

Chief Brian Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 9:00 hours

Members Present: Chief Brian Kilcullen and Ted Gillen

Members Absent: Commander Charles Whitehead, BOA Representative and Bradley LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

Guest Present: Shannon McGladrey

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to discuss Letter received from City Attorney regarding School Zones and Changing Speed Limits
Chief said he didn't remember anything in the letter about speed bumps. Did you see anything in the letter, Ted? He said no. On the Agenda, it was listed as Request to discuss Letter received from City Attorney regarding Speed bumps and Changing Speed limits. Chief asked Nora where this description came from. She mentioned it came from one of our meetings, 2 or 3 meetings ago. Chief asked if Speed bumps was a separate item because he doesn't see it in the letter anywhere. Nora indicated she didn't recall and would have to look back at the minutes but she knew it was something that was said at our meeting that she was going to write up Some information for us regarding that. So, she will look back at that and see. Nora looked back at the Minutes of December 20, 2024 and it was her misunderstanding of what she heard regarding speed tables and building them. Ted mentioned he thought it was to be about School Zones. Chief said that basically there were 6 questions that were identified in the letter that the Mayor asked the City Attorney to look at. The first paragraph has the questions and the second has the short answers. We can talk about the answers in further detail.

There are 6 items in this letter:

#1 – Whether the City of Rutland ("City") may change speed limits

Chief said and the answer is generally the City may change speed limits after conducting a Engineering & Traffic Investigation subject to the approval of the State Traffic Committee. He said he remembers going back 9 years ago when that was pretty much what Jeff Wennberg had said.

#2 – Whether the Department of Public Works or Police Department may conduct an engineering and traffic investigation

Chief said the answer, either department may conduct a Traffic investigation

3 – Whether the change requires an ordinance or policy change

Chief said the answer, A change to speed limits in the City is a policy change

4 – Whether the power to implement the change lies with the Mayor or Chief of Police

Chief, the answer, the Chief of Police has the power to change the speed limits subject to the other things we already mentioned, the Engineering & Traffic Study

5 – Whether there are requirements for the new speed limit signs and

Chief, the answer, Speed limit signs must meet the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways ("MUTCD") requirements and

6 – Whether the City may establish a school speed limit

Chief, the answer, the City may establish a School speed limit.

As I said, there is more detail further in the letter. Chief said that he just wanted to point one thing out that is not addressed here with #6. (Whether the City may establish a School speed limit) That, Yes we can. He said he didn't see anything where that answer is sort of expanded on where it addresses the ordinance where it requires a flashing beacon to be operational. So Section 4851 of the City Ordinances is titled "Maximum Speed Limit" It says the Chief of Police is authorized to designate School Speed Zones, that was sort of what the question was. He quoted "Where it shall be unlawful for any person to drive at a speed in excess of 25 mph when flashing beacons are operational." I think that's pretty relevant to this conversation. It almost sounds like you could put signs up but it wouldn't be enforceable unless those beacons were operational. Chief said he just wanted to point that out because he didn't see that anywhere in the letter. Mayor had asked City Attorney to answer these questions. Chief he doesn't know if he (The Mayor) had a desire to change the speed limit in the City or if he just wanted to know what the process would be if the determination was made, not sure. Chief said he thinks the reason the Regional Planning is looking at speeds, too. Chief suggested that we reach out to them to see what they've done so far and see what conversations have taken place. Sort of to see what the appetite is for a change. Chief said he could be wrong but he thinks they were assessing the need for it by doing a couple of things. Ted asked, speed limit change at schools? Chief said not schools, City wide. Chief said the Schools, he thought, came from Meadow Street. Ted said Yes. Chief asked, Headstart? Ted said Yes. There's also reference with respect to the Schools. Chief read, "A school encompasses multiple different meanings including an independent school, which would include a pre-kindergarten program that is not owned or operated by a school district. She had a footnote, here. (24). It references State Statute. I'll want to look at that, I didn't get a chance to look at that, yet. Chief said he would defer to our City Attorney. His recollection was that in the definition, a School, a Pre-Kindergarten not affiliated with the district, would not be included or fit the definition where we could designate a school zone. He said he would have to look at it. He said this analysis said it will include this. Chief said he needs to go back and look at that reference but bottom line is, regardless what the answer to that is, in order for that to be enforceable, "Where it shall be unlawful for any person to drive at a speed in excess of 25 mph when flashing beacons are operational." Chief said that he only knows of one other one in the City. Ted mentioned that we've talked about this on Killington, at Christ the King. Chief will follow up w/Megan, our City Attorney, just to confirm with her that that's the case, that we would have to have that in order to enforce that in a designated school zone. The other where it ties into other things where we'd have to designate the speed to be 25 following this traffic study, we wouldn't need beacons, if everything were 25. We wouldn't need those. We wouldn't need to designate it. Can't go to School zone below 25 but we could lower it City wide to 25 if we had the study done. And, if we did that, we wouldn't need the beacons at the schools. Ted said that when the Chief mentioned the Planning Commission that rang a bell. He thinks they got a grant to do a Scoping study for safe routes to schools but he doesn't think that had anything to do with speed limits. If that's what they were looking at or if they were thinking of like sidewalks. Chief said that they've been doing a few different things on traffic. He knows that on Merchants Row where they had those temporary flex poles, they were doing some speed analysis there to assess those things and the use of speed, which would lead to pedestrian safety. Will follow up with Mayor to see what his vision is and ask these questions. Ted said we need to get clarification on foot note, we would have to follow the ordinance if that ordinance is appropriate. Whether the school should have flashing or not and just have a sign. Chief said that the question too is that a lot of our tickets are written under the local ordinance because the local ordinance mirrors State Law. State Law doesn't require lights in a school zone. May have to go through and make changes at the schools. Maybe we'd have to write violation under State Law, we couldn't write it under local law. Ted said he guessed the goal would be to meet the standard that meets everything it's supposed to meet. Chief said Yes. Chief said it doesn't look like we'd need an Engineering Study to create the School zone speeds, but we'd have to have a proper sign posted. Chief said he thinks that was mentioned, in accordance with "MUTCD" and ordinance talked about

