

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 19, 2019, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Langshaw, Vice Chair Cheryl Hannan, Gary Petrusky; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Police Chief Kenneth Bilinovich, Fire Chief Robert Chegan; **Other:** Lou Krzepina, Linda Barath, Anton Krieger, Jessica Fenos, Mike Wos.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **excuse Mrs. Hannan from voting on the February 19, 2019 minutes.** Roll Call: Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Langshaw to **approve the February 19, 2019 Safety Committee minutes.** Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. (Excused: Hannan). **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Oil Wells

Mayor Stefanik said that the spring inspections by the ODNR will start in May.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Intersection of York Rd & Albion Rd

Mr. Langshaw said that he has been receiving complaints from residents about increased traffic and congestion due to the Rt. 82 construction. He said that he wanted to have the Safety Director take a look at this and see if anything can be done with the timing of the lights or maybe a little extra traffic patrol attention. Mayor Stefanik said that he will ask the traffic unit to look at it and come up with some recommendations about what we can and cannot do and report back to the committee at their next meeting. Mr. Nickell agreed that at peak times it can be backed up almost to Wallings Road.

Jessica Fenos, 10013 Delsy Drive, addressed the committee. She said that she has spoken with residents about their frustration with the intersection and she realizes that money is a big issue when it comes to traffic lights, intersection widenings, etc. But during the peak times in the evening hours, if some one wants to make a left turn, it can get backed up to Wallings Road. On the north side there is the fire station and not everyone abides by the space that they are supposed to leave for the emergency vehicles to exit the station. She feels that it is a safety concern in addition to the inconvenience of sitting in traffic. She suggested adjusting the timing of the lights or having an officer present during peak traffic times.

Mr. Jordan said that due to the Rt. 82 construction the traffic patterns have changed and it is not surprising that there is increased traffic on alternate routes. He said that the traffic unit is looking into it. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that we have been looking at this intersection for a long time and reminded everyone that Albion School is going to close which might change the amount of traffic in the area. He said before we spend a lot of money on the intersection, we need to take this all into consideration. Mr. Nickell said that while Albion School might be closing, right after Rt. 82 is finished we will be doing Sprague Road so we will be in the same situation for another 2+ years after that. He said maybe a light with an arrow would work, if feasible. Mr. Langshaw agreed that if there is something that can be done at least temporarily it would be helpful.

2. Police K-9

Chief Bilinovich said that a full-blooded German Shepard was selected on Monday and he and his handler Patrolman Daniel McClintic will start their 10 week training next Monday at the new Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy in Marysville. He said that the car is being outfitted for the K-9 and will be available for the training. The ballistic vest for the dog has been ordered as well.

3. County Ready Notify System Changes

Mr. Langshaw said that he added this to the agenda just to make people aware that there have been some changes with the county regarding the provider of this service. Chief Chegan said that they used this system a few times last week with incidents on Rt. 82 regarding traffic notifications and the police have used it for emergency situations in the past. He said that the Fire Department also uses it for hydrant flushing notification so it is very important that we get the word out about the need to reregister for this program. He said that the new system is a better system with a lot more functions for our residents. He said that the information on how to register is on the city's website. **Remove from agenda.**

