

Public Safety Committee Meeting

November 13, 2023

In Attendance:

Members Present: Committee Chairman, Jim Engelman, Barry Mitchell, Ann Smith and Mayor Janet Winkler

Others Present: Town Manager, Jonathan Greer, Chief of Police, Richard Blevins, Lt. Brandon Nelson, and Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson

Call to Order:

Jim called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 pm.

Discussion of Complaints Received from Forest Village Apartments:

Jonathan stated that Mr. Joe Culver, a resident at 302 Kristin Ln., Apt. 2 – Forest Village Apartments, has voiced complaints about conditions at the apartment complex once again. Mr. Culver came before the Board to voice concerns in August 2022, and he has indicated that he is planning to visit the Board again at our next meeting. Jonathan stated that after the August 2022 meeting, Jim Engelman and Chief Blevins met with the apartment owner/manager to discuss Mr. Culver's concerns. Since that time, the manager has indicated that he has gotten rid of some of the problem tenants, cleaned up the complex, and spent over \$250,000 to improve the complex.

Jonathan stated that Mr. Culver is requesting information on the number of calls the Police Dept. responded to at the complex from July 2023 – October 2023. Mr. Culver commented that he was not seeing enough police presence at the complex. He added that there had been a burglary at one of the apartments, but our police officers refused to take pictures, or address possible leads for suspects. Mr. Culver was of the impression that the burglars accessed the apartment through the attic, and complained that officers did not even investigate the attic area.

Chief Blevins stated that our officers did go to the complex, and investigated the attic area to find that there was no evidence of anyone having been in the attic. Also, the resident of the apartment that was reported as being burglarized could not show evidence of anything missing, and could not specifically say what, if anything was missing.

Chief Blevins shared the following letter that he had submitted to the Town Manager concerning his recent meeting with the complex owner/manager, Vio Bot.

October 31, 2023

Jonathan Greer, Town Manager

RE: Kristin Lane Apartments

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I met with Vio Bot at Kristin Lane Apartments on October 31, 2023. Mr. Bot is the owner and has recently reassumed managing the apartment complex in the absence of his son Ben Bot.

I asked Mr. Bot how things were going in the complex. Mr. Bot said that everything was going fine. I asked Mr. Bot if he was having any problems that we could help him address. Mr. Bot said that he thought everything was good at this point. I asked Mr. Bot if he felt he was getting enough patrol from the police officers. He said yes, that he knew we came through the apartments often. I asked him if he thought he needed more police patrols in the apartments, if he was seeing enough police cars in the area and he said no, that he felt we were doing enough. Mr. Bot went on to say that he was proud of the job we had done in helping to make it a better place. I reminded Mr. Bot that we had offered to help him address criminal activity there and asked if he felt confident that he could call us. Mr. Bot said that he knew he could call us anytime.

I commented on the improvements that Mr. Bot had made since last year. Mr. Bot pointed out that he had new roofing installed, had replaced interior items, and rid the area of the trash and debris that had been lying around. Mr. Bot finished by saying that he had the driveway and parking area repaired of potholes and loose and broken pavement, with a new coat of sealant and freshly painted parking lines. Mr. Bot said that he had invested over \$250,000 to improve the complex. I commented that it was easy to see the improvements and offered to assist him as we were able to, to see that he was successful in maintaining a safe place for people to live. Mr. Bot said that he knew we were there to help when he needed us and thanked me again for what we were doing to help.



Richard C Blevins
Chief of Police

Chief Blevins presented the following report of calls at the Forest Village Apartments as requested by Mr. Culver.

**Kristin Lane
Forest Village Apartments
July 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023**

Calls for Service

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>
Overdose	1
Incomplete 911	3
Communicating Threats	1
Warrants Service	2
Domestic Disturbance	7
Loud Noise Complaint	3

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Civil Dispute	4
Assist Fire	1
Assist Medical	1
Check Welfare	1
Speak w/Officer	1
Follow-up Investigation	2
Suspicious Person	3
Larceny	2
Breaking & Entering	<u>1</u>
Total	33

Custodial Arrest

<u>Type of Arrest</u>	<u>Number of Arrests</u>
Warrant Service	2
Civil Dispute	1
Follow-up Investigation	<u>1</u>
Total	4

Officer Initiated Activity

***Routine Patrol of Area** 127

**(Logging a patrol of areas not on the checklist is not a requirement. Not all patrols of an area are necessarily logged. This number represents the absolute minimum of routine patrols.)*

Chief Blevins stated that in order to get an idea of how Forrest Village compares to one of our newer apartment complexes in Town, he presented a report of the calls for the Kirkland Avenue apartments for the same time period, July 2023 – October 2023.

Kirkland Avenue

Kirkwood Village, Pine Mountain Trace

July 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023

Calls for Service

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Number of Calls</u>
Fireworks Complaint	1
Incomplete 911	2
Communicating Threats	1
Warrant Service	1
Domestic Disturbance	2
Overdose	1
Civil Dispute	1
Trespass	1
Assist Medical	3
Check Welfare	3
Speak w/Officer	4
Follow-up Investigation	2
Suspicious Person	1
IVC	1
Keys in Vehicle	<u>3</u>
Total	27

Custodial Arrest

<u>Type of Arrest</u>	<u>Number of Arrests</u>
Warrant Service	1
Civil Dispute	1
Trespass	<u>1</u>
Total	3

Officer Initiated Activity

***Routine Patrols of Area** 117

**(Logging a patrol of areas not on the checklist is not a requirement. Not all patrols of an area are necessarily logged. This number represents the absolute minimum of routine patrols.)*

The Committee discussed the similarities of the calls for the two apartment complexes, with Forest Village seeming much the same as Kirkwood Village and Pine Mountain Trace. Chief Blevins commented that the demographics for the Kirkland Avenue Apartments are much different than for the Forest Village Apartments; however, the calls are much the same.

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Chief Blevins added that after an overdose call at the Forest Village complex, Mr. Culver called and complained about the number of officers that had responded to the scene – he thought too many officers were there at one time. Chief Blevins explained that the officers are asked to respond to the overdose calls due to the combative responses some of the victims have to the lifesaving medications that are administered. Also, if other calls come in, officers respond where and when they are needed.

Chief Blevins stated that Mr. Culver will be given the information he requested, and as mentioned before, he may be at the November Board Meeting to voice his concerns.

Update on Reports of Speeding in Whispering Pines:

Lt. Nelson stated that the Department had received several reports of speeding in the Whispering Pines neighborhood. Lt. Nelson reported that equipment was set up on Whispering Pines Drive to check the speeds of the traffic for a week, and the results were as follows:

- 450 Cars – in and out
- 45% of the cars were traveling 0-19 mph
- One car was traveling 35 to 39 mph

Lt. Nelson stated that the speed limit for Whispering Pines Drive is 25 mph, and based on this study, most drivers are obeying the speed limit, with very little evidence of speeding.

Adjournment:

Motion: (Ann Smith/Barry Mitchell) to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk