

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
May 5, 2010

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, May 5, 2010. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott

Absent: Rosso (excused)

Attending: Safety Director Arendt

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2010 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

*Safety Director Arendt* reported I call the Police Chief every day and the Fire Chief when he is on or I call even when the Lieutenants on – I will call and talk to them. The first thing on the Police agenda, you know we are still working on these cameras for the car and this is in Bill Gardner's hands because it was a grant. I spoke with Bill last week and spoke with him again this week and we are just waiting for this particular person to come and show us how to use them and do what we have to do. I put a PO in for the cards; the telephone cards and we haven't purchased them yet because there is 3 different kinds that you can get and supposedly when this person comes and shows us then that will determine the kind we get. I do not understand that, to me a WIFI card is a WIFI card. I went over it with Bill again today and we are waiting for the guy and as I said to Bill – we have to move this along because this was promised the end of March – promised in April and now we are into May. Chairman Bring asked do we know who this mysterious person is? Safety Director Arendt answered I didn't get the name because I am kind of frustrated about it because everything is here except the WIFI cards because we haven't ordered those as I said – it is like we have got equipment that we need and we can use and it is dormant. I told Bill today lets get a conference call tomorrow with the people in charge – we got them and they can't take them away so lets put a little demand on it and say enough is enough, we can't go without them. He continued the cruisers – we got 5 of them and they are all running. 726 is at the city garage right now for the charging system and will be down for 3 days which was yesterday so it should be up and running tomorrow. The Tasers; the batteries are 7 years old and they are pricing out batteries for the Tasers right now. 3 of the Tasers are out of service, now it doesn't really create a problem because we have got more Tasers than we usually have Officers on duty but we have got to get the batteries. Chairman Bring asked how much are the batteries? Safety Director Arendt answered I don't know, they are getting quotes and as of yesterday they were still getting the quotes on the batteries. They can't be a lot money I wouldn't think. There was a brief discussion. Safety Director Arendt continued in April I reported as the Police reported to me that the boat launch camera is not, as of today it is still out. I have reported it, they are supposed to

call the guy who works on that and I won't know a status on that until tomorrow but we have got to get that going because the boat launch area is going to be a problem. We are going to have swimmers which are no big deal on either side – that's fine and he advised of possible problems. I think we are going to have a lot more problems at the boat launch this year then we did in the previous years since the boat launch has been there. The camera is essential to be there and I have talked to the Chief, they are going to make their rounds in particular areas. We are going to identify areas such as Ferndale, such as the boat launch, such as the bridge, such as the bike path. We are going to identify areas and try to patrol them more, there are a lot of areas in the city that you never have a problem with and there is other areas that you have problems and we are going to address those problem areas with more patrolling. It doesn't mean that we are going to neglect the other areas but instead of the Officer making that same circle or going back and explained discussed changes which will entail more miles and more gas for coverage. There was a brief discussion regarding repeat incidents which seems to be progressing. Safety Director Arendt continued I talked to Joe Faga of Ohio Edison yesterday, I have talked to Joe Faga probably 10 times in the last 2 weeks. The dead line is May 21<sup>st</sup> for the light at the bridge and he keeps trying to push it up. I told him Joe I am going to bug you every day and I know that it may not change but I am going to bug you and he said that is okay, it doesn't matter because we have already caught some kids down at the bridge. Now they haven't done any damage, haven't done any painting since last year. Councilman Elliott stated it is just a matter of time. Safety Director Arendt advised I have also talked to Len Smith because the camera's are not a police budget item and I spoke with him and he said that he is also looking into live feed cams and I said that is your choice but I think the costs is going to be prohibited on a live feed camera. The other cameras that we looked into will take up to 150 pictures. So I know that they are supposed to be used for deer hunting or whatever hunting but it doesn't matter – it will work. I talked to him again tonight and he promised that he will come in tomorrow and we will get together. The thing is since he or I and since it is in his budget I don't care I will take the time – we have got to go to Gander Mountain and we have got to see the particular item. If you have looked at it through the web site, it is one thing to look at something on the web site and it is one thing to get an idea of what it is going to do on a web site but I think you really have to go see it. So we are going to talk again tomorrow and if he has time hopefully we can go tomorrow or the next day – they are only \$199.00 to \$120.00. Chairman Bring stated actually I mentioned that to the Mayor again and the Mayor said there was some money in a fund but they were looking at doing something higher tech but for the mean time why not take a little bit this money and do this – it is common sense before something happens. Safety Director Arendt stated here is the worst thing that could happen, let's assume we have the money to get something a little higher tech – maybe even a live feed to just a computer. The worse thing we would have if we buy that camera and move it to Ferndale. There was a brief discussion on options. He advised I put in the request and I reported to this committee. Chairman Bring advised I know and like I said the Mayor said there is money in one of the funds and he said they haven't used it because it was for something else but he said that is what they are looking at doing but by the time they get done with this thing we are going through summer time. Safety Director Arendt stated as I say let's continuously move it, it won't take that long and