4. Discussion of Police Dash & Body Cameras

Mr. Langshaw said that Council President Antoskiewicz asked him to add this to the agenda for discussion. Mayor Stefanik said that earlier this year, we started looking at the pricing of this equipment and the available technology. He said that we have spoken with several companies including Motorola, WatchGuard, and Toshiba. He said right now Motorola probably has the best product for us and we have used Motorola in the past for radios. He said that their pricing right now is lower than the state bid, but we are still looking at other options. He said that Motorola had provided us with our two previous quotes back in 2017 and 2018 and they acknowledge that the prices are coming down and the technology is much better now. He said the one being looked at is a combination dash/body cam where it mounts onto the dashboard and when the officer leave his vehicle he can remove it from the dash and attached it to their uniform. He said it would be a 5 year lease and North Royalton would own all of the data. At the end of the 5 years, we would get all of the data downloaded to us at no extra cost. He said that at the 30 month mark of the 5 year lease, they would replace all of the equipment with new equipment. He said that their quote for 5 years, unlimited storage and all equipment is \$212,294.00. Mr. Nickell asked how many cameras. Mayor Stefanik said 30 with 10 dashboard mounts. He said that the data is all cloud based for easy retrievability and management. Mr. Kasaris asked if we would need to hire someone to retrieve and manage the data or is this something Motorola would handle for us. Mayor Stefanik said that we would have people on staff that would do this. He said that the upfront charge would be \$91,000 and then annual payments for years 2-5 of \$27,900.00. He said we are still looking at other programs and felt that they would have an answer as to which direction we are going by the next meeting. Mr. Kasaris asked if we would need to hire additional staff to handle this in house. Mayor Stefanik said possibly. Once we go through the training, we can make a determination at that time. Mr. Marnecheck asked how many police vehicles are on the road at any given time. Chief Bilinovich said we have a 5-8 at any one time. Mr. Nickell asked if the cameras will remain in the car while parked. Mayor Stefanik said that this is something that they will discuss internally but he would imagine that each person would bring their camera in to the station when they go off duty but we have not yet worked through all of the details. Mr. Nickell asked when the camera is activated. Mayor Stefanik said that it will always be activated and the data goes into a central server at the police station in real time. Chief Bilinovich said that the cameras will be running at all times, but not recording at all times. Mr. Nickell said then that the officer does not have to turn it on or off or does it start recording once the lights and sirens are activated. Chief Bilinovich said that it can be set up many different ways, including being activated when an officer draws his gun from his holster. He said that he is not yet sure how they will be setting this up and it's really up to what you need and how much you want to pay for. Mrs. Hannan asked the Law Director if we will have to modify our retention laws for this. Mr. Kelly said yes we will have to set up a schedule for these specific recording devices. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he hopes that this is something that Council is on board with and continue to have the administration look into this and report back on their decisions. He said that in today's world, everyone has a phone and a camera so he thinks it is time for us to take this step and protect our residents and officers. Mr. Kasaris said that from his experience, it will protect the city as well and in the long run will

save the city money by preventing law suits. He said that he fully supports the Mayor in this endeavor. Mr. Nickell said he too thinks this is the time for this and will protect our residents and our police. Mr. Marnecheck agreed that this will provide a fair and unbiased recording of what happened. Mr. Langshaw said that with other technology upgrades we have made for our safety forces in the past, he sees this as another tool for increased safety for our residents and Police Department. Mrs. Hannan said that she too supports this. While it is not 100% fool proof, she thinks that it is time and is a very good step forward for our city. Chief Bilinovich said that most communities in Cuyahoga County have dash cams. Body cameras for individual officers is not as common. We would be one of the first of our surrounding communities that would have both body and dash cams. Mr. Nickell said that he feels this will protect us. We have issues before us now that will result in lawsuits and will cost the city money and now is the time. Chief Bilinovich said he is in favor of anything that will help protect the community and our officers. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he did a little research on this and it was found that in locations that use these cameras, the officers' actions were shown to be justified 95% of the time. This is a good thing to help justify the cost as well.

Christopher Johnson, FOP 15 Union Rep for the North Royalton Patrolmen, addressed the committee. He said that the patrolmen do not yet have a set opinion on this and have not come out for or against this issue. He said that he came here to listen to what was being said. With the current administration and Council, he feels that they are experiencing some of the best support they have ever had. All that he asks is that all of the stakeholders be brought in on this decision as it goes forward so that the men and women who will be using this equipment can at least offer input and opinions. He said that the support from the Mayor, the Chief and Council on such items as purchasing SUV's which are safer than cars, and the new K-9 unit really shows this support. Mr. Nickell said that in his experience you get more "buy in" if you include the product end users in the discussion. Mr. Langshaw also agreed that it should be a collaborative process. Mayor Stefanik said that there is a good working relationship with the FOP and they will definitely be a part of the process.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky **to adjourn the March 19, 2019 meeting.** Yeas: 3.
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.