

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2019

The Safety Committee meeting was held on April 16, 2019, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Langshaw, Vice Chair Cheryl Hannan, **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Police Chief Kenneth Bilinovich, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Finance Director Eric Dean, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, Community Development Director Thomas Jordan; **Other:** Linda Barath, Jessica Fenos, Jeremy Dietrich, Sherry Olecki.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **excuse Mr. Petrusky**. Roll Call: Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan to **approve the March 19, 2019 Safety Committee minutes**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Oil Wells

Mayor Stefanik said that we had a visit from the ODNR today and they are going to start the inspections of the wells within the next few weeks. Chief Chegan said that he met today with the regional supervisor and the local inspector. He said that we have 32 active wells in the city and 14 that have not yet been drilled. He said that the ODNR will look at the safety measures and security of each well and ensure that visual aesthetics as well. He expects to receive a detailed report on each well. He said that the ODNR is looking into capping the wells that are not producing or have been abandoned. We want to make sure that these are identified and capped in order to prevent potential future hazards. Mr. Marnecheck asked if we have good contact information for the wells that are active. Chief Chegan said yes, he has a folder for each well and this information is digitally in place on a map on all of the rigs with contact and emergency numbers and information. He said that if there is a problem, he will be notified right away as well as the Mayor so that we are aware of what is happening.

2. Intersection of York Rd & Albion Rd

Chief Bilinovich said that Patrolman Cerrito who is involved with the traffic engineering in the city spoke with Todd Zima who is affiliated with the County Engineer's Office, and DiGioia Bros. who is doing a lot of work in the community. They gave us an estimate of between \$1.8 million and \$2 million to improve the intersection. Of course, there are a lot of variables depending on what needs to be done, but due to the right of way, culverts, traffic signals, etc. they were comfortable with this estimate. Mr. Langshaw asked if there was anything that could be done with the timing of lights that might be helpful. Chief Bilinovich said that all it takes is one person trying to make a left hand turn to back up traffic so unless we add a turn lane with a turn signal, changing the timing won't help. Mr. Nickell said that this is his ward and he gets a lot of complaints about it. He said that a lot of times when he is driving through it is not during school traffic and it's backed up almost to Wallings Road. He said that of course everything costs money, but as we are getting more funds, we need to make a long term plan. He said that we will be getting another \$800,000 from the state from this new gas tax. We may want to start looking at the various intersections throughout the city and start planning. He said that another reason York Road is important is because this is where our Industrial Park is located and companies look at things such as traffic patterns before deciding to relocate so this is also about economic development. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that at one time there was talk about getting a new light that would have a left turn signal, but he thought that the electrical box was determined to be inadequate for this purpose. Chief Bilinovich said that this is correct. Patrolman Cerrito has confirmed that the entire control box would have to be upgraded. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if this would be a more cost effective option vs. redoing the entire intersection, and would it actually help the problem. Chief Bilinovich said that if you put a turn signal in it still only takes one car that is not using the turn

signal to back up traffic, but this is something that we could look in to. However, it can't be done with the traffic lights currently in place; it would require different hardware. Mr. Nickell pointed out that Sprague Road is scheduled for work next, so we will have this traffic issue for many years. Mrs. Hannan asked if there has been an increase in accidents at this intersection due to the traffic situation. Chief Bilinovich said that he does not believe so. We have a few accidents at York and Albion now and then because of the traffic flow and people trying to pass on the right. Mr. Nickell asked Chief Bilinovich to supply accident data for this intersection by the next meeting. Chief Bilinovich said that he would compile data from the last year for this intersection and provide it to the committee. Mr. Kasaris asked if we put in a left turn arrow at this intersection, at what point will we be required to add a second lane. Mr. Schmitzer said that he does not know, but suggested that a traffic study be performed to determine the best course of action. Mr. Kasaris asked how much a traffic study would cost. Mr. Jordan said that a traffic study would examine all of the options available. Mayor Stefanik said that we would need a traffic study performed before we would be able to apply for any grants to help with the cost of improving this intersection. Mr. Kasaris asked how long this would take. Mr. Schmitzer said the study would take a few weeks. It would take 3-4 months to look for funding for the study which could run in the tens of thousands of dollars. Mayor Stefanik said that NOACA may be a more inexpensive source for this study.

