

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2020**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on January 21, 2020, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Dan Langshaw, Vice Chair Mike Vos, Jeremy Dietrich; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Jessica Fenos, Linda Barath, Vincent Weimer; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Fire Chief Robert Chegana, Police Chief Ken Bilinovich, Finance Director Eric Dean; **Other:** Michael McDonald, Dawn Carbone-McDonald.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Safety Committee minutes of **November 19, 2019** have been **accepted and are on file** in the North Royalton City Council Office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Police Dash & Body Cameras**

Chief Bilinovich stated that they are waiting for the Finance Department to sign an agreement to get dash and body cameras from BodyWorn, Inc. Once they get the letter back, they said the turn around is usually 60 days to come in, train everybody and install all of the equipment. Hopefully by April everything will be up and running.

Ms. Barath asked if there is going to be training time for the dash and body cameras. Chief Bilinovich stated yes, that is included in the price. The company will come out and train every officer and after they do the installation there will be hands on training with all of the equipment.

2. **Deer Hunting**

Mr. Langshaw asked Chief Bilinovich when the hunting ends, at least the archery part of it. Chief Bilinovich stated it will end Sunday, February 2nd.

The numbers as of January 21, 2020:

Total of 122 deer have been harvested for the 2019 deer hunting season, which is down from 144. So, unless we get an extra 20 deer or so in the next 10 days, it will be a little less than we had last year.

Ms. Barath asked if Chief Bilinovich has this total broken down by ward.

Chief Bilinovich stated the following:

Ward 1 – 56
Ward 2 – 7
Ward 3 – 14
Ward 4 – 8
Ward 5 – 8
Ward 6 – 29

Total: 122 deer culled this season so far

Mr. Marnecheck asked if the Chief has anything he would like to change or lessons learned in this season regarding the deer program. Chief Bilinovich stated no, it has been a very quiet error free season. One thing it has shown is we are either running out of deer or maybe the novelty has worn off. We have gone from 2017 – 193 total deer harvested, last year 144, and 2019 - 122.

Mr. Marnecheck asked how does that compare to the number of permits. Chief Bilinovich said this year we issued 85 permits, last year we issued 83 and 2017 we issued 91. So even the permits have gone down slightly. Mr. Marnecheck asked if each person is allowed to take 10 deer. Chief Bilinovich stated yes, they have to take 2 antlerless deer first before, then take 1 with antlers. Mr. Marnecheck asked if that also is known as a doe. Chief Bilinovich stated yes, only female deer do not have horns, but baby and young male deer do not have horns either. Chief Bilinovich stated he is comfortable with the program, but the biggest gripe we have still is the cost of the permits though we are still getting 80-90 people that still want to come out and hunt in North Royalton. We do have to inspect all of the stands personally. Chief Bilinovich stated he sends officers out to inspect the stands, also to make sure they fit our parameters. He believes as this goes on people will most likely drop out but you will still have hard core people still out there hunting.

Mr. Marnecheck asked that Chief Bilinovich share how many of these permits were repeat individuals. The Chief said he will check with Nancy Maceyko, but he would assume of those 122 deer culled, at least 115-120 have been hunting the year before.

Mr. Dietrich stated the deer did not run out of North Royalton. They are still here. He stated that the Chief had brought up the price and he is somewhat familiar with the other cities due to knowing other

individuals that hunt and follow the same rules that we do. He believes that the permit price should be dropped and if we did, he foresees the numbers would go up. You would have to inspect more stands and there would be a cost to it. He also believes that in a way this was adopted, his understanding we are doing a favor to the city and the deer are being culled and thinning the herd and that was the whole point of it. He thinks we should look into reducing the permit fee down the road.

Ms. Fenos asked if Chief Bilinovich has noticed a reduction in any deer related vehicle accidents. Chief Bilinovich stated he would have to get that information, but he believes we still have a lot of car/deer accidents. Maybe not the extent of what we had 2-3 years ago but he will have the information to the Committee at the next meeting for the whole year of 2019.

