

**VILLAGE OF NORTH PRAIRIE
PUBLIC SAFETY & PROTECTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**NORTH PRAIRIE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 130 N HARRISON STREET, NORTH PRAIRIE, WI 53153
JANUARY 20TH, 2026 AT 6:00 P.M.**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 19.84, WI Stats., notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Village of North Prairie Public Safety Committee, at which a quorum of the Village Board may be in attendance to gather information about subjects which they have decision making responsibility. Notice of Village Board Quorum, (Chairperson to announce the following if a quorum of the Village Board is in attendance at the meeting: Please let the minutes reflect that a quorum of the Village Board is present.)

1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM.
2. Roll Call: Trustee Schroeder, Trustee Samules and Trustee McCormack. Also present were 67 residents who singed in. A quorum of the Village Board was present for informational purposes only. Representatives from the North Prairie Police Department and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department were present for questions from residents.
- 3.
4. Public Comment.
At the sole discretion of the Committee Chair, citizens are invited to make comments to the Committee, under the following procedures. Committee members should not be expected to discuss issues presented at this time, citizens, comments limited to 2 minutes each; in the event public comments exceed 15 minutes, the Committee will continue with the regular agenda and resume public comment after the Committee business has been completed, public comments on specific personnel matters are not appropriate subject for this forum and should be referred to the Village Office; any comments which may violate an individual right of an employee will not be permitted: **At the discretion of the Chair, public comment was opened for the purpose of gathering resident input regarding the Police Department and potential future policing options for the Village of North Prairie.** Numerous residents addressed the Committee and shared a range of perspectives. Several residents expressed strong support for maintaining a Village police department. Comments emphasized the value of officer visibility, familiarity with residents, and long-standing relationships between officers and the community. Residents noted that locally based officers are more likely to know Village youth, engage proactively with residents, and take a personal interest in community well-being. Other residents expressed support for contracting police services through the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department, stating that a contractual arrangement was viewed as a more economical and sustainable option. Comments highlighted confidence in the Sheriff's Department's staffing levels, experience, availability of backup resources, and overall operational capacity. Residents in favor of contracting noted appreciation for the Sheriff's Department's presentation and responses to questions, as well as the proposal for an assigned officer to be stationed within the Village. Reference was also made to other communities with similar contracts that have reported satisfaction with Sheriff's Department services. Some residents further commented that reliance on statutory coverage by the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department would not negatively impact their personal sense of safety or security within the Village. These residents expressed confidence that county-level coverage would continue to meet public safety needs. Additional residents spoke about the importance of considering long-term financial sustainability. These comments acknowledged the emotional comfort associated with having a local police presence, while also stressing that fiscal realities, budget constraints, and future tax impacts must be considered when evaluating public safety services and overall Village priorities. Residents also discussed police response times, with differing viewpoints expressed. Some residents voiced concerns that contracted or statutory coverage could result in longer response times depending on officer availability and location, while others stated confidence in county-level coverage and emphasized that response times may vary under any policing model. Questions were raised regarding police activity within the Village, including the nature of calls for service and types of citations issued. The Chair and Committee members provided general information regarding common police activities, including traffic-related citations, community assistance calls, and other routine law enforcement functions. Clarification was also provided regarding citation revenue. It was explained that citations issued by Village officers are processed through the Joint Municipal Court, with revenues distributed among participating jurisdictions according to established formulas. It was noted that some revenue does return to the Village, though it is not a significant funding source. A Village police officer addressed the Committee in his capacity as both a resident and an officer. He discussed his experience working for both the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department and the Village Police Department, described efforts to increase weekend coverage, and shared observations regarding response times and community-based policing. Additional comments urged the Committee to proceed cautiously before making long-term decisions. Residents emphasized that dissolving the Village Police Department could result in the loss of local knowledge, personal relationships, and community investment that they believe are difficult to replace once eliminated. During public comment, brief discussion occurred regarding fire department costs and governance. The Chair clarified that fire services are governed by a separate intermunicipal agreement and were not the primary subject of the meeting, though broader financial pressures facing the Village were acknowledged as part of the overall context for public safety discussions.
5. Police
 - a. Discussion and/or Action: discuss prior deliberations regarding the Police Department, including operational and financial considerations, and review potential options for future policing in our village. The Committee will consider and take action on opening the matter for public comment at the informational meeting to gather resident input before advancing any recommendations: **The Committee discussed prior deliberations regarding the Police Department, including: Operational structure and staffing levels financial considerations and budget constraints. Comparison of Village policing versus contracted or statutory coverage. Community expectations for visibility, responsiveness, and local control. The Chair**

emphasized that the meeting was informational only, that no final decisions had been made, and that the purpose of the meeting was to gather public input before the Committee considers any future recommendations.

6. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

January 14th, 2026

Michael P McCormack, Chair Public Safety & Protective Services Committee

It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information; no action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information please contact the Village Office at 262-392-2271.