If we have them, it’s not like they’re on all the time and I only say that there might be pushback because I think they’re not very attractive and I might be the only one. Mayor said yes, that would be very effective. Both options would be feasible. Do you think we could roll this out sooner rather than later with just the basic communication and work on putting up some lights and signs maybe next Spring? Chief Kilcullen said that he thinks that we need atleast the notification system, whether it be text or. We used to use Rapid alert, it’s called, Rapid notify. He asked the Mayor if this was something he was familiar with it? He said Yes. There are a couple out there. We want one that would interact with the calling, too where you just the push one button. They do exist. Mayor Doenges said there are a couple of things that we could do. We could do a ticker on the website, we could do text notifications, Peg TV can take an RSSV as well so it could pop right up on their Ticker without any extra effort. The DPW Commissioner pushes the, essentially pushes the button and everything happens. The phone calls and everything. I’d want to try to find one that’s a little more integrated than just the texting app. That way, if we do go to a City app at some point, the notifications will come through that as well. Rapid Notify is one, Munitext, there’s 4 or 5. The Board has actually reviewed those for other Communication stuff. Chief Kilcullen asked where they are at with that because that’s the next question, Who should spearhead looking at this Communication system if it’s going to be for more than just this purpose. Mayor Doenges said that he thinks that it should be his Office in all honesty. At that point, it’s just an operational thing for the City that we can all use, like you guys can use it for certain notifications that it would be great for. We can get the brass tacks and figure out which one to use. Again, if it’s under 3 Grand for the setup of the system, we don’t have to put it out to Bid and find the one that works best for us and if the price is over that, we’ll have to do that. Mayor Doenges said that lastnight at the Committee meeting they set the new bid limit to 10 Grand. Chief said Nice, he forgot about that. Mayor Doenges said this will be better for the City. He also stated that we are still going to ask in the Purchasing Policy for people to come to the Board of Finance just to discuss it so we are aware of it but when we look at Hartford and Warner which are 20 and 25, for us to be at 10 when we were at 3 in Charter so they’ve got to take it out of Charter and move it to the Purchasing Policy so that Charter will reference the Purchasing Policy and we can adjust the Purchasing Policy. Mayor said, not to go on a side bar but. Chief Kilcullen said that we could put something together for next month but then probably need to refer it to the Committee of the Board, right? Mayor said Yes. Mayor Doenges said that if this Committee wants to rewrite the Policy to match the new Methodology

of Notify, a time based one, that should go to the Board but he could manage that internally. Chief Kilcullen said that we will put something together for next month to modify the Winter Parking ban, similar to what Barre did and referencing how the notification is made. Mayor Doenges said multiple ways of notification through visual aids, through technological communications is probably all that you have to say in there. (Something that covers the broad scope) Mayor Doenges said that one of the other things that he'd like to address, if we can, that while we're working on this and we do know that there is a gap and there are some reasons why people have to park on the street, is there a way right now that we can only ticket when there's a storm instead of ticketing consistently. He said that he knows the policy says one thing but he has the ability to suspend. Chief Kilcullen stated that we haven't been terribly aggressive with that and for the most part, I do think people do abide by it, but we haven't been aggressive about it. He said he doesn't know if anyone has written any. Commander Whitehead said he hasn't seen any, not saying that they haven't been written. Chief Kilcullen said it just doesn't feel right, ya know, when you've got no snow coming. I drive down Granger, live on Franklin and there's one particular car that is always in the Street, I wouldn't feel right. If there was a snow storm coming, maybe and it's 1 in the morning, the car is parked there and it's snowing, then likely they'll get a ticket. Sure of that, it just doesn't feel right. Ted mentioned how we talked a little bit about that last time, right? Be a little more relaxed about it and drop a warning on occasion. This is fine but if next week the snow hits, beware. Mayor Doenges said and that he thinks is maybe the way to get people to sign up. Get some of those pre printed cards and put those on peoples vehicles and. Commander Whitehead said that we used to put that out prior to the Snow ban coming into effect, just so you know is coming up, December 1st. We used to put those under the windshields all the time. So there is something you could do to get that text set up like please text X for notifications and it can have like the rules printed on it.

Some other old Business, I think it was last month, we had a request for speed signs and reducing the Speed to 25 on Meadow Street which was where the Head Start program is and we talked about how we can lower speed limits to 25. It's either City wide with an Engineering Study or first of all, looking at the State Laws, this is a Head Start program and would it even qualify. It's considered a school under Statute. The definition for the purpose of School Zones, for the purpose of this section, school zone operated Pre-K Kindergarten programs owned or leased by School District. He stated that this program is not owned or leased by the School district. Mayor Doenges asked what the concern was around this. Chief Kilcullen said the speeds on Meadow Street and the overall safety of the students coming in and out of the building. So, not just the speed but the Crosswalks, too. I think they're well marked. When you come out onto Meadow, and they've got their diagonal crosswalk to cross the street. Ted said that the Crosswalk is a terrible set up. Chief agreed and said it is into the parking lot with no sidewalk, no curb, no nothing. Ted said it is wide open. Chief stated, so there is no sign on that side because it's going to almost be in the middle of the parking lot and there's no curb cuts. It's a mess. Ted mentioned that the idea has always been to finally get this pipe in the ground on the other end of Meadow and do an entire Street scape. He said that he has been extraordinarily anxious about all of Meadow Street, this spot in particular, just about getting the right of way back, getting the sidewalk in, getting the green belt, getting a safer crossing. If this is a real serious concern, we could have atleast Meadow Street from River to Convent or a little bit further, I can expedite that project. Mayor Doenges and Ted discussed what could be done at this location and how Ted would like to reclaim an area back, how it would squeeze the road and have a safe exit and landing. He can definitely get this project done in the Spring to help out with safety there because we can't make a School zone here. Chief Kilcullen said looking at the State Statutes in terms of identifying areas to reduce speeds like school zones, it says when the State Traffic Committee, when the Traffic Committee constitutes under 19 VSA 1 determines on the basis of an engineering and traffic study investigation, this shall take into account if applicable safe speeds within school zones. Now, if you look at what this Traffic Committee is, it consists of a Secretary of Transportation or designee, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles designee and the Commissioner of Public Safety. That is not even this Traffic Committee. Ted said it's probably to do with School zones on major highways. Chief said that he is just trying to figure out everything that applie. He feels that if we lower the speed City wide, we have to have the Engineering study. That's either in Statute or Ordinances. Under our Ordinances, whatever School Zones we establish are supposed to have the flashing lights. The only one we could think of that has it is Christ the King. None of the other ones have it. Mayor asked if we could set the speed limit to whatever we want, wherever we want if the Commission votes on it. Chief Kilcullen said No, it can't be under 25 but we don't have the authority to reduce it to under 25. Under 25? Chief said if we comply with everything else, we could reduce the City wide speed to 25. Mayor asked if we could reduce in a certain

area to 15. Chief stated No. We can't reduce it to under 25 mph anywhere. That's the established State Speed Limit. We can reduce it to that but can't go below that. Ted asked, but can we just do it on Meadow Street to 25 without it being a School Zone. Chief Kilcullen said that currently, the City Speed Limit is 30. This is going back to when Wennberg was here. To reduce it to below 30, we would have to do an Engineering Study to determine the appropriateness. Short of that, what Jeff had said back then was if we did reduce the speed limit, it's just not enforceable for a 2 or 3 year period. Again, this was coming from Jeff. Chief said that he hasn't found that but this was what Jeff had said and that was when we had spoke about that when Jeff was here, 6 or 8 years ago. He was pulling that from conversations years earlier, too. This comes up periodically. That was the guidance from Jeff, Jeff's answer to that question. It's something that we could look at. Mayor said, so the question to Megan we would have is, is the City allowed to reduce the Speed limit to the State Minimum? Chief Kilcullen said Yes, correct. Mayor Doenges asked if that was right? Chief Kilcullen stated that the State is 25. State minimum is 25 and we cannot go below that. Chief said that is his understanding. We could reduce it to 25. Mayor Doenges asked, unless it's a school? Because I've been in School Zones in Vermont that are 15 mph. Chief Kilcullen said that what he has found within the school zone, if there is a Speed violation, then the fine doubles. That's the significance of the School Zone. Mayor just asked what gives us permission to lower it. Chief said that he hasn't found anything that allows us to lower it below 25. What I've found is if there are violations in School Zones that the fine doubles. Chief asked Commander Whitehead if he knew of anything? He said No. His understanding was 25 as well and anything lower was not enforceable. Ted asked if we feel in this instance that we need to have the speed limit lower on Meadow and it was asked if we had any data to support that people are actually speeding? Chief Kilcullen stated that we had the speed cart up further down Meadow a few months ago and I don't think we ever had any data that supports. Like in the MUTCD talks about not lowering in the 85th percentile and I don't think we've ever seen speeds, the 85th percentile is around the speed limit. It might be like 30.42 when you see them. The 85th percentile is right around 30. Commander Whitehead stated that he thinks doing the reconfiguring would really help a lot. Ted said we'll make the road feel narrower and calm it a little bit. I get where she's probably coming from. They are running with a chain of kids and there might be one or two people that are going to be cruising through. Chief Kilcullen mentioned seeing Traffic cones placed out, thinks it was in New York recently. It really got his attention and this might suggest to the crossing guards on Grove and Library because they make complaints periodically there about speed, too. Just having those cones there, it's like you're coming upon some sort of scene when you see all the cones out. He said it was last week, the school crossing guard had all of these cones out. He'd never really seen that before. Mayor Doenges said it's a real simple solution and it's cheap. If we suggest they put cones up, it would help. Mayor Doenges said that it would be a lot cheaper than reclaiming that area. Not that we shouldn't do that, just with the list of all your work. Ted said We do have to do it at some point. Mayor just texted two questions to Megan for clarification. What he sent over was two questions. Can the City lower the speed limit to the State minimum in areas where it designates and can the City set any speed limit it wants in the City or School Zone and what can we do from an enforcement stand point in that situation. Does that highlight? Yes. Ted said he'll tell them to get a bunch of cones and where they can put them around the whole crosswalk area, survey the whole scene and see what signs we have, speed limit. He can at least get some more warning signs of a crosswalk ahead. Get that kind of set up. That might be reasonable. We only have that one ped crossing sign on the side of the street and have nowhere to put it on the other side. They can just put some advance warning. Chief asked Ted if he was going to talk to the lady at Head Start. Ted said Yes. Chief said that if she needs us to let him know. Chief said putting those cones in the Center and two on each side really creates the Zone, well, that was the experience that I had when I came upon this crosswalk with a Crossing guard. That was the sense that he got, that he was coming upon a scene where something happened. It slowed me down. Ted said, so 6 cones or so. Chief said the bigger the better. Commander Whitehead asked what the cost of the flashing crossing signs? Ted said he thinks the last time he bought a pair it cost like 10. He said he has to order a couple more for a grant that he got, very soon, so he'll have the price then. Commander Whitehead asked \$10 thousand for a pair? Yes. That was a few years ago so could be more. Commander Whitehead said so it could be 12, 13. Ted, said plus the foundations are probably around \$1 thousand for a pair of pre-cast foundations. There are plenty of grants out there that support that kind of stuff so. Commander Whitehead said that might not be a bad idea in that particular spot. That way, they can just push the button when they go to cross and it lights up and flashes. Chief Kilcullen said and the idea with the cones is kind of like Merchants Row, who put them up? (Around the island) Ted thought they put them up and take them down every year. The Mayor said that initially it was Cones for the trial was the Regional Planning Commission. This year we put up the K1 Bollards. This was the second year. It worked. It worked great. Chief Kilcullen

asked Ted if he had any other Old Business. He said no but if he could tack on that she asked if we could do parking restrictions. Chief said that we could do parking restrictions. Ted said that he would almost think that whatever the MUTCD says the distance has to be, we could do from the crosswalk so there's good visibility for that Mid-walk. Chief said if Ted could look up what the distance needs to be and place the signs, we have the authority. It's only going to be one side of the street, though.

Mayor Doenges said that he asked Megan to get him the data by the 15th on Speeds before the next meeting and she does think that we could change it to the state minimum wherever we want, we just have to notice it 25 and it's enforceable. Speed tables are something that he has been thinking about for awhile. With the road reconfiguration, there are claims that people are going much faster on certain roads. Temple Street and Bellevue are the primary concerns that I hear. I'm wondering if those would be good areas to test the speed tables in the Spring. Personally, I prefer speed tables to speed bumps because with the asphalt, you can build it to the speed the road is supposed to be, so if it's supposed to be a 35 mph road and you build a 35 mph speed table, people can travel 35 mph without a problem. If you go any faster, that's when you start to have issues, so I'm wondering what this group thinks about this. Chief Kilcullen said that he would defer to the Engineering side to have a better understanding of when they are appropriate from the engineering point. Chief said he thinks we should put out the speed carts. Mayor said that's a great idea. Mayor said like where the speed carts show higher speeds. Chief said sometimes people speed up when they see them. Sometimes the people that live there are going to see the speeds more than we will. We had the perfect example, I think on Lincoln Avenue and had it out there for awhile and it wasn't showing what we were being told. Mayor said that he knows with him being who he is, when he sees the speed cart, he slows down to the speed limit as he sees the speed and lets his foot off the pedal. Is there a way to get the speed cart out there and not have the sign portion on and just monitor the accurate speed of the people driving? Chief said he thinks so. We can still capture the data. I think that will give us a more accurate picture of how people behave because the sign changes their behavior. I think at some point after we record the behavior, we should put the sign on and see if it does change the behavior. Chief mentioned that we have a couple that are pole mounted. They're older. Not sure if they work anymore. The tow behinds, we were getting ready to put away because they are harder to move in the snowbanks. I think next Monday we put out a request, RFB out for a storage unit. We budgeted for another shed but figured it was probably easier to get a storage unit and talked with Kim and we'll put it up there and we'll be able to store those and store equipment. If we can't get the speed carts out this Winter, we can certainly do it in the Spring. That can be our first project. Chief asked if there is anything that can be done to look at Traffic patterns for Wales and Center and all that? I can't remember who referred it. I can think of where I live where they did this. People using a road to bypass a traffic light. Temple and Bellevue. Making in a direction where it's clearly one direction, one way is the way to go and make it the opposite direction. Ted said that he likes speed tables and thinks they are effective. Thinks that guys plowing snow and Fire Chief might have something to say about them. Burlington put them in on Pine Street. They used granite curbing, granite risers. They seem to be working really well and looks great. I'm a data guy, so let's collect the data, first. Put the speed carts out. I think we have 3 speed carts, now. Are the pole mount ones a permanent pole? No. You can put them on a telephone pole.

Adjourned at 9:46

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk