

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OCTOBER 20, 2015**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on October 20, 2015, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Dan Langshaw, Gary Petrusky, Steve Muller; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Police Chief John Elek, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Safety Director Bruce Campbell; Other: Lou Krzepina, Lydia Bazarko.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Muller to **approve the September 15, 2015 minutes** as received. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Oil and Gas Appeal Update

Mayor Stefanik reported that the brief from the Ohio Attorney General's Office is due next week. Once they turn it in, the city will have 20 days to turn in our brief. He said that he will update the committee next month.

2. Regional Deer Control

Lydia Bazarko, 8400 Oak Knoll Court, addressed Council. She is here because of the legislation that is to be proposed for the spring ballot for the control of the deer population. She urged that the ballot language be written very simply so that whoever reads will understand what it is they are voting on. Ms. Bazarko provided population statistics which indicate we are being overrun by deer and that they pose a threat to the health and safety of humans and urged that statistics be included in the ballot language. Ms. Bazarko provided Council with a copy of an article from the Royalton Recorder dated July 9, 2015, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Stefanik said that tomorrow will be the final meeting with the Mayors and Manager's Association group. We are also inviting Police Chiefs and Safety Directors to this meeting and at that time we are going to finalize the ballot language. He said that the Board of Elections will be at the meeting as well to review the ballot language with us. He said that the ballot language will be very clear and concise. All of the various City Council's will be receiving copies of the legislation by the end of the week and we are hoping to introduce this legislation at the next City Council meeting. All of the city's will then be voting on whether or not to put that ballot language and the initiative on the March 16, 2016 ballot. He said that the City of Olmsted Falls has dropped out; they have too many other issues they are dealing with right now, but the City of Middleburg Hts. is now very interested and they will be at the meeting tomorrow as well. Mr. Kasaris asked when Council will be voting on this. Mayor Stefanik said sometime in November or December. We will be holding an informational meeting sometime in the near future to give residents the opportunity to express their opinions on this matter, but at the end of the day it will be up to the voters to decide what we are going to do. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he is hopeful that this will be completed by the first meeting in December because it has to be to the Board of Elections by December 16, 2015. Mr. Kasaris asked if we were looking for this to go 3 readings. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that if we can get this on the agenda for the first meeting in November, it would be able to go three readings. Mayor Stefanik said that both short term and long term solutions are being investigated.

3. ODNR Oil Well Inspections

Mayor Stefanik said that the ODNR has finished up all the work that they had to do except for some landscaping. He said those issues will be ongoing between now and spring. He said that we spoke with the Callas estate, who actually owns the cul-de-sac where the Cutter well is at the end of Mercury Drive, about the gravel mess that is there. The Mayor said that ideally we would like to get this asphalted, but that was not in the agreement and they don't have to do it, but we are working with the Callas Group to get this done. He said we are also working with them to get their homeowners association turned over to the

residents in Whispering Meadows. He said that an oil well was capped in the last few weeks off of State Road behind the YMCA on the Zillich property.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Street Light for York Road near Chesapeake Drive

Mayor Stefanik said that we are working on getting a price for this. He said that the traffic unit is looking into this.

2. Fire Trucks for Fire Department

Mayor Stefanik said that last January this committee discussed the need for new fire trucks and said that we would explore this at the end of the year. He said that the Fire Chief has been busy going over the specifications and department needs. He said that this would be coming up in the next few meetings and asked the Chief to give an explanation of what is going to happen. Chief Chegan said that two of our trucks were purchased back in 1995. He said that the average age of a fire truck depends on its usage and maintenance. NFPA recommends that fire trucks be replaced after 15 years and place into reserve status. He said that our city does not have a reserve fire truck, we have 3 specialty trucks that perform different duties; the ladder truck, the rescue truck and the third being the one that holds 1,000 gallons of compressed air foam system for those areas in the city without water. He said that getting 20 years out of a truck with our run volume is exceptional. He said that we currently have the oldest fleet in southwest Cuyahoga County. He said they are functioning well, and that is a testament of how we have maintained them. He said that fire trucks are expensive and the cost is driven by industry standards. He said he has been working on this for well over a year and they have visited 20-25 fire departments to look at the various trucks that are out there and what works and what doesn't. He said that they have come to some final conclusions on our needs. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if this is something they are looking to do out of this year's capital improvement or are they planning on putting this in the budget for 2016. Chief Chegan said that the money is already encumbered in the Capital Improvement Fund, it would just need to be appropriated by Council. Mayor Stefanik said that there is a chance that we will order them this year and then we may have to come back to Council with an appropriation amendment. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if our old trucks are worth anything. Chief Chegan said not much, there is some trade in value but that's about it. Mr. Langshaw asked how long it will take a truck to arrive after it has been ordered. Chief Chegan said it depends on the manufacturer and their availability, but it is usually 9-12 months. This is why we would like to get this started sooner than later. He said they have done their due diligence in their capital fund to ensure that they have prepared for this over the past 4-5 years. He said that there is also a projected industry wide price increase and sometimes those can be 5-7%, so we would like to get these ordered before that happens.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky **to adjourn the October 20, 2015 meeting.** Yeas: 3.
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Communities will take deer problem to the voters

