

**Public Safety Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2021  
6:00 PM  
Council Chambers**

**Members Present**

Councilor Don Hamann, Chair  
Councilor Palana Hunt-Hawkins  
Councilor Chris Rice

**Members Absent**

Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson (Unexcused)  
Councilor Peter Lachapelle (Excused)

**Others Present**

Councilor David Walker  
Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Deputy Chief Gary Boudreau, PD  
Chief Mark Klose, FD  
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician  
Lisa Littlefield, 107 & 115 Salmon Falls Road  
Leah Gavin, 14 Moores Court  
Barbara Soley, 40 Four Rod Road  
Janet Berube, 11 Woodside Lane Unit 1  
Police Commissioner Lisa Stanley

**Minutes**

Councilor Hamann brought the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**1. Approve Minutes from July 21, 2021, Public Safety Meeting**

***Councilor Rice made a motion to approve the minutes from July 21, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

**2. Public Input**

Leah Gavin of 14 Moores Court was present to talk about her concerns with the trash pickup on her street. She states that her house sits right off the road and everyone from the end of the street puts their trash totes in front of her house, which she is fine with; they were doing that before she moved there. Her concern is that her trash doesn't get picked up for a couple weeks when there are vehicles in the way. She states that her family has had respiratory issues and she thinks it may be from breathing in all the fumes and bacteria from the trash; she has to keep her windows shut. There have been flies and rodents because of the trash. She was told that all they could do is request a full parking ban; she and her husband do not want to do that because they have neighbors that are dependent on this parking. She was hoping that the Committee could come up with some kind a parking ban the day and time of their trash pickup. Councilor Hamann said Moores Court is a narrow street to begin with. Councilor Walker asked if this could be treated like a school zone by putting up a "No Parking" sign with a little sign

underneath that says “Wednesday 6am-noon”, that way the police can enforce it. Councilor Hamann asked Ms. Gavin if the trash is usually picked up by noon. Ms. Gavin stated yes the latest is noon. ***Councilor Rice made a motion to install “No Parking” signs both sides of Moores Court Wednesdays 6am-noon at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** Councilor Rice understands that there will still be a little inconvenience when trash pickup is delayed due to snow storms or holidays, but this is a giant step forward in the right direction.

**3. Flat Rock Bridge Road/Salmon Falls Road Intersection Safety Concerns (kept in committee)**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson stated that he did get a hold of the survey and he saw a couple of discrepancies with what GIS says and what the survey says and discrepancies’ with the deed. He stated that he needs to schedule a meeting with the surveyor but that their schedules have not been able to line up as of yet. Mr. Bezanson said they are reviewing the property lines and the right-of-way lines to see what they should actually look like then they can come up with a recommendation. Councilor Rice asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if there has been any more complaints and if the police department is monitoring this issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he has receive a couple of emails from the original person that brought this issue forward and it usually includes a list of people on the email and it’s usually regarding the parking, vehicles will pull up to look at a car for 15 to 20 minutes then they leave The code enforcement officer usually goes out to check and they are usually gone before he can get there. This will be kept in committee so Mr. Bezanson can meet with the surveyor. Ms. Littlefield was present to talk about this request and she said she paid a survey company to do the survey and the deed reflects their findings, she doesn’t understand that piece. Mr. Bezanson said he has a few questions to ask the surveyor before they move forward. Ms. Littlefield said it has been 2 months and wanted to know when she could expect him to meet with them. Mr. Bezanson said he will try to schedule something as soon as he can their schedules have not lined up and hopes to have answers for next month’s meeting. Ms. Littlefield asked Councilor Hamann if he met with the City attorney to check on zoning issues and permits. Councilor Hamann said he has not met with the City attorney yet that he was instructed to wait to see what Mr. Bezanson came up with. He said he spoke with the City Manager, but not the City attorney.

**4. Crosswalk Request Linscott Court Apartments across Columbus Avenue (kept in committee)**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said they have a consultant looking at the Columbus/Summer Street intersection, and as part of their task they will evaluate the feasibility of such a crosswalk. It would be a mid-block crosswalk on a major state route, so if it is installed then they need to consider signage and if it would warrant a rapid rectangular flashing beacon (RRFB). Mr. Bezanson will report the consultant’s recommendations when they

are available, but the process will take months. Councilor Rice made a recommendation to temporarily take this item of the agenda since it's a major project and get the recommendation from DPW when available. Mr. Bezanson said as soon as he gets the recommendation he will update the Committee.

