

## SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES MAY 19, 2015

The Safety Committee meeting was held on May 19, 2015, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chair Dan Langshaw, Gary Petrusky, Steve Muller; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz; John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; Administration: Police Chief John Elek, Fire Chief Bob Chegan, Safety Director Bruce Campbell.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Langshaw to **approve the March 17, 2015 and April 21, 2015 minutes** as received. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Oil and gas appeal update**

No update.

#### **2. Regional Deer Control**

Mr. Campbell said that Mayor Stefanik was instrumental in setting up meetings with the ODNR and the Mayor's and Manager's Association. He said that a meeting was held between the ODNR and the Mayors of North Royalton, Parma, Parma Hts., Seven Hills, Broadview Hts. He said at this point, the ODNR does not want to take full responsibility for any deer control program. Since this meeting, the Mayors have all met again to discuss options and Strongsville is also joining in. No plan has yet been solidified, but whatever is decided will be done as a group with all of the cities mentioned. He said that Mayor Stefanik hopes to have a update next month. Mr. Kasaris asked what options are being discussed. Mr. Campbell said at this point all options are on the table. Mr. Antoskiewicz said it is good to see all of the surrounding cities collaborating on this problem. This is the only way that any program would be effective.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. ISO Public Protection Classification Report**

Chief Chegan said that this report is a grading system for Fire Departments across the country. He said that we collected all of the data for the site visit last October and it took 6 months for them to review all of the information. He said that the Insurance Service Office (ISO) is an organization that helps the insurance industry establish appropriate fire insurance premiums for both residential and commercial properties. ISO provides this information through the Public Protection Classification Report that gives the insurers credible data to use when they develop premiums that reflect the risk of loss in a particular location. Each community's data is analyzed using the suppression rating schedule which includes three elements: water supply and fire flow, emergency communications and the Fire Department itself including apparatus, personnel, training and operational considerations. Chief Chegan said that this report is not a total reflection of the Fire Department's operational efficiency. This efficiency is based on the needs of our community, the economy, NFPA standards, training and best practices. He said a good example of what is not included in this report is our EMS. Our Fire Department handles our Emergency Medical Service, which accounts for 70% of our work. This report is just for fire protection for the insurance companies to utilize. Chief Chegan said that the report assigns a Public Protection Classification number from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best. He said that he is proud to report that North Royalton received the classification of 4. This is an improvement from our last reporting period of 2004-2007 which was a 6. Part of this improvement deals with dispatch, our SOP's that have been updated, training that has been initiated in the past 3 years, our incident management system, our public fire safety education and our auto aid agreements. He said that across the country, less than 20% of all Fire Departments are rated a 4 or higher. Chief Chegan said that this could not have happened without the cooperation, effort and dedication of the entire department. He said that they will continue to strive for improvement for when the next assessment comes through. Mr. Langshaw said that this rating is phenomenal and the improvement is a testament to Chief Chegan's leadership and to all of the great safety personnel that we have.

## 2. **Excellence in Emergency Medical Service Award**

Chief Chegan reported that this afternoon he had the privilege to accompany our Safety Director and 4 members of our department down to the Health in Excellence in Emergency Medical Service Award Ceremony at Metro Health Center to honor these 5 individuals for their actions on a specific call. There were 8 awards given out throughout northeast Ohio and we were very fortunate to be selected for this award. Chief Chegan said that in fire service, we tend not to appreciate some of the work that these men do. FF Tom Sargent and FF Bob Hughes who are present this evening, along with FF Mark Pollack, FF Christian Sary, and Lt. Joe Bartinelli responded to a motorcycle accident last year where the motorcyclist was struck by a vehicle and was pinned underneath the vehicle. The motorist hit the motorcycle at a high rate of speed and proceeded to travel with the motorcycle and passenger pinned underneath for approximately 500 feet. The patient remained alert and oriented the entire time, largely due to the fact that he was wearing a helmet. As the fire crews approached the scene, they knew it would require special extrication of the patient from underneath the tangled mess of the car and motorcycle. The patient's leg was wedged between the motorcycle and the engine of the car thus he was actively being burned and he could do nothing about it. His shoe was melting against the catalytic converter of the cars' engine and he was sustaining third degree burns as they were trying to free and treat at the same time. The patient was hospitalized for 29 days and underwent multiple surgeries, grafts and procedures. He had a challenging road ahead of him but was able to make a full recovery. Chief Chegan thanked the department for their high standard of work and dedication to the job. He also thanked Mayor Stefanik and Bruce Campbell for allowing him to present this information this evening. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that it is easy to take these gentlemen for granted because we always know that they will be there when we need them and will always go above and beyond what is expected of them. He wished to thank each of them for their service to the community. Chief Chegan said that when he first started working in the Fire Department, they were responding to about 1,000 calls per year. He said that it now closer to 3,000. Mr. Nickell said that he knows firsthand how good this department is and thanked them all for their hard work. Mr. Langshaw said that we have phenomenal safety personnel and agrees that they need to be recognized for their exceptional efforts every day.

