

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2018**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on February 20, 2018, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair 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, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Ken Bilinovich, Safety Director Bruce Campbell; **Other:** Lou Krzepina.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **approve the January 16, 2018 Safety Committee minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Deer Hunting

Chief Bilinovich reported that the hunting season ended on February 4, 2018. He said that 91 permits were issued this season. A total of 193 deer were harvested, 187 were from the hunting permits and 6 were from the nuisance permits that are issued by the ODNR. Mr. Kasaris asked if there was a breakdown by ward. Chief Bilinovich said that Ward 1 had 71, Ward 2 had 41, Ward 3 had 12, Ward 4 had 6, Ward 5 had 23 and Ward 6 had 40. Mr. Nickell asked how many deer were killed via car accident or disease. Mr. Campbell said that for the year 2017 Animal Control picked up 495 deer, compared to 349 in 2016. He said that the Animal Control Officer estimates that about 100 of the deaths were due to the Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease that Ohio experienced last year. He said that we had 220 reported car/deer collisions in 2017. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if we have any information on how the surrounding community's programs are doing. Chief Bilinovich said that he does not have this information. Mr. Nickell said that the only complaints he received about the program was regarding the fee. Mrs. Hannan asked if there were certain areas in the city that have been identified as being high risk for car/deer collisions. Chief Bilinovich said that early morning and evening are higher risk times than during the afternoon. Mr. Campbell said that we do not have any data on specific areas. Mr. Langshaw asked if they Police Department could have the patrol officers keep track to see if there are any specific trouble areas and report this back to Council. **Remove from agenda.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance No. 18-18 - Strongsville Regional Dispatch contract

Mr. Langshaw said that this is the fourth year that we have participated in this regional service and asked for an update on how things are going. Mr. Campbell said that the costs have increased with this program, just like they would have if we kept this in-house. He said that we have one of the higher technology dispatch centers in the area. There are still 4 cities in our program and Strongsville is actively recruiting other communities to participate. He said that it is a constant work in progress with staffing and personnel turnover being an issue. Mr. Campbell briefly reviewed the training process for personnel. Mr. Langshaw asked if the increase is due to staffing issues or call volume, or a combination of both. Mr. Campbell said that when we started this endeavor we did not realize what it was really going to cost. When we first started it was just us and Strongsville, so our fees were a little low with Strongsville actually paying more than their fair share. With other cities now involved, they are catching up to what their fees should have been and we are hoping to see this level off. Mr. Langshaw said that we don't like seeing the cost keep going up, but what he is hearing is it would not make sense to do this in-house and we are getting much better service from a safety standpoint. Mr. Kasaris said that we were forced to regionalize because of changes with 911. We were going to lose grant funding for our equipment had we not regionalized. Mr. Kasaris said that it had nothing to do with the quality of our service and in fact our North Royalton dispatchers did a great job. Mr. Kelly said that this is correct. He said that we are aware of other efforts being made by other communities to expand their dispatch centers so we will still be looking at other opportunities as they present themselves. Mr. Langshaw said that it nice to have more than one dispatcher

at the regional center to assist with high call volume. Mr. Campbell said that some of the bigger improvements that we have realized through this endeavor are that the Fire Chief's from the 4 different cities have worked together and really improved the fire side of things. He said that our previous dispatch center in the Police Department did a very good job with the staffing that we had of 1-2 per shift, but now when we have a major incident we have a dedicated dispatcher along with ancillary help. He said that we are now doing emergency medical dispatch, whereas we didn't do that before. Mr. Nickell said that when he had to call 911 a few weeks ago, he had a very hard time hearing her because there was so much chatter in the background. Mr. Campbell said that he will pass this information along. Chief Chegan said that the dispatchers use headsets, so they can definitely hear you. The background noise is very common. Mr. Nickell said that he knew she could hear him, but he was having a hard time hearing what she was saying. Mr. Langshaw said that he encourages more recruitment of personnel and bringing other cities on board.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend Ordinance 18-18 to Council**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **adjourn the February 20, 2018 meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.