**5. Ten Rod Road U Turn Update**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said he did receive an update from the NHDOT. They confirmed it was up to the City if they would like to put a sign there. Mr. Bezanson reached out to the State Highway Safety Engineer and he confirmed that a "No U Turn" sign would be appropriate in this case. Also, State officials from the NHDOT Bureau of Traffic and Turnpikes Bureau said a "No U Turn" sign wouldn't be appropriate, unless there were a history of crashes.

***Councilor Rice made a motion to install a "No U Turn" sign at Ten Rod Road near Exit 14. Councilor Hunt-Hawkins seconded the motion. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

**6. Four Rod Road-Change Speed Limit to 30 MPH**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Commissioner Stanley said that there were some residents of the Four Rod Road area present to talk about the speeding on Four Rod Road. Barbara Soley of 40 Four Rod Road said she has lived there for 43 years and she said there are some real concerns about the speeding; it used to be known as a back road and a few months ago the road was paved. She stated that people can't even walk their dogs on the road and in the last few weeks people have passed her on the left hand side. She would even be willing to have a police cruiser park in her driveway, so they could see the issue. She said she can't even go to her mailbox safely. She would like the speed limit reduced from 35 mph to 30 mph. She said maybe even a flashing sign could be placed and anything else the Police Department thinks would help. Janet Berube of 11 Woodside Lane Unit 1 said she likes to walk her dog at least a mile, so she goes down Woodside onto Four Rod Road; the other day there was truck with a boat going at least 50 mph and if she didn't have a place to move over on the side they would have both been hit; she said it's awful. She said she works in Dover and they have a flashing sign on Sixth Street to slow vehicles down because there were speeding issues in the area. Commissioner Stanley said the speed trailer has been out there a number of times. She said the speed limit on Ten Rod Road is 35 mph and that's a major road and the speed limit is the same for Four Rod Road. Councilor Rice said he believes the testimony of the residents. He said that on Ten Rod Road there was a young lady riding her horse in the opposite direction and Councilor Rice gave her plenty of room there was a vehicle with Massachusetts plates on his bumper as soon as Councilor Rice got back in the lane of travel they passed him. He says it's happening everywhere and he does sympathize with the residents. Councilor Hamann said he sees it all the time because he lives on Ian's Way. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the speed trailer was out in the area of Grandview on Four Rod Road from June 17-24. Councilor Rice asked if the speed trailer was placed after the paving was done. Deputy Chief Boudreau said it was. In the 8 days it was on Four Rod Road there were 10,480 cars with the minimum speed at 5 mph and the

maximum at 77 mph. The average speed was 36.3 and the 85<sup>th</sup> percent was 42.7 mph. Councilor Rice would like the City to look at some of those blinking lights. Deputy Chief Boudreau said near where he lives in Dover they did install one; it is solar powered. Anything over 30 mph has a red slow down sign, when you are going 30 mph it thanks you. Deputy Chief Boudreau will get a cost and options for the signs for next month's meeting. Councilor Rice said in Rye they have portable ones and that's what he would like to see so they can place them for a few months to train people on the speed and be able to move to a different location.

***Councilor Rice made a motion to change the posted speed limit on Four Rod Road to 30 mph. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

**7. Salmon Falls Road-Speed Limit Sign Request**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. A resident was looking for a "Speed Limit" sign; there is one on a utility pole that you cannot see because of the shrubs. Mr. Bezanson said that there are a lot of signs in the City that are on utility poles; these signs are being reinstalled on their own posts, but this will take time to complete. Mr. Bezanson said that DPW crews may have already taken care of the shrubs, but he will check. He also said that vehicles are coming up on a traffic signal so a traffic signal ahead sign may be a better option.

***Councilor Rice made a motion to install a "traffic signal ahead" warning sign, with a "Highland Street" sign underneath at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

**8. E911 Update**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Chief Klose said the Fire Department has a new Executive Secretary, Kelly Gagne, and she is being brought up to speed on the E911 Committee. Councilor Hamann said there has been some concern about the Tebbetts Road renumbering. Councilor Rice said that at October's City Council Workshop there will be more information presented by Deputy Chief Wilder.

