

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
MARCH 18, 2014**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 18, 2014, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Dan Langshaw, Vice Chair Steve Muller, Gary Petrusky; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz; Dan Kasaris, Paul Marnecheck, John Nickell; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief John Elek, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Finance Director Eric Dean, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi; Other: Alberto Paneccosio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Muller to **approve the February 18, 2014 minutes as received.**

Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Public Safety Dispatch Services with Strongsville**

Mr. Campbell said that Saturday, March 22 will be the official switch over. Council took a tour of the facility on March 11th. It has been a lot of detail oriented work with all departments involved. Mr. Langshaw thanked everyone for their hard work on this project. Mr. Kasaris asked how many of our people did Strongsville end up hiring. Mr. Campbell said four dispatchers were hired by Strongsville. For our part time clerical positions, we hired three part time dispatchers and two of the full time dispatchers. Mr. Kasaris asked if we were able to work out the issues through the Law Department regarding severance, etc. Mrs. Vozar said that nothing was accepted by the dispatchers.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **County Reverse 911 System**

Mr. Langshaw said that he added this to the agenda because he knows that the county has launched the county wide reverse 911 system last month. Mr. Campbell said that the county contracted with Gov Delivery and they have named the program Ready Notify. It is a reverse 911 system that the county would like residents throughout the county to sign up for in order to receive emergency notifications such as water boil alerts, etc. Cleveland Hts. is running a pilot program on this system, and several communities are showing an interest in using this system. The county will be rolling this out in various parts of the county in April. It is a system the county is making available at no cost with unlimited usage. He said the county will provide training support and provide a demonstration if we want. Mr. Kasaris asked if there was a difference with this system and the one the city currently uses. Mr. Campbell said that the county system is free. The one we pay for currently has more features to it. He said that the county system will not do weather alerts. They deemed that it would be too much of a liability. Mr. Kasaris asked if our current system does weather alerts. Mr. Campbell said no, our current system is based on programmed messages. Weather changes too dramatically. There are other alert systems that work behind the scenes off of the National Weather Service. All of these bells and whistles cost more money. Mr. Kasaris asked what our current system does that the county system won't do. Mr. Campbell said he has not yet seen the demo, but he feels that it won't be very different. Mr. Kasaris asked what we pay for our current system. Mr. Campbell said \$500/month plus minutes. Mr. Kasaris asked why the county is not charging for their system. Mr. Campbell said they are just rolling it out and doing a pilot program. He said we will look into it to see if the county will have the capability of downloading our data or if everyone in the city would have to re-sign up. We will be coordinating with Strongsville because we want a unified alert warning system for both communities so that dispatch will have one system to work with rather than two. Mr. Kasaris asked how the change in dispatch will affect our current reverse 911 system. Mr. Campbell said that there will be no effect, they are all training on it. Strongsville and North Royalton use different systems and will continue to do so until the advisory committee gets together and choose what will be the best fit for both communities. Mr. Kasaris asked if we know what other cities will be joining the dispatch service. Mr. Campbell said that once it is up and running and has proven that it works well, and once other cities

can see the technology and support the systems offers, he said that he imagines that others will be joining.

2. **Purchase of Police vehicles**

Mr. Campbell said that we are proposing to purchase 5 vehicles; 2 Ford Fusions for the Detective Bureau, 2 Chevrolet Impalas for cruisers and we are switching over a supervisor vehicle to a Ford Interceptor. Mr. Langshaw asked for the average life of a patrol car. Chief Elek said that patrol cars typically last 3-4 years. The supervisor vehicles will last longer. Mr. Kasaris asked how many detective cars we have. Chief Elek said we have 4. One was replaced last year, two are being replaced this year and the fourth vehicle has low mileage so it will be good for awhile.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend approval of Ordinances 14-47, 14-48 and 14-49 to Council**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion Carried.**

