

**CITY OF VIROQUA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

1. Roll call:

The Public Safety Committee was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 by Chair John Thompson. Members present were John Thompson, Seth McClurg, Andrew Bergum, Steve Willis, and Todd Spaeth. Also present were Nate Torres, Lori Polhamus, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Robert Raasch, Roger Call, and Howard White

2. First Period for public comment – None

3. Review and approval of January 20, 2026 meeting minutes - Motion by Seth McClurg/second by Todd Spaeth to approve the meeting minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

4. Operator license approvals – Motion by Seth McClurg/second by Steve Willis to approve operator licenses for Julia Engh, Ashlynn Reynolds, Clifford McCann, and Amy Skarda. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discussion with possible action on temporary beer license for Viroqua Fire Dept Association Annual Fundraiser on March 14, 2026 – Motion by Todd Kirking/second by Seth McClurg to approve the temporary beer license. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action on Temporary beer license for Viroqua Area Hockey Association Founders Cup Tournament on March 23-27, 2026 – Motion by Seth McClurg/second by Steve Willis to approve the temporary beer license. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on fines and towing options for on-street parking during winter snow events – we were using Legacy Towing and they have been bought by Sleepy Hollow. They no longer want to do the towing for snow events at night. The committee reviewed the 10.28.150 parking ordinance penalty section. Currently the police are giving warnings on the first snowfall with a ticket on the second snowfall and the third time would be towing for compliance. Without the towing option they would like an increase in the ticket from \$20.00 to an additional amount if they do not pay. The timeline would be in a six-month period. Motion by Seth McClurg/second by Todd Spaeth to amend the parking ordinance penalties to include adding \$20.00 for each subsequent event during a six-month period. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action on amendments to noxious weed ordinance – our Municipal Prosecutor Bruce Hart suggested the changes to make the ordinance more defensible in court. In section 8.32.010 and 8.32.020 (B) the words and/or other herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation was added. Motion by Todd Spaeth/second by Seth McClurg to amend the noxious weed ordinance and forward to City Council. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Police Department 2025 Year end report – Chief Niedfeldt gave a slide presentation and answered questions for the committee.

10. Police/Fire department updates (non-action item) – Chief Niedfeldt stated they attended the Chief's conference last week which was really good. Chief Buros stated the ladder truck is back and fixed at a cost of \$10,000. We added five new members to the department. They will be having entry level firefighting classes starting 3/10/2026. His annual report will be ready next month. Josh Brown has been selected for the Fire Captain position and will start 3/2/2026.

11. Possible closed session per WI Stats. 19.85(1)(e) -deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Fire Contract with Towns – Torres reviewed the contract with the committee. The previous contract was very old and needed to be updated. This was reviewed by our attorneys and will go to Council on Tuesday, then back to the Towns for review and the goal is to have it complete by

3/10/2026. Motion by Steve Willis/second by Seth McClurg to enter closed session at 7:31pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Todd Spaeth/second by Seth McClurg to reconvene in open session at 9:18pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. No action was taken.

13. Second period for public comment - None

14. Adjournment - Motion by Steve Willis/second by Seth McClurg to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectively submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk/Treasurer