3. **Police K-9**

Chief Bilinovich said that they are in their 4th week of training at the State Highway Patrol K-9 facility. They are doing very well and everything is on pace and on schedule. Mr. Nickell asked if we are putting money away now in anticipation of the next dog years from now. Mr. Dean said that an account has been created in the Police Levy fund for this purpose. Chief Bilinovich said that Dr. Hechco from the North Royalton Animal Hospital has kindly agreed to handle all routine veterinarian visits, shots, etc. for little or no cost. **Remove from committee.**

4. **Discussion of Police Dash & Body Cameras**

Mr. Campbell said that they have set up a wireless access point in preparation of field testing and training which will start next Monday. He said they will be testing the Motorola equipment first. This will allow every officer to have access to a camera and use it on a shift. Mr. Langshaw asked if the testing will include both body and dash cameras. Mr. Campbell said it will be for both. The camera is designed to be a dash camera that can be removed and placed on the body. Mr. Langshaw asked if we were considering the option of a separate body camera and dash camera so that there would be two different viewpoints. Mr. Campbell said that it's all about the cost. This would require double the number of cameras. Every officer needs to be assigned a camera with this type of system due to records management. It would be a part of the officer's equipment. Mr. Nickell asked if the Animal Warden would receive a camera as well. Mr. Campbell believes that the warden is included. Mr. Kasaris asked if we will have a written policy as to when the cameras should be turned off and turned on. Mr. Campbell said that the policy has already been written and in place due to the field testing. He said that depending on which product we choose, there are a variety of different ways to program them to turn on and off automatically or manually. Mr. Nickell said he would like to see a policy that states the cameras are turned off when the officers are just riding in the cars. He said that in speaking with some of the officers, this is a concern of theirs. He also felt that it should be automatic and not manual. Mayor Stefanik said that we should let them do the testing and move forward with what they think is the best for themselves. Mayor Stefanik said that we are not going to rush into this. We are going to do this smart, fiscally responsible and the right way. Mr. Kasaris asked if the policy will be written for specific events such as criminal conduct, fire, accidents, etc. or will it just be general in nature. In particular, he wants to know if the policy will state when it is appropriate to turn the camera off. Mr. Campbell said that he has not yet seen the policy as it just came out. Chief Bilinovich said that the policy will be guided by the Ohio collaborative. We are not just sitting down and starting from scratch. We will just tweak the policy to fit North Royalton specifically. Mr. Nickell asked if anything needs to be worked out with the union on this. Chief Bilinovich said no, the union will do what we tell them when it comes to equipment. He said they might raise issues regarding lunch breaks, etc. but we get them the tools to do their job the best they can. He said that the union is involved and has had input on this all the way through the process.

NEW BUSINESS**1. Southwest Emergency Dispatch Center**

Mr. Langshaw asked for an update on this topic. Chief Chegan said that Olmsted Township will be joining in May bringing it up to 6 communities. Mr. Langshaw asked if there have been any changes to the staffing levels. Chief Chegan said that the monthly meeting is tomorrow morning and this will be discussed. Discussion ensued regarding the various centers that will be operating in Cuyahoga County.

Remove from agenda.

2. Fire Hydrant Flushing and Maintenance

Chief Chegan said that the annual maintenance will begin on Monday. Notification will be given to the residents via the Ready Notify system.

3. Ready Notify System

Chief Chegan urged all residents to sign up for this program. It is a much-improved system and is a service that will benefit all residents in emergency situations including weather advisories as well as safety information from the Police and Fire Departments. **Remove from agenda.**

4. Police Equipment

Mr. Nickell asked if there is any additional equipment that our Police Department needs or could benefit from having for example, do we need a license plate reader (LRP). If so, we could start budgeting for it now. Chief Bilinovich said that we no longer have an LPR. He said it was great when it worked, but it only worked about 20% of the time. He said that some cities such as Strongsville are attaching them to the street lights so they can read cars coming on and off the highway. Mr. Langshaw said that this might be something to look into for grant money. He felt that this would be a benefit to law enforcement. Mr. Campbell said that the county was offering grants for this equipment, but we did not qualify. He said that we are always looking for grant money for these types of purchases as it becomes available. **Remove from agenda.**

5. Cady Road Signage

Sherry Olecki, 7100 Cady Road, addressed the committee. She said that she is concerned about the amount of construction truck traffic that use Cady Road as a cut through. She felt that the signage on the road is insufficient because by the time the truck driver sees it, it is too late to turn back. She asked that the signage notifying that there is a load limit be placed on Ridge and State Roads before the trucks pull on to Cady Road. She felt that this was a legitimate safety concern. Mr. Kasaris said that this is a great idea and asked what type of signs we are permitted to install on the state routes. Chief Bilinovich said he will look into this matter and see if we can do something about the signage.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mrs. Hannan **to adjourn the April 16, 2019 meeting.** Yeas: 2.
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.