

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on February 21, 2017, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Gary Petrusky, Vice Chair Dan Langshaw, Cheryl Hannan; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Police Chief John Elek, Police Lt. James Cutler, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, Asst. Law Director Donna Vozar; **Other:** Lou Krzepina, Ed Baznik, Nicole Baznik, Gregory Bieniecki.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **approve the January 17, 2017 Safety Committee minutes**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Deer hunting

Mayor Stefanik said that the program has finished for the year. There is a meeting with the 6 cities that put the ballot initiative forward on Friday. Some of the cities want to do a little tweaking of the program, maybe reducing acreage or cost. Our program was pretty successful with the final number of deer culled being 171. Mayor Stefanik asked how many deer accidents there were. Chief Elek said that he does not have that number but said that animal control picked up at least 400 deer. He is unsure what number represents vehicle accident vs. death by disease, injury, etc.

Mayor Stefanik announced that this is Chief Elek's final Council meeting with the city. He will be retiring on March 17, 2017. The Mayor said that Chief Elek has 33 years of dedicated service to the city and said we appreciate the time he has put in.

Ed Baznik, 6160 Bunker Road, address the committee regarding the deer hunting. He said that he attended the meeting held last year at the High School regarding the deer hunting program. He said that he participated in the first deer hunting season and took 5 deer with a nuisance permit and 2 additional during the hunting season per the ordinance and the laws. He felt that the season went very smoothly and Officer Tressell who did his site inspection did a good job. He wished to compliment both the city and the Police Chief for a very well-run program. Mr. Baznik said that he participated in the City of Independence's program for 8 years as well as the City of Hudson's program. He said going forward, there are a few things that the city could do to fine tune the ordinance. The reduction of the fee and the acreage as the Mayor mentioned earlier would be things to look at. He said that the hunters were required to call the police every time they went out to hunt. This is burdensome to the hunter as well as the Police Department and this may be something that could be discussed as well. He said that he would like to participate in the discussion regarding any proposed amendments to the ordinance. He feels that he has a lot to offer. He thanked the city for the opportunity to hunt in his backyard and said that his neighbors appreciate the reduction in the number of deer in the area.

Mr. Kasaris asked the Chief to have Animal Control provide Council with the list of deer that they picked up. Chief Elek said he would do this. Mr. Kasaris thanked Chief Elek for his service to the community.

Mr. Langshaw asked if there were any instances where an applicant was turned away due to the application time period. Chief Elek said that we had to turn away some people because we set the limit at 65 permits. This was our first year and we didn't get this started until August. We wanted to keep it from being too burdensome along with our daily operations. This year we have the whole year to process the applications so it's a different story. He said that people are already making inquiries about obtaining a permit. He said that the application is on our website so they can download them and fill them out. Mr. Langshaw asked if they are revisiting the 65 permit limit. Chief Elek said that we are very happy with how

the season went and have no problem raising the limit of permits. Mr. Langshaw also thanked Chief Elek for this service to the community. Mr. Nickell said that he would like to see smaller acreage requirements considered and a slight reduction in the fee would be fine with him as well.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Ordinance 17-15 – 3rd Amendment to Agreement – Public Dispatch Services

