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MAKES ANNUAL REPORT TO WINNETKA COUNCIL

Village Manager H. L. Woolhiser Presents Report and Recommendations

by H. L. Woolhiser

Editor's Note: Appended is presented the fourth installment of the annual report on all branches of municipal administrative government made recently to the Winnetka Village Council by Village Manager H. L. Woolhiser. Other installments of the report will be published in subsequent issues of WINNETKA TALK.

Police Department

The report of W. M. Peterson, chief of police, has been transmitted by him to the President of the village, as this department is not under the supervision of the Village Manager. The report covers adequately the activities of the police department during the year, as well as the future needs thereof.

It will be interesting to note the following comparative statement of cost of police service and the amount of service rendered in Winnetka over the past five year period:

	1922-3	1927-8	% Incr.
Annual Expense	\$23,365	\$53,181	128%
No. of Arrests	494	351	29*
Burglaries	8	18	125
Accidents	65	222	242
Misc. Cases H'dled	2,065	2,451	19
Justice Fines	\$ 3,704	\$ 2,110	43*
Auto Lic. Issued	1,501	3,004	100
Population	8,000	11,000	37
Cost per capita	2.92	4.84	65
Av. for U. S. Cities in 1925		3.86	...

* Decrease
The problem of regulating motor traffic, which falls principally to the police department, is becoming more and more difficult with each year as shown by the foregoing record of number of motor vehicles and number of accidents. Inasmuch as the work of the manager touches this problem rather closely, it is suggested that the Council give consideration to the following recommendations:

1. Replace the present poorly located signs regarding parking regulations, now painted on the face of street curbs, by small but conspicuous signs to be attached to ornamental lighting standards in the business districts.
2. Make a careful study of streets carrying more than the average amount of through traffic, and designate such streets by conspicuous official "Stop" signs, which should be rigidly enforced.
3. Check up closely the operation of motor trucks, violating weight regulations imposed by state law; for the purpose of preventing damage to street pavements not designed for such heavy traffic.
4. Investigate the feasibility of changing the present fee system for police magistrates by a system whereby such magistrates hearing Village cases, particularly for traffic violations, be paid an annual fixed salary.

During the year a report was made to the Council on traffic conditions on Sheridan Road at the Lake Front and Elder Lane bathing beaches, which showed that for the protection of pedestrians during the bathing season, the most feasible plan will be to provide traffic signals. These signals were

authorized by the Council during the year and will be erected during the next few weeks, for operation during bathing hours, and during the bathing season only.

Fire Department

The report of G. M. Houren, Fire Marshal, is presented herewith and furnishes a detailed statement of the work of the fire department during the past year. The changes in the past five years are also presented for comparison:

	1922-3	1927-8	% Incr.
Annual Expense (incl. pensions)	\$11,748	\$31,245	166
Number of Fires	100	121	21
Property Loss	\$28,345	\$11,245	60*
Loss per Capita	3.50	\$1.02	71*
Loss per Fire	\$283.45	\$ 93.00	67*
Fire Prevent'n Insp.	167	254	52
Population	8,000	11,000	37
Cost per Capita	1.47	2.84	93
Av. for U. S. Cities in 1925		3.06	...

* Decrease
The loss from fire last year in Winnetka, namely \$11,245, is a splendid record of achievement for the fire department. A particularly significant figure is the low loss per fire, namely \$93, showing that those fires which have occurred, have been promptly checked, with little fire and water damage.

It is believed that an important factor in holding our fire loss at a low point is the fire prevention inspection work being carried on by the marshal, who has made regular inspections of business property throughout the year, as well as residential property on request. Fire prevention literature and other information have been given to the public from time to time by the department, in an effort to emphasize the importance of care in preventing unnecessary fire losses.

When it is considered that the average fire loss for the United States for the year 1926 was \$4.79 per capita, our record of \$1.02 per capita seems very favorable. However, the city of Camden, New Jersey, with a population of 125,000, has an annual fire loss of only 28c per capita, showing what is possible to accomplish in fire prevention work, when the co-operation of the public can be secured.

With the completion of the new fire station and the provision of additional equipment, the department is now adequately equipped. It is believed, however, that with the growth of the Village, the marshal's recommendation, made last year and again repeated this year, that two additional firemen be provided after October 1, is a reasonable one, and will give the Village added protection without much corresponding additional expense, as less dependence need then be placed on volunteer organization.

The report of the Chicago Board of Underwriters, revised last year for Winnetka, shows that we are now receiving the lowest possible fire insurance rates on residential property, and that rates for business property are as low as in other suburbs with reasonably good fire protection, Winnetka being in Class 5, along with Wilmette and La Grange. To secure classification in Class 4, the principal improvement necessary is a fire alarm system for the business districts, but it is questionable whether the expense of installing such a system would be justified by the saving on insurance for the relatively limited amount of business property now in the Village.

Health Department

The report of Dr. Howard A. Orvis, health officer, is presented herewith and completely covers the work of the department during the past year.

The cost of operating the health department was \$7,822, toward which should be credited approximately \$800 received from the Village of Kenilworth as their share of the cost of maintaining the department. This represents an annual cost for health service in Winnetka of 64c per capita, as compared with \$1 per capita in Evanston, 85c in Oak Park and 91c for all United States cities in 1925.

This has been the first full year for the operation of the health department under the supervision of a full time health officer, specially trained in public health work. Close co-operation between the health department and the public schools, both grade and high schools, has been gained during the year, as well as the establishment of closer relations with the Evanston Health Department and State Department of Public Health.

The work of the health department is greatly hampered at present by the inability to secure vital statistics, relating to births and deaths in Winnetka, this function now being handled on a township basis by an official at Wilmette. It is recommended that as soon as possible, the state authorities be persuaded to divide the present registration district of the township, and permit Winnetka to maintain its own record of vital statistics.

It is also recommended that the council authorize the employment of an additional part time nurse, in co-operation with the public schools and the Winnetka Relief and Aid society.

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