



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Municipal Building Board Room

138 E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Consideration of September 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- 2) Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items*
- 3) Agenda Items
 - a. Discuss Implementation of K9 Program
- 4) Future agenda items
- 5) Meeting adjournment.

***Public Comment Policy**

Members of the public are invited to speak at meetings of all Mount Horeb Public Bodies. To comment, please complete a Public Comment Form at the Meeting Room entrance and submit it to staff before the meeting begins. Comments are limited to **three minutes**, must be made from the podium, and the speaker must return to the audience after speaking.

- **Non-agenda item comments** are heard at the start of the meeting. Public Body members and staff will not engage in discussion during public comment but may consider topics for future agendas.
- **Agenda item comments** are heard during the relevant item, after the proposers or staff present the item and before Public Body discussion. All public comments on the item will be heard before any discussion by the Public Body.

Members of the public will only be allowed to speak outside these public comment times if they are invited by the meeting chair to share additional information requested by the Public Body. If so invited to speak, the member of the public must do so from the podium.

Written comments are also welcome. Written comments shall include the name and address of the submitter and should be submitted to the Deputy Treasurer/Governance Coordinator by email at niki.erickson@mounthorebwi.info (subject line: *Public Comment*)

Request-Name of Public Body) or delivered by to the Village at: 138 E Main Street, Mount Horeb WI, 53572, ATTN *Public Comment Request-Name of Public Body*.

UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT ALYSSA GAFFNEY, CLERK, AT 138 E MAIN STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI (608) 437-9404.



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Public Safety Committee Minutes November 17, 2025

1) Call to order

Nate Gauger, Ben Jones, Mike McNall, Kristen Clary, Village Administrator Nic Owen, and Chief of Police Doug Vierck.

a. Consideration of September 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve by McNall, second by Clary – All Approved

2) Public Comments – non-agenda items –

- Phil Leavenwirth spoke on the Main Street Building Project's potential negative impact
- Nichole Towell spoke on FD budget statement and approved apartments regarding safety
- Tim Scott spoke regarding funding for infrastructure and financial burden on the village.
- John Vesperman spoke regarding traffic planning and the impact of new developments and increased traffic.
- Michelle Kelley spoke regarding safety downtown and listening to professionals.

3) Police Chief Report

None

4) Agenda Items

a. Roundabout Safety

A resident asked that the committee discuss changing roundabouts to only one through lane and one turn only lane to reduce the merging issues. The committee discussed studying the need for change through our Village Engineer, but took no action at this time.

b. Downtown Parking Permit and Parking Options

Discussed options for updating ordinances to match our permit and the long-term plan to find parking solutions for downtown. Want updated language to match what we currently use parking permits for and a future discussion of other committees will look at long term parking planning.

c. Revisit Speed Limit Sign on Ridgeview Road

Discussed further information learned from Jeff Gorman. Will have Jeff Gorman put up 35mph speed limit signs in the future.

d. Study on Impact of New Developments on Public Safety

Explained how the police department plans for future growth and has met the needs of the community. Explained that a report is being worked on comparing different growth and impacts based on traffic counts, speed, and crashes. Will plan to have the report done by January meeting. Asked for feedback on items to include. Main points were mutual aid needs, demographic changes, and changes affecting shift coverage.

1. Third Street Safety Discussion

- Tim Scott spoke regarding traffic on 3rd street and safety concerns
 - Bill McInnes spoke regarding the one-way traffic question on 3rd street
 - Amanda DeSonia spoke regarding safety on 3rd Street
 - Nichole Towell spoke regarding safety concerns and issues on 3rd Street
- Chief Vierck presented photos and traffic data on 3rd street. Village Administrator stated the TID funding could cover sidewalk and safety upgrades in the area with the new development.

5) Future Agenda Items

Follow up on speed limit change
Farmer's Market
Crosswalks
Parking Ordinance Updates
Public Safety Impact Report

6) Meeting adjournment.

Gauger Moves for adjournment. McNall seconds. All Approve



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

December 15, 2025

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 3.a

Discuss Implementation of K9 Program

BACKGROUND

The Mount Horeb Police Department had a K9 program from the early 2000s until 2014. In 2014, the K9 handler was in an accident and had to retire medically. This was the end of the K9 program in Mount Horeb. When Chief Vierck was selected as chief of Police in 2020, the discussions of future plans included a K9 program being started again. In 2022 we put a deposit down to start the program, but due to staffing issues, we were unable to move forward and were refunded the deposit. We continued fundraising and since then have raised almost 70% of the money needed for the program. We have two grant applications pending and another large donation pending that would put us over the needed amount for starting the program.

This discussion is being brought forward because on 12-04-2025, Chief Vierck was notified that a dog would be available at a reputable kennel in Fall of 2026. The police department would need to purchase a squad car, specialized K9 equipment, and send officers to training for the program. All of this takes time and could make or break the start of the program. We would like permission to approve the dog for Fall of 2026 with the caveat that it is based on having the money from donations/grants available to officially start the program. We will present current status, needs, and future plans to maintain.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None