**9. Emergency Management Update**

Councilor Hamann summarized the issue. Chief Klose said he knows that the COVID-19 update was taken off the agenda, but he wanted to update the Committee on the status. There are currently 70 cases and the Governor's press release indicated that it could be a bad fall; worse this year than it was last year. NH Health and Human Services does not have the COVID-19 information readily available; you have to look for it. Councilor Rice asked where the City is on safety for City employees. Chief Klose said he could only speak for the Fire Department and that they have a high vaccination rate. In a month and a half the City will hold the triennial nuclear drill at the Rochester Middle School; it will happen around the end of October. Chief Klose also said that the awarding of the Seabrook Grant through Emergency Management should be awarded soon.

## 10. Other

### **661 Pickering Road**

Andrea Oliver is looking for a “blind drive” sign and a “Bus Stop Ahead” sign. She said that they have a wrap driveway and one side is really bad to see something coming.

***Councilor Rice made a motion to install a “Hidden Driveway” sign by 661 Pickering Road at the discretion of DPW at the owner’s expense. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

### **Roy Street and Madison Avenue**

A request to remove “Stop” signs on Roy Street at Madison Avenue. Due to the detour from the Strafford Square project, there is more traffic and there are vehicles running the stop sign at a considerable speed. Councilor Rice asked about speed bumps and Mr. Bezanson said that he can look into the speed bumps. Councilor Hunt-Hawkins said that this is a normal cut through to avoid the Stafford Square area. Councilor Rice said he was not in favor of removing the stop signs. Councilor Rice asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if there was an officer assigned in the Strafford Square area. Deputy Chief Boudreau said not at this time and there isn’t one scheduled to patrol detour areas either. Mr. Bezanson pointed out that one of the “Stop” signs is somewhat hidden around a curve and recommended a “Stop Sign Ahead” warning sign.

***Councilor Rice made a motion to install a “Stop Sign Ahead” warning sign on Roy Street in the direction from Washington Street at the discretion of DPW. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hunt-Hawkins. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.*** Deputy Chief Boudreau said he could get the speed trailer out there to get some data.

### **Lighting in Public Parking Lot at 536 Columbus Avenue.**

Doug Lachance called DPW regarding the lighting in the public parking lot at 536 Columbus Avenue. He said that when Dunkin Donuts closes the flood lights shut off on the telephone pole and this is causing it to be very dark in the public parking lot. Councilor Rice asked Deputy Chief Boudreau if there have been any calls in the area regarding safety. Deputy Chief Boudreau said no. He also said that the police are always in this area and that there is light from Cumberland Farms and KFC. Mr. Bezanson will check to make sure the lighting that is installed in the parking lot is working properly. No action was taken.

### **Chief Klose Retirement**

Chief Klose said that this will be his last Public Safety Committee meeting; he will be retiring in a couple of weeks and he wanted to say thank you for working to get the Fire Department back involved with the Public Safety Committee. And, he will miss them all. Councilor Hamann thanked Chief Klose for his service.

**Yeagley Way Stop Sign Update**

Mr. Bezanson said he reached out to the School Department, and received a response back from the resource officer. Resource Officer Jackson said that having a stop sign on the one way segment of Yeagley Way could back up traffic onto Wakefield Street. DPW thought there was one located there years ago, so they recently put a "Stop" sign back and painted a stop bar. Based on discussion, Mr. Bezanson said DPW will go ahead and remove the stop sign and black out the stop bar. Mr. Bezanson said there is a bigger project going on in this corridor so the engineers can look at this intersection and make recommendations.

Councilor Rice wanted to give kudos to Dan Camara and personally thank him for his work with redistricting and mapping skills; it went very smoothly. Councilor Hamann said he was very helpful since he hasn't done any of that before.

Councilor Hamann adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.

The minutes were respectfully submitted by Laura J. McDormand, Admin. Assistant II.

661 Pickering Road  
1st Driveway Entrance





661 Pickering Road  
2nd Driveway Entrance