we got a bucket truck to move anything. Councilman Elliott asked once you get these pictures, how do you get them? Safety Director Arendt answered you can download them. On the more expensive model you can download them but also one of my other ideas was in the olden days when we had antennas with the rotor, I said let's find a thing like that and put it on a timer and if we ever move it to Ferndale or anything we could put it on a timer for continuous movement. McCallie is smart enough to figure that out, so that is one of my ideas. He continued we are having problems with the 911 phones with the current phone system that we have. He explained if a 911 call comes in and you are on the phone with that 911 and another 911 comes in you can't put it on hold and go to the other one. I had them call our IT guys in Lorain, our phone system is the next step down from the phone system in Lorain. So he is doing some research for me just out of courtesy – we are still calling the phone company, don't get me wrong we are still doing that. But he is doing some research for me to see if it can rotate to another line. They have 3 – 911 lines but we don't, we need it to rotate to another active line. There was a brief discussion on problem. Safety Director Arendt continued Patrolman Melda is now working with the schools on that new system that they got – fingerprint. So we have a couple of Officers doing that and I think that is a fantastic program and I commend the Officer – I wrote him a nice little letter for getting the money totally donated and everything. Chairman Bring stated yes Shawn Corr did that and I think he got in a week. Safety Director Arendt concurred yes above and beyond, it really was – it was a wonderful thing for him to do. Councilman Elliott asked on Ferndale Park, is there a certain time that we are noticing that these kids are up there. Safety Director Arendt answered random. Councilman Elliott asked do we believe that these are the same kids over and over again or we don't know? Safety Director Arendt answered we don't know. Councilman Elliott asked when we respond to these calls, are these kids usually gone by the time we get there? Safety Director Arendt answered they scatter as soon as they hear the sirens. There was a brief discussion on problem; response and safety. Safety Director Arendt stated like I said in a worse case scenario if we get the cameras and we get a better tech – Ferndale Park is going to be a problem this year, I believe the boat launch is going to be a problem this year. Councilman Elliott stated I think you have identified problem and especially areas of the bridge and the bike trail. He advised me and my wife have actually used that a lot – it is beautiful down there and we would like to keep it that way. Safety Director Arendt advised I am a little bit obsessive with that bike trail because we were able to finish it when I was here; it is beautiful and the bridge is beautiful. Chairman Bring advised I walked it the other day. Safety Director Arendt advised I am a little bit down that we don't have the Ohio Edison light up yet, I am down that we don't have the cameras yet. You know tomorrow they could go out there and just graffiti that bridge – in today's times you don't know what they will do. Chairman Bring advised in one more month you are going to have kids with free time – 24/7. Councilman Elliott concurred I absolutely agree with you Joe, we are going to eventually use these cameras/we can look at higher tech stuff but we are really going to use these cameras – we are going to have spots for them so I don't see what the hold up is. Safety Director Arendt stated again I will work with Len and I don't think he thought about moving them today until I talked to him today about it.