By GLORIA PLEVA KACIK

Contributing Writer

North Royalton continues to seek a remedy to the long-standing deer population problem. According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), "Ohio's deer herd has grown from about 17,000 deer in 1970 to an estimated 700,000 deer today, in their own publication entitled, 'Managing Ohio's Deer Herd.'" They go on to say, "Deer

may be viewed as a superb game trophy by the sports person, a prized addition to the landscape by the nature enthusiast, a threat to crops by the forester and farmer, and a road hazard by the motorist. Accommodating these diverse interests has been the responsibility of the Division of Wildlife since deer returned to the state in 1923. As Ohio's herd grew, so did interest in deer and with it came the need for a formal deer management goal.

Since at least the late 1950s, our goal has been to maintain county deer populations at a level that provides maximum recreational opportunity including hunting, viewing, and photographing, while minimizing conflicts with agriculture, motor travel, and other areas of human endeavor. In short, our goal is to provide enough deer to hunt and enjoy, but not so many that they cause undue human hardship." Mayor Bob Stefanik has said all along that

this goal should be the responsibility of the ODNR. He has been on a quest to help alleviate the deer population problem for more than a year through pressure on the ODNR to live up to their responsibility.

In a press release from North Royalton Law Director, Tom Kelly, North Royalton will join in with the cities of Parma, Parma

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Heights, Seven Hills, Olmsted Falls, Broadview Heights, and Strongsville to work with the ODNR in order to develop both short and long-term plans to manage the area's deer population in a safe and effective manner.

"Our communities have, in the past, individually approached the problem utilizing various methods but the growing deer population remains an issue for our communities, the environment and the overall well being of the deer. It is clear that the management of the deer population is a matter of regional concern which must be addressed by a joint program in coordination with the ODNR," said Kelly.

Discussions will take place over the next few months regarding protocols, policies and procedures to manage the deer population both in the long-term and the short-term. "Additionally, we will continue to cooperate with and encourage the ODNR to investigate and establish long-term and non-lethal deer management solutions," said Kelly. The city Law Directors will be working on legislation that each city will take to their City Councils that would ultimately

place an issue on the ballot next spring. Kelly said that the goal is to have the legislation completed and approved by Council by the end of November in order to comply with Board of Election deadlines for the March, 2016 Primary. "We want the voters to have a say in what we do," said Kelly.

Stefanik and other area mayors traveled to Columbus in January for a meeting with Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) officials. The message they wanted to convey is that the deer belong to the state and the problems that the deer have created are the state's responsibility. The ever-increasing population of deer caused and ever-increasing amount of damage to vegetation and increased motor vehicle collisions every year, as well as other safety issues. The meeting was set up after a request through the Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers Association. Each Mayor addressed the ODNR about the deer problems, specific to their cities.

Last fall, Stefanik introduced legislation, unanimously adopted by the North Royalton City Council that requests the ODNR to control deer populations in Cuyahoga County. That resolution followed discussion that took place between local area Mayors and Managers over the past year that was initiated by Stefanik, in the hopes that leaders from other northeast Ohio communities would join him in sending a message down state. He has referenced the Ohio Revised Code 1531.02, an Ohio law, which states that the ownership of all the wild animals that reside here belong to the State of Ohio. The resolution was not only adopted in North Royalton, but surrounding communities, such as Seven Hills and Broadview Heights, have also adopted sim-

ilar legislation. The city of Parma has introduced the same. Ultimately, Stefanik said that he hopes that, "the state will recognize that it is their responsibility and step up to the plate and take action." He said that he would like to see the state institute some sort of birth control program for the deer population.

"With this new municipal collaboration we hope to effect a deer management program suitable to meet the needs of our communities," said Kelly.

Dear Neighbors,

On Tuesday, July 21 at City Hall, 6:00pm

one of North Royalton's three committees will take up the issue of deer control. If possible try to attend. We need to voice our concern.

Thank you. Lydia Bazarko

July 14, 2015