

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
JUNE 25, 2020
Minutes

Committee members present: Chairman Mike Timmons, Tom Kelly, Billy Fried, Russ Fisher and Mitch Ives.

Call to order: Chairman Timmons called the meeting to order at 9:30 p.m. in the County Board Room and via zoom. The meeting has been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting law and the meeting is handicap accessible.

Approve agenda: Motion by Fisher/Fried to approve today's amended agenda. All aye; motion carried.

Election of Vice-Chair:

Tom Kelly nominated Russ Fisher. Motion by Fried/Kelly to unanimously elect Russ Fisher as Vice-Chair and close nominations. All aye; motion carried.

Public Comments – Amanda with the City of Tomahawk introduced herself via zoom and stated that she was listening so that she could hear the decision made by Oneida County. Timmons reported that he received an email against issuing the permit from Jane Banning and an email was received from Supervisor Thome against approving the permit.

Large Assembly

Discussion with Bubba's Big Party Organizers regarding health guidelines and orders and compliance issues – Linda Conlon presented the guidance related to mass gatherings. Conlon stated that the WEDC has created guidance for outdoor gatherings and entertainment and amusement guidance. Conlon reported that large gatherings are a great risk for the spread of COVID. Conlon reported that the CDC has also issued guidance about the type of risk affiliated with different size gatherings. Conlon presented data regarding cases in neighboring counties, and neighboring states. Conlon presented local news events regarding outbreaks occurring after large gatherings in Portage County and with the Sheboygan Falls Church.

Keith Troutman was present and reported that they have created a plan regarding how to handle COVID-19. Troutman reported that Bubba's Bog Bash occurred last weekend and he saw a lot of facemasks and social distancing during the event. Troutman reported that there were 60 campers and attendance was low. Troutman presented historical data for attendance at Bubba's Big Party. Troutman reported that this year there are 24 pre-paid tickets. In the past they have had 648 attendees in 2017, 621 in 2018 and 654 in 2019. Supervisor Kelly questioned the impact that the bikers will already have by being in Tomahawk for the Harley Ride. Conlon stated that if this were to go forward she would like Troutman to work with the Health Department on what needs to be done. Ives asked what needs to happen to move into phase 3. Conlon reported that if the metrics remain stable (cases, spikes in cases, hospitals have necessary equipment, etc) for a length of time then they would look into moving to phase 3 which allows gatherings of 250 people. Timmons stated that he has spoken with the Nokomis Fire Chief and he had positive feedback regarding how Bubba's Bog Bash was run and has had no issues with events in the past. Fried stated that he can't support a large assembly permit at this time and would like to see the county pass a moratorium against large assembly permits. Fried also stated that he doesn't see that this event meets the guidelines for a large assembly permit and therefore wouldn't need to come before the committee. Troutman stated that he is

aware that he would not need a large assembly permit due to the size of his event, however, he has brought this forward every year so that there is open communication with the County, the Sheriff's Office and the Health Department.

Bubba's Big Party Large Assembly – Decision on 2020 Permit Application (Keith Troutman) –

Motion by Fried to deny Bubba's Big Party as presented. No second, motion dies for lack of a second.

Motion by Timmons/Ives to approve the large assembly permit for Bubba's Big Party. Fried expressed concern with approval of this permit. Timmons stated that the people will be coming and the Fall Ride is happening. Ives stated that there hasn't been a surge in COVID cases with the tourists that have come and Bubba's Big Party is a well-run event. Ives stated that this is also a private business and he can't see taking away a person's right to make an income. Fisher stated that by approving this application it allows guidelines to be given. Discussion regarding approving the permit and the guidelines. Timmons reported that he spoke with the Sheriff and they have no issues. Timmons stated that by approving the permit there is more accountability. Timmons stated that the MDA has pulled out of the Harley Fall Ride. Fried expressed concern with the message this sends by supporting a large gathering at this time. Conlon reported that if there are vendors present the Health Department will work with the vendors. Voice Vote: 4 aye; 1 nay (Fried); motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Timmons adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Mike Timmons, Chairman

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk