

**VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS**  
**Public Health & Safety Committee Minutes - APPROVED**

**Date and Time:** Thursday, September 5, 2024 - 7:00 pm

**Location:** Virtual via Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Bob Falk called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. **Roll call:** Committee members present were Mr. Falk, Bill Muehl, Robb Stankey, and Jim Rogers. Jeremy Tunis and Nadeem Afghan were excused. Shabnam Lotfi was absent. Also present was Mary & Scott Fish (Wood Lane) and Administrative Services Coordinator David Sykes.
3. **Note compliance with open meeting law:** Mr. Sykes confirmed that the meeting was properly posted.
4. **Approve meeting minutes from July 11, 2024:** Mr. Stankey moved and Mr. Muehl seconded a motion to approve the July 11, 2024 meeting minutes with one minor correction. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Public Comments** (This is an opportunity for community members to speak to the Committee. No discussion or action may take place at this time and speakers may be limited to three minutes): Mary Fish (1501 Edgehill Drive) is concerned about speeds on Edgehill Drive and the volume of traffic. She feels like there is a lack of enforcement in the Village.
6. **Discussion of police hiring and formation of the ad hoc Police Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Mr. Falk summarized the formation of the ad hoc Police Retention/Recruitment Committee. There has been concern about the turnover of police officers in recent years. There is a national crisis in policing where departments cannot find interested or qualified candidates. The Village's wages are low compared to other police departments in the Dane County area. The Village is a small community which prevents the formation of specialized teams (like SWAT), which doesn't allow officers to form a more resilient bond with the community. The constant turnover leads to the command staff and other officers working more overtime and impacts morale. Some hard questions/topics the Committee will investigate are: potential loss of 24/7 police coverage, the misconception that the Village can contract with for police services, and even if contracting was an option—how much would it cost and what would be the quality of the service.
7. **Update on the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant proposal:** Mr. Falk reported that the Village joined the Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to submit a proposal for grant funding. We have asked for \$150K to develop a comprehensive safety plan with the assistants of consultants. Some of the \$150K may be available to try some demonstration projects around the Village. In subsequent years, the Village can apply for larger amounts to implement the safety plan. The SS4A Grants require a 20% match from the Village. There are a number of other areas of concern besides just speed and volume on Lake Mendota Drive. These other areas will hopefully be identified via townhall meetings conducted by our consultants.

Mr. Stankey identified a tool linked from the Police Department's website ([www.sh-pd.org](http://www.sh-pd.org)) that identifies crash information throughout the state. It has good filters and can be zoomed down to Shorewood Hills.

**8. Report from Public Works townhall meeting with discussion on topics relevant to PHS:**

Mr. Stankey reported on the Public Works townhall meeting that was focused on improvements to Lake Mendota Drive to address vehicle volume, speed and cut-through traffic. A prevalent theme of the meeting was the perceived lack of enforcement in the Village. Coincidental to the townhall, Mr. Stankey learned that the police department has "slow down" signs available to any resident who want them and that the police department will plans to do some focused enforcement around the school now that it is back in session.

**9. Fire, EMS and Police call review:** Mr. Rogers called out the Police Chief's monthly report with emphasis on the "notable calls" section and the overall call volume. The Fire/EMS reports are only available quarterly.

**10. Future Agenda Items** – This is an opportunity for committee members to request an item be added to a future agenda. No discussion may take place on any requested items at this time and committee members should not make lengthy statements on their request.

- a. Continue monthly police call reports and quarterly EMS/Fire reports
- b. Update on ad hoc Police Retention/Recruitment Committee
- c. Update on Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant proposal
- d. Update on process of Police Chief Hiring
- e. Noise ordinance and enforcement

**11. Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 7:00 pm via Zoom

**12. Adjourn:** Mr. Muehl moved and Mr. Stankey seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

David Sykes  
Administrative Services Coordinator