

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Safety Committee meeting was held on February 19, 2019, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:22 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Langshaw, Gary Petrusky; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Paul Marnecheck, Dan Kasaris; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Finance Director Eric Dean, Police Chief Kenneth Bilinovich, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, Asst. Law Director Donna Vozar; **Other:** Lou Krzepina, Linda Barath, Jeremy Dietrich, Ed Baznik.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Langshaw to **approve the January 15, 2019 Safety Committee minutes**. Yeas: 2. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Oil Wells

Fire Chief Chegan said that there was an issue about a month ago regarding a noise complaint from the two wells off of Mercury Drive. He said they found that a bad separator was causing the noise, it was repaired and everything is now functioning normally at this location. Mr. Langshaw asked if this is a former Cutter Oil well. Chief Chegan said yes. He said that EOS Energy now owns the Cutter Oil wells. Mayor Stefanik said that in April or May the state will come out and do an assessment of all the wells in the city.

2. Deer Hunting Update

Chief Bilinovich provided the committee with the 2018 Deer Hunting report, along with a copy of the 2017 report for comparison. He reviewed these reports with the committee, copies of which are attached to these minutes. Chief Bilinovich said that the drop in the number of deer harvested between 2017 and 2018 could be due to the decreased populations caused by the deer wasting disease experienced in 2017. He said that animal control also picked up less deer in 2018 vs. 2017. Mr. Marnecheck asked if the Chief sees any particular reason that the number of permits went down. Chief Bilinovich said he really doesn't know why, but maybe over the years people have lost interest. He said that the hard-core deer hunters were still out there. Mr. Marnecheck asked if they are looking to make any changes for the 2019 season. Chief Bilinovich said no, not at this time. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if they have received any complaints. He said that he personally has not received any. Chief Bilinovich said no. For the 3 years that we have had this hunting program it has gone very smoothly with very few complaints.

Ed Baznick, 6160 Bunker Road, addressed the committee. He said that he has participated in the hunting program for the last 3 seasons and has harvested about 12 deer. He feels that that the program has been very successful and says there has been quite a decrease in landscaping damage. He said that he does not know what North Royalton's deer/car collisions numbers are, but he also hunts in the City of Independence and they have seen the number of deer/car collisions decrease dramatically since they started their hunting program in 2007. He had a few suggestions on how the program would be improved. He felt that our permit fee could be looked at since other cities have much lower, or even no fees associated with their program. He said that maybe a land owner hunting on their own property could be exempted from the fee. He also suggested looking into whether or not it is a burden to the Police Department to be called every time someone goes out to hunt. Mr. Marnecheck asked Mr. Baznick how he feels our program compares to the other programs he also participates in. Mr. Baznick said that in Independence, the acreage minimum is 2 acres. At the beginning of the season the police officers come out, they inspect the stand location, then they issue one piece of paper stating which addresses you are allowed to hunt and that is it.

In North Royalton he has to make a map, put hunting locations and GPS coordinates, draw property lines, he needs to write letters to the neighbors to let them know he is hunting even though he is not hunting on their property. This is not required in Independence. He also said that in North Royalton, you have to report the number of deer harvested within 24 hours while in Independence he only does it at the end of the season. He said that Independence relies more on the state rules and regulations governing deer hunting. He said that the Hudson program has no fee and it has a 5 acre minimum. They make you do the same archery proficiency test as North Royalton, which Independence does not. He said that Hudson only makes you take the test once and they keep it in your record. Mr. Nickell said that he has received complaints about our fee being too high and maybe we could look at the reporting time frame. Chief Bilinovich said that he believes that the ODNR makes it mandatory to report the deer and get a tag within 24 hours. Mr. Baznick said that this is an online check in. Chief Bilinovich said that our city is probably 3 times the size of Independence area wise. He said that safety is always our first priority. This is why we have hunters call if they are going to be in their deer stand. This way if we receive calls or complaints from neighbors, we can quickly let them know what is going on. This way we can also keep track of who is out there and we can verify that the person who is out there is the one that is supposed to be out there. Regarding deer/vehicle collisions, Chief Bilinovich said that in 2018 we had only 51 reported. Mr. Marnecheck said that there were 95 reported in 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Langshaw **to adjourn the February 19, 2019 meeting.** Yeas: 2.
Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

2017 Deer Hunting Report

Ward	Deer Harvested (Deer Damage Permit)	Deer Harvested (Hunting Permit)	Deer Harvested (Total)	Number of Permits Issued
1	4	67	71	33
2	2	39	41	10
3	0	12	12	8
4	0	6	6	4
5	0	23	23	12
6	0	40	40	24
	6	187	193	91

2018 Deer Hunting Report

Ward	Deer Harvested (Deer Damage Permit)	Deer Harvested (Hunting Permit)	Deer Harvested (Total)	Number of Permits Issued
1	0	44	44	26
2	0	36	36	14
3	0	15	15	8
4	0	8	8	5
5	0	12	12	8
6	0	29	29	22
	0	144	144	83