

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2016**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 15, 2016, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chair Gary Petrusky, Vice Chair Dan Langshaw, Steve Muller; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief John Elek, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Finance Director Eric Dean; Other: Louis Krzepina, Gloria Kacik.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Muller to **approve the February 16, 2016 Safety Committee minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Oil and Gas Appeal Update**

Mr. Kelly said that the Court of Appeals in the 10<sup>th</sup> District in Columbus has scheduled oral arguments for March 31, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. He said that he will be in attendance at this hearing.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. EMS Billing**

Chief Chegan said that there are two pieces of legislation for consideration this evening. The first one is for EMS billing. He said that 4 years ago we entered into a contract with an EMS billing agent. During those 4 years there have been some changes and one of those was rate structures. He said that we looked throughout the region to see where we stood. He said they found a few things they could do in order to bring us into the average range of EMS billing. This includes a slight increase to our BLS, ALS 1, and to create a category for ALS 2. He said in the last 5 years there have been 5 protocol changes. We have increased what we do in the field as EMS providers and Paramedics and we have increased our medication list. ALS 2 involves procedures that include administering 3 or more different medications and treatment of the very critical patients. This was started after we contracted for the EMS billing. This is reason for establishing the ALS 2. ALS 1 is administering simple medications, EKG, IV's, etc. BLS would be oxygen and treatment of minor injuries. Mr. Campbell said that it is important to note that this will not impact our residents because the billing is still going to be done the same way and what their insurance pays is what we will accept. Mr. Langshaw asked if this effected a patient if they needed to be air lifted to a trauma center. Chief Chegan said that we are not responsible for the air lift fees.

**2. EMS Debt Collection**

Chief Chegan said that it is common practice throughout the region to forgive all residents for EMS billing that is not covered by insurance. He said that we do however bill non-residents. Our billing company does not have authority to act as a debt collector. The Ohio Attorney General's Office started this program and it is being used by several other communities. For a 10% fee they will recoup these costs to make sure that the minimum payment of what is actually required goes through. The cost to us is nothing and it does not impact our residents; they take the 10% off of what we would be getting back. Chief Chegan said that we are looking at between \$7,000 to \$17,000 in extra revenue. Mr. Muller asked how much delinquency do we currently have. Chief Chegan said that they are usually just write offs and that number varies based on the type of insurance, no insurance, etc. While he does not have the delinquent figures, he said that our collection rate is above 90%. Mr. Nickell said that residents have said in the past that they pay taxes for the fire department, and yet they are billing their insurance. Mr. Nickell said that the service is valuable but this rubs him the wrong way too. Mayor Stefanik asked Mr. Nickell how he wants to pay for it. Mr. Nickell said that we are already paying taxes for the Fire Department. Mayor Stefanik said that this is to supplement what is not picked up by taxes. Chief Chegan said that none of our residents receive a bill. It goes directly towards the insurance just like when you go to the hospital. Mr. Nickell asked if he refused to send the bill to his insurance company, would the entire amount be written off because he is a resident.

Chief Chegan said that all of this follows the Medicaid laws and what is allowable for billing purposes. Mr. Nickell asked if our actual cost for services is more than \$750.00. Mr. Chegan said that this is the average cost in the region as far as what can be billed, but of course we don't come close to collecting the full \$750.00 from the insurance companies. Mr. Langshaw asked what changes they have seen as a result of the Affordable Care Act. Chief Chegan said that they have seen some reductions in certain areas, but he said we won't know the full extent until 2018.

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Muller **to remove Ordinances 16-62 and 16-63 from committee with a recommendation for approval.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Mr. Kasaris asked what the procedure will be should the voters approve the deer issue this evening with regards to the rules that the Police Chief will be administering. Mr. Kelly said that the cities that approve this measure tonight will meet within the next two weeks in an effort to coordinate a plan of action so that we are all on the same page. Mr. Kasaris asked if the rules will be presented to the Safety Committee. Mr. Kelly said that it will come to Council in the form of legislation and which committee reviews it will be up to Council. Mr. Kasaris asked if this would be in April or May. Mr. Kelly said that he does not know until we have had a chance to meet with other cities and work out the details.

Mr. Campbell reported that as part of the OVI Task Force there will be an OVI Check Point on Friday, March 18, 2016. The exact location and times will not be announced until Friday afternoon. The funds for this are provided through a county grant.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Muller **to adjourn the March 15, 2016 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**