## 3. **NRFD Safety Fair**

Chief Chegan said that the annual safety fair was held this month and he wished to thank the Administration for their help with this event. He also wished to thank Kathy Salvo, Administrative Assistant, who is the Safety Fair Coordinator. She starts planning this event in January to ensure that all aspects of this event are scheduled properly and to make sure that this is a quality event for the community year after year.

## 4. **Ordinance 15-55 - "ReadyNotify" County Emergency Notification System**

Mr. Campbell said that this is a reverse 911 system that Cuyahoga County is offering county wide at no charge. He said that other communities involved in our regional dispatch center are already using this system, so we have decided to switch over as well in the next few weeks. This legislation authorizes the city to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the county for use of this system. He said that we have not yet begun a sign up for this program, the regional center has purchased the AT&T phone list that can be dropped into the system and we can take the self-registrations out of our Swift Reach program and drop this into the new system as well. We will also begin notifying the public that they can sign up for this program on our website. He said that this will result in considerable savings for the city because we are currently spending \$6,000-\$10,000 annually for the Swift Reach program. Mr. Marnecheck suggested that if it isn't too cost prohibitive, that we could use the Swift Reach program one last time to notify the residents to register for the new ReadyNotify system. Mr. Campbell said that this is a good idea and will look into it.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend approval of Ord. 15-55 to Council.**  
Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**5. HB 8**

Mr. Langshaw provided information on HB 8, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He said the bill deals with gas and oil drilling in regional and state parks. He said this bill has passed the house, but is still pending in the senate. He urged Council to contact Senator Patton on this. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that a meeting has been scheduled between him, the Mayor, Mrs. Vozar and Representative Dovilla to discuss this matter. We are hoping that we can get Mr. Dovilla to answer a few questions on this issue. He said that this bill passed unanimously in the house, which he felt was pretty amazing. It appears that no one was paying attention to what this bill is really about. He said that he hopes to have an update at the next committee meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Muller **to adjourn the May 19, 2015 meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.

**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.**



## Lawmakers betray public park supporters in oil and gas drilling bill: "Hey, Taxpayer!" with Mark Naymik

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Ohio House members passed a bill in March that critics argue makes it easier for private property owners to drill for oil and gas under the Cleveland Metroparks and other regional park systems. The Ohio Senate will consider the bill this summer. (Marvin Fong / The Plain Dealer)

**Mark Naymik, Northeast Ohio Media Group** By **Mark Naymik, Northeast Ohio Media Group**

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on May 12, 2015 at 1:24 PM, updated May 13, 2015 at 5:50 PM

The bill was discussed over two and half months -- during which no one spoke up for the local park systems.

CLEVELAND, Ohio -- If you love your regional park system, you should be upset by House Bill 8.

The bill, passed in March, could compel your park system -- including the Cleveland Metroparks -- to let others drill for oil and gas under park land. The bill takes the power out of the hands of your park managers and gives it to someone else.

What's worse is that **every one of your elected officials in the House -- both Democrats and Republicans -- supported the bill**, which is now before the Ohio Senate.

Turns out -- surprise, surprise -- some of your legislators didn't fully understand the bill's potential to limit your control over your parks. You should be equally upset by those who fully understood the consequences.