Mr. Kasaris said that this is the third amendment and asked if there will be more amendments to come. Mr. Campbell said that most likely there will be one more. In 2014 we looked at what we could come up with as a fee. The second year it went down a bit. He said that there is an advisory committee that meets monthly and we discuss how we should divide the cost of this dispatch based on the workload that each city creates. He said that currently North Royalton is 27% of the workload and we are only paying about 19% of our share. He said they are trying to bring things into perspective. He said Strongsville was subsidizing the other cities by paying the lion's share of running this operation. The methodology that was determined for billing is to divide the cost by the percentage of work that each city is creating. Mr. Kasaris asked what other communities are involved. Mr. Campbell said they are Olmsted Falls, Berea, Strongsville and North Royalton. Mr. Kasaris asked for the other cities percentage of workload. Mr. Campbell said that Olmsted Falls is 11% , Berea is 19.5%, North Royalton is 27.4% and Strongsville is 42.1%. Mr. Kasaris said that he understands this methodology and asked how often this will be adjusted. Mr. Campbell said that they are looking to adjust it annually with a cap of a 7% annual increase. Mr. Kasaris asked who is on the committee. Mr. Campbell said every Fire Chief, Police Chief and Safety Director of each municipality involved. Sometimes Mayors and Dispatch Supervisors attend these meetings. Mr. Kasaris asked if when our current contract expires, will we then place language in the next contract to address the adjustment that we are now doing by amendments so that any increase or decrease based on call volume is built into the language in the contract. Mr. Campbell said that this is a possibility. He said that their technology director has looked at the numbers since this has started and said that the call volumes have remained relatively consistent for all communities involved over the last 3.5 years. He said that we started out in unchartered territory and it is now beginning to level off. Mr. Langshaw agreed that it would be a good idea to build something into the contract to allow for these increases/decreases without having to come back for amendments. He asked if there is sufficient capacity at the Strongsville facility for more cities to join. Mr. Campbell said that there is room for expansion in their current footprint and are looking for other communities to join. Mayor Stefanik said that we are looking at shortening the time to one year contracts in case a better opportunity comes with another community or facility. He said that right now we can opt out with a 3 month notice. He said that this does not mean we are going to do this; we are happy where we are at, but we don't know what the future will bring especially when they are forcing all the communities into centralized dispatch centers. This way we keep our options open and don't get tied in for 4 years. Mr. Nickell said that he agrees with the shorter contracts due to the constant changes in technology and maybe the ordinance can state a not too exceed percentage on the maximum of whatever we are paying.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **remove from committee recommend the approval of Ordinance 17-15 to Council**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

2. Fire Department - aerial ladder truck trade-in – Ord. 17-28

Chief Chegan said that we have had some mechanical issues with the present truck and it is still in the shop. When we signed the agreements for the new vehicle that will be arriving in April, the trade in value of the ladder truck was \$5,000.00. Unfortunately with the new issues we are having with this vehicle, the work that needs to be done to this truck just to make it trade-in worthy will cost close to \$10,000.00. He said that he doesn't see the point in spending this money at this time and recommends that we forego the \$5,000.00 trade in and move forward without spending any extra money. Mr. Petrusky asked what happens to the truck. Chief Chegan said that they are working on some alternative ways of making some profit off of this truck with the people that perform our maintenance. He said that they are making every attempt to get as much value out of this truck as possible. Mr. Nickell suggested that the city auction may be a good avenue to sell this vehicle. Chief Chegan said that we will be looking at all of our options for the best price possible. In the meantime he said that we have mutual aid agreements in place to cover the loss of this vehicle.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **remove Ordinance 17-28 from committee and recommend approval to Council**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

3. **Purchase of three (3) Ford Interceptor SUV's for the NR Police Department – Ord. 17-31**

Chief Elek said that these vehicles will replace 3 Impalas that will be cycled out and will end the use of Impalas in our fleet. He said that they are very happy with the Interceptors and have had very few maintenance problems. They are very visible and allow officers to see over traffic because they sit up higher.

4. **Purchase of one (1) Chevrolet Tahoe for the NR Police Department – Ord. 17-29**

Chief Elek said that we currently have one Tahoe and it is a sergeants vehicle. He said that it is getting up there in mileage and our maintenance is starting to increase. He said that we need one heavy duty vehicle to be able to tow our traffic trailer. He said that the existing Tahoe will be cycled over to the Student Resource Officer and his vehicle will be moved on to whatever department can use it.

5. **Purchase of two (2) Harley-Davidson FLHP motorcycles of the NR Police Department – Ord. 17-30**

Chief Elek said that the two motorcycles we have now will be traded for a very good price.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **remove Ordinances 17-29, 17-30 and 17-31 from committee and recommend approval to Council**. Roll Call: Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Petrusky thanked Chief Elek for his service and wished him a happy retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **adjourn the February 21, 2017 meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.