Councilman Elliott advised I received a letter from the OPBA today regarding the grant for

3 new Officers free for 3 years, are we looking into this. It is something that I would like to see happen. Safety Director Arendt advised here is how the grant originally came out, the grant was for 3 years and then the city is responsible to keep that Officer on for at least 1 more year out of our costs. Now I haven't checked with Bill but what I am told because it happened in the City of Elyria and it is happening in Lorain for which they applied for it as well. That the grant **now** reads 3 years and you are not responsible but regardless of which way it is today; you got to figure the Chief is going to go in 2 years, Komlosy is going to leave in probably 2 years and there is 1. The only way we keep our manpower now unfortunately and we are very fortunate to have very good part-timers. Without the part-timers because of the budget we really can't put people on full-time right now so it is part-timers. The Police are very, very cooperative when it comes to overtime and when it comes to anything. Detective Campo will come out at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, whatever time and instead of taking overtime he will take a couple of hours here or there and that is the way it has worked out. So far that hasn't been an issue because it can become an issue if they say wait a minute, timeout – I want my PERS, I want my overtime or I want all this but they have been very cooperative, very cooperative. I am going to talk to Bill again about that grant and I do believe that he is actually looking into it. Chairman Bring stated he did say that to me but we are just trying to make sure he follows up. Councilman Elliott stated this is something that I would really like us to look into to and if we can't do it I would like an explanation. I don't mean that in a negative way, I would like to know so I can at least let other people know – this is why we didn't do it. Safety Director Arendt stated I agree with you 100% and here is an ironic situation in Elyria they laid off 11 Firemen and Lorain was supposed to lay off 7 at the beginning of the year and try to find a way to keep them and they only laid off 3 with trying to keep the 4 on which it didn't pass the other day on the way that the Administration worked out for it to go. What is ironic about it is because Elyria laid off they got a grant to bring them all back because they had laid off – Lorain doesn't qualify because they didn't have the number laid off. Timing was just awesome so when you talk about the grant, I will continuously push Bill for it because regardless if it says 3 years and carry for 1 – we have got to take the chance and say listen we are going to lose 3 anyway or we are going to lose at least 2. So if we have to carry 1 for a year. Chairman Bring advised you don't know if somebody is going to get sick, injured or whatever. Safety Director Arendt advised example we have had Ken Kennen out with a back injury for months now. Chairman Bring explained what it does though is put a burden on the rest of the Officers and it is not healthy or safe. When you put too much time in, it drags on you. Councilman Elliott stated something else that I would like to point out too is that the Officers that we are going to lose are all Supervisors. I realize that we have to replace the Chief, if it really got bad maybe we can go with 1 Captain. I realize that the Officers we lost were Sergeants so those guys are higher scale pay, so if worse comes to worse to keep our manpower up maybe we can go out with a couple less Supervisors. Safety Director Arendt advised I don't disagree with that but unfortunately the Captain that we have is our Detective, so we have got to have a Captain for the road patrol. So you are always going to have 2 Captains, you can get away with less Sergeants but the Captain is essential because they are 2 different departments but we will look into that. Safety Director Arendt advised we will go onto the Fire Department – I know that both Chief's

were here at the last meeting and they reported to you everything. The braking system on S71, we had to take that to Avon Truck for additional work and according to Chief Langin it is taken care of but I have talked to McCallie because I wasn't able to get a hold of him. E63 major air leak in a braking system was detected and repaired and that was actually repaired by the Fire Service staff – one of them is a mechanic and he was able to repair that so there was no costs to that. This month all the extinguishers have to be checked and we have got that sit up, when I was still here we got the lowest costs. According to Chief Langin everything seems to be going fine. Chairman Bring stated I understand that in the near future here we are really going to have to sit down and figure something out for a new ambulance. Safety Director Arendt advised we have been talking about this between Chief Langin and myself since I first got here – we are in desperate need. Chairman Bring stated it is the money that we keep putting into it now, it is almost to the point where we could almost make a payment on something for what we are putting into it. Safety Director Arendt