Nickie Antonio, a Lakewood Democrat, is huge park supporter and a local co-sponsor of the bill. She told me she believed the language in the bill was "general enough to protect" the local park systems. She said she will press Senate leaders to exempt regional parks.

Here's a short primer on the bill, which was first noted by The Plain Dealer Publishing Company's Jim Ewinger. You can read his previous stories **here** and **here**.

The most efficient way to extract oil and gas is to tap into a large pocket of oil or gas that could run underneath multiple adjacent properties. House Bill 8 tinkers with an a law passed in 2004, known as House Bill 278, which says that if a majority of the landowners approve exploration and extraction, the remaining owners -- even if they are holdouts -- could be forced to allow the drilling.

House Bill 8 streamlines the application process and timeline, making it easier and faster for private property owners to get permission to aggregate properties, known as unitization. The bill exempts the state parks and

nature preserves from being forced to allow drilling, but it does not exempt district parks, which are separate political subdivisions. This is where your local parks get the shaft (excuse the pun).

Several of your representatives issued a press release hailing the bill's passage as a victory for the rights of private property owners. The press release says nothing about the erosion of the rights of your park system or other private owners who oppose the drilling under their land.

In addition to Antonio, I called other local sponsors, including Nan Baker, a Westlake Republican, and Mike Dovilla, a Republican from Berea. Baker didn't respond. Dovilla, who is out of town, asked House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger's office to respond on his behalf. Rosenberger's office encouraged me to contact the bill's two primary authors, Republicans **Timothy Ginter** of Salem and **Christina Hagan** of Alliance. I have not heard back from either one. (Ginter and Hagan responded after this story was posted. You can read their comments in this new story [here](#).)

Here are a few questions we should all want answered:

Why are regional parks systems not exempt?

Why do the sponsors consider the rights of property owners who support oil and gas drilling more important than the rights of property owners who oppose such drilling?

Who first suggested the need for House Bill 8 – property owners or the oil and gas drilling industry?

Rosenberger's office told me the bill was inspired by property owners frustrated by state bureaucracy and that the bill was discussed at five hearings over two and half months -- during which no one spoke up for the local park systems. That appears to be true, given the concerns that are only now surfacing.

Metroparks Board of Commissioners member Bruce Rinker, a real estate attorney, said during last week's commission meeting that House Bill 8 is "radical," according to a **recording** of the meetings on the commission's website. He said that in the legislation's "zeal" to make the drilling process more efficient for property owners, the bill glossed over the due process rights of the district parks, even if unintentionally.

The Cleveland Metroparks has not taken a public position on drilling, but the park system absolutely wants to control their mineral rights and decide when and if to ever drill. The Metroparks says conservation is one of its primary goals.

The fact that such important issues are being raised after lawmakers approved House Bill 8 is an indictment of your sleepy elected officials. And shame on our park districts, many of which pay State Street lobbyists with our tax dollars to watch out for this sort of thing. The Metroparks is sounding the bell now for everyone.

Woody Woodward, executive director of the **Ohio Parks and Recreation Association**, a small operation which advocates for the parks, said he didn't notice House Bill 8 because he was busy fighting to ensure that about \$4.5 million in the state's recent transportation budget was set aside specifically for park road improvements as promised.

Woodward said that he is sending letters this week to state senators about making changes to House Bill 8 to protect local parks.

There's time to make changes -- but only if you keep the pressure on. So, here are a few folks worth calling.

Senate President **Keith Faber**, a Republican from Celina (614-466-7584)

Senate Majority Floor Leader Tom Patton of Strongsville (614-466-8056)

Also, these House co-sponsors owe you more answers:

Timothy Ginter of Salem (614-466-8022)

Christina Hagan of Alliance (614-466-9078)

Nan Baker of Westlake (614-466-0961)

Mike Dovilla of Berea (614-466-4895)

John Barnes Jr., a Democrat from Cleveland (614-466-1408)

*This post was updated at 5 p.m. to reflect more information about House Bill 8 from House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger's office. It also reflects a Metroparks' statement that the park system has not taken a public position on drilling yet.*

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