Mr. Weimer asked Chief Bilinovich if he is able to get a cost break down of each hunter to get their tree stands certified, etc. so we are able to look at that vs. what we charge for the hunting permit. Chief Bilinovich stated he will look into how much it costs to go and look at the deer stand, how far they are off the road. Mr. Weimer stated the Chief said at the last meeting it usually takes a couple of hours.

Mr. Langshaw stated that the Committee should revisit the fee structure due to concerns from Council at the February Safety Committee meeting. He asked that the members of Council if they have any suggestions or feedback that would be an appropriate time, since it will be the end of the hunting season in February.

Mr. Dietrich asked Chief Bilinovich when the hunter has to have everything submitted over to the city. Chief Bilinovich said deer hunting starts September 30, 2020 but all of the permits need to be in by August 15, 2020. After all are received the officers will go out and inspect the sites.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ISO Public Protection Classification

Chief Chegan stated the handout for this topic gives basic information on ISO. It's an organization that helps the insurance industry establish appropriate fire insurance rates/premiums for residential and commercial properties, mostly commercial. They provide that information through the Public Protection Classification program. The fire departments are audited every 5 years on this. The origin of this goes back to the early 1900s when the US cities suffered major fire losses in New York, Chicago, a lot of the metropolitan areas that devastated blocks. In Cleveland we had a large fire in the 1920s that incorporated the Cleveland Clinic property on the east side. It destroyed billions of dollars' worth even back then. In the aftermath, the insurance companies realized that they needed advance information on the fire loss characteristics of individual communities. The response of these large cities to improve fire protection services. Basically, ISO gives credible data to help them develop premiums that reflect in risk of loss in a particular location or community. ISO collects that information on municipal fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States and in each of these communities ISO analyzes relevant data using of the fire suppression rating schedule and it includes 3 elements; 1) water supply and fire flow; that literally is determined by Cleveland Water and the water system that we are supplied by. There is no scoring that we have to do, they receive that data right from Cleveland Water. Our water system scores relatively high with that. It also is based on we conduct our inspections, testing of the hydrants and fire flows when we do our pre plans of certain buildings. We have preplanned 50 of our highest hazard buildings including our schools and municipal buildings; 2) emergency communications; that element rates our emergency reporting and our dispatch center; 3) review of the Fire Department; includes apparatus, employment, personnel training and operational considerations.

This report is not a total reflection of the Fire Department's operational efficiency. The efficiency is based on the needs of the community, the economy, National Fire Protection Association standards, training and best practice. Some of these aspects of the Fire Department operation are not included in this report, for example; EMS is not part of fire protection. Another example is the people we have and their ability through training and preparedness to fight structure fires. Again, this program is for Fire Protection only that the insurance industry utilizes. Some may call it paper compliance but we have identified the ISO report assigns a Public Protection Classification number from 1 – 10 with 1 being the best. Our department had its assessment back in October of last year and I am proud to report that Our Fire Department received a Classification of 3*, which improved our departments rating. Our previous rating was a "mid" 4 in which that number improved from a 5 in 2014. I have evaluated the report and slightly disagree with their findings in Emergency Communications. I contacted both ISO & SWEDC with our findings and see no reason .3 out of the .52 points (IF NOT ALL) in Emergency Communications should not have been awarded. ISO is presently evaluating the request. The reason is that we are .48 away from an ISO 2 rating. So, our ISO Class 3 Protection rating is an extremely high one. Presently, less than 6-8% of all Fire Departments rated throughout the country has a rating less than ours. This improvement would not have been possible without the complete cooperation, effort and determination of the members of our department. The caveat though is that numerous extra hours were put forth last year in preparation for this report and to improve fire department operations. This was not an easy task with the day to day operations that we currently have in place. The Fire Department has and will continue to improve the services that we provide to our residents each and

every day. I do stress thought that the ISO rating does not dictate the progress and direction of the Fire Department but is an important tool that our community can benefit from.

- Positives: Dispatch, SOP, Training, IMS, Public Fire Safety Education, Auto Aid agreement for water supply
- Negatives: Number of personnel (8 points), service area coverage/ability to respond/times, deployment analysis (5 points), training
- The demographics of our city are unique to other cities in Cuyahoga County.
- North Royalton is the third largest city land wise in Cuyahoga County protecting approx. 33,000 resident and over 10,000 structures. Only 6 or 7 other cities are more populated and Only 13 other cities in the county protect more structures. But only 2 cities cover more land.
- New emphasis on a community's efforts to limit loss before an actual fire. We are striving to be more proactive in Fire Prevention to make this happen and our staff has made good strides since the Inspector position was re-instated.
- Most insurers use PPC as part of their writing practice but it is not guaranteed
- We encourage our businesses to contact their insurance companies to see if the ISO rating will help in reducing rates

2. FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS)

Chief Chegan distributed information to the Committee on this line item. He stated NIMS is the National Incident Management System and this is how we basically operate as emergency responders in a local level and as the incident escalates in an all hazards level. It gives us guidance, common terminology, action plans, integrated communications, a lot of people are working in the background, unified commands between Police and Fire, accountability, span of control, and modular organization as we run an emergency incident. A lot of this started through the Department of Homeland Security in 2004. It mostly stemmed from 9/11 on a national level which started this. It involves the Incident Command System on how we operate and that goes back to the late 1960s. There were a lot of wildland fires in California which need an accountability system to direct these large responses. A resolution was passed in 2012 that approved the adoption of the Office of Emergency Management of Cuyahoga County. With that adoption, that resolution and the work that we do with the county we are NIMS compliant. Also, a part of NIMS compliance is training. On the safety forces side, both police and fire have had to take numerous classes and courses.

Chief Chegan said the NIMS online course will be sent to Council – 2 courses; 100 course and 700 Course. He stated it will give Council a background of how we operate.

Ms. Fenos asked if any of these courses provided give credit towards CERT. Chief Chegan stated yes, these courses are part of the CERT training.

Remove from agenda**3. Issue 1 Funding – Traffic Study**

Mr. Langshaw stated that he believes this topic should read Traffic Study. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that NOACA did a crash evaluation study on York and Albion roads and the other was Royalwood Road and Julia Drive intersection. NOACA also provided the main crash studies from 2014-2018. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated most of the accidents are on Rte. 82. York and Albion there have been 44 crashes from 2014-2018 most of which were rear end collisions. There were no serious crashes there. Royalwood and Julia show the same. York and Albion roads are the 4th in the city for the most accidents. The recommendations from NOACA state that if the city was thinking of widening and that with the fire station there it would have to be done on the east side, not on the west side. A less costly interim approach might be to add a 3rd signal to the existing traffic signal to add a leading left turn phase, but they are also suggesting going thru an operational analysis first to see if the amount of traffic there warranted doing anything like that. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated at the intersection of Royalwood and Julia, there is no solution, unless you want to buy that corner and straighten out the intersection. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that the most crash activity at York and Albion is between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Change topic to Traffic Study per Mr. Langshaw

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Antoskiewicz stated that Ordinances 20-32 and 20-33 are on tonight's Council Agenda regarding the Safety Director position. This will be eliminating the compliment of the Safety Director. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated Mr. Campbell is retiring out of that position and after talking with both Chief's, he made the decision to not replace this position within the city. Both Chief Bilinovich and Chief Chegan have a very good handle on what they have been doing and what we have been doing. The city has to have a Safety Director, so Mayor Antoskiewicz stated he will assume that role without any additional compensation. He will be taking on that and the extra title and whatever additional duties might be. The additional duties should not be all that significant because both Chiefs handle a lot of what those duties are already. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated he does not have any issues with things moving just as well as they have been, if not better.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the January 21, 2020 meeting.** Yeas: 3
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.