3. **Oil and Gas appeal update**

Mr. Kelly reported that leading up to last Wednesday March 12, 2014, the state Attorney General's office representing Chief Simmers and the intervenor Bob Karl on behalf of Cutter Oil had filed a series of motions. Mrs. Vozar did an excellent job of briefing on our behalf. On Monday or Tuesday of last week they converted the trial date which had been set for March 12th to a hearing on the pending motions. So the Mayor, the President of Council and I went to Columbus and appeared before the commission. We argued the motions, and we are pleased to say that the commission came back and found in our favor on all of the motions. The attorney general had filed a motion for summary affirmance and a motion in limine. The first is designed to prevent us from arguing certain of our claims. The second is designed to limit our ability to introduce evidence. Cutter Oil filed the same motions and in fact they appear so similar that it seems that one author did them both. The AG and the intervenor are working collaboratively. In addition to this we filed a subpoena to require the attendance of Richard Simmers, Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources. The AG's office, on Chief Simmers behalf, filed a motion to quash and basically told us that the Chief was not going to appear under any circumstances even though he had been properly served with a subpoena. The commission ruled that the day before the hearing by overruling the motion to quash the subpoena. At trial, which is now scheduled for April 10th, Chief Simmers will be appearing and we will have an opportunity to ask him some questions about why he did what he did. We are also pleased to be able to tell you that we had filed a motion to stay the execution of the Chief's order and that was granted as well. On all of the pending pretrial matters, we have been successful. This is not to indicate however how the Oil and Gas Commission is likely to rule on the merits of our arguments. Mr. Marnecheck asked who the trial was in front of on April 10th and where is it being held. Mr. Kelly said that it is being held at the Oil and Gas Complex on Morse Road northeast of Columbus. The Oil and Gas Commission is a 5 member board, quasi judicial. Two seats are vacant and of the three members that remain, two of them are from Cuyahoga County, one being Rob Frost who is the chairman of the Cuyahoga County Republican Party. The other Cuyahoga County resident comes from a construction background, and the third member is a professor at Ohio State.

4. **Part time summer help - Ordinances 14-42 and 14-43**

Chief Chegan said that we are revitalizing the fire hydrant maintenance program this year. The summer help we have used in the past came out of the Recreation or Service Department staffing and it has been determined to place these positions in the Fire Department Staffing. Mr. Kasaris asked how many hydrants were going to receive maintenance. Chief Chegan said that the plan is to start with those in the worst condition on the main roads. He said we used to average around 300 year and there are almost 2,400 citywide. He said we will be washing the surfaces of the hydrants with a heavy duty pressure washer and then painting them with a sprayer. He said that they plan on starting May 1st and will continue the program for approximately 12 weeks.

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **recommend approval of Ordinances 14-42 and 14-43 to Council**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion Carried.**

5. Deer

Mr. Petrusky asked if we want to change our ordinance to completely prohibit the feeding of deer? Mr. Nickell said that he has a few residents who feed them and he receives complaints from other residents. Mr. Petrusky said he has the same situation where residents are complaining that their neighbors are feeding the deer and drawing them out of the common areas into the areas where the kids are. Mr. Nickell did not think that changing the ordinance would change the situation. Mr. Kasaris felt we should keep the ordinance as it is. Mr. Langshaw agreed feeding the deer is causing problem but said that it's hard to regulate common sense and he knows that Council has discussed this numerous times in the past and it is something that keeps coming up. He said that this is something we have to live with, good or bad because some people do enjoy nature. He feels that people should not be feeding wild animals. It is not safe and causes a nuisance. We have a nuisance ordinance if it becomes bad enough and recommends that Council submit an action form if it becomes a serious issue. Mr. Petrusky said the problem is that residents don't want to file a complaint. Mr. Marnecheck asked if we change the ordinance to say that you cannot feed any animals except birds, would there still be a need for a formal complaint? Chief Elek said yes. Mr. Marnecheck said then we would be rewriting a law that is not going to give residents any more incentive to turn their neighbors in. Mr. Kasaris said a resident could call the police and if the police witness the feeding, the neighbor would not have to swear out a statement against their neighbor. Mr. Marnecheck felt that by the time the police could respond, the act may be over. Mr. Nickell reviewed with Council an article he had read regarding the deer population country wide and the harm the large numbers of deer are causing the entire ecosystem.

6. School Bus/Snow Plow Incident

Mr. Petrusky asked if there was any information about the bus that was hit by a city snow plow and if anyone was coming after the city in this matter. Mr. Kelly said that he has not heard anything yet. He said that Ms. Thomas in the Mayor's Office has submitted this to the insurance carrier as an ordinary course of action and precaution.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Muller **to adjourn the meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.** Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.