placement too. Speed limit signs shall be posted at all major streets entering the school zone, so we sort of have to go through and identify the school zone, identify placement and all that and identify how many signs we may need and the cost. Ted asked, would it be worth it to change the ordinance? Chief said we could take it out. Ted stated that the City ordinance says we'd need flashing beacons. Chief said that we could take it out.

2. Request for a speed bump or speed cart to be put up on the Dead End section of Baxter Street – Shannon McGladrey

Our speed carts are in storage. It's hard to put them out beside the roadway with the snowbank and all. They'll be coming out soon. Shannon said that we can put one in her yard. You can put one right on the corner of the street. Chief asked if it occurs between Walnut and, or the corner of Walnut? Shannon said well, Crescent would be the 4 way stop and it's next one over, Oak. She said she doesn't know where they hit the speed, she just knows when they go by her house. She said that she said 60 which I'm sure was probably really high but maybe 40, 50. She said that there's especially one black truck that really goes crazy. She said she has even seen delivery truck's flying through there. I think nobody cares because it's a dead end. Chief said that's easy enough. Like I said, we can put them up when we get them out (speed carts). We'll make sure we put that on our list. We have a list of requests. Chief said, so we will get it out there. He said he can't tell her exactly when. She asked if it will actually gauge when people are speeding? Chief said, Yes, it tracks all the data. It will track the number of cars, the time of day, and it breaks the number down, I believe in 5 mile increments. It will tell us the highest speed, the average speed, it will tell us a lot of information. Shannon asked if it does it both ways, North and South? Chief, said he was trying to think if one device does both. He said he knows that at Stratton Road, we had 2 devices out so we were able to get it in both directions. He said he wasn't sure if each device does both at the same time. Chief said he was trying to think. Ted said he thought Chief said before that it does. Chief Kilcullen said that he knows we had two out and noticed that the speeds going South were higher than the speeds going North, heading towards the hospital. Chief said that if he said that, he doesn't remember. Shannon said that she doesn't care, as long as it gets it one way. Chief said the problem with that, if it does both, we would get both. If it does just one, we would move it down to the end. Chief asked Shannon if her solution was a speed bump? Chief said from an Engineers standpoint, I'll let Ted weigh in on that but typically, no. Shannon asked what do you do to deter that? Chief said that Ted is the City Engineer. Ted said that it will be on a Case by case basis. Shannon asked, you mean on the different streets, you mean? Ted said Yes. Ted also mentioned that there's not a speed bump within the City limits. Shannon said she didn't know that. Ted mentioned that he knows that we've been having discussions with the Mayor about perhaps implementing some. Shannon said that they used to do something back in Oregon, where she came from. She said she thought that they called it a chicane, that round thing in the center of the intersection that would slow people down. She said she hated it but it slowed people down for sure. Ted said that there's a number of traffic calming measures you can do like that that are pretty expensive. Shannon said that's what she would assume. Ted said that we can look into speed bumps, we can look at if there's a speed limit sign, if one is posted there. Shannon said she didn't think there was. She also mentioned that a "this is your speed" makes people slow down, right? Chief said that it does in many cases, but sometimes the younger drivers see it as a challenge, unfortunately. Shannon said, you can give a ticket off of that, right? Chief said no, not off of that. Ted said that however the data presents itself, if the Chief is picking up on one person one time a day, maybe we're not going to spend an exorbitant amount of money but certainly find something else that is a traffic calming measure. Shannon said that she knows of definitely on truck that flies. She was going to try to get his license but she didn't think you could go off the word of somebody. Chief stated that No, we couldn't write a ticket based on it but we could potentially locate the vehicle and we could speak with the person. We couldn't write a ticket because we'd have to observe the infraction. Shannon said she could remember before, she thinks it was on Woodstock. There was a sign that said "Slow Down, this means you, Steve." She said it made her laugh. She said many times in the summer, she would do that but she doesn't think they care. Chief asked if it's a residence? Yes. The neighbor told me where is his address, I wanna say maybe it's 168. She said she's on the West side of the street so he's on the same, West side maybe 5, 6 houses down. It's like an older black truck, big

one with constructiony junk in the back and he's always flying. I assume it's a he, I can't swear. It's noted. Chief thanked Shannon for coming and she Thanked him and said bye.

Other old business

1. Updates from DPW Engineer in regards to Old Business Items

Ted stated that the sign maintenance personnel are starting to catch up on their work.

He knows that Chuck had made a request up by Clifford's. He double checked on that and gave them a reminder.

Any other new business? No.

Adjourned at 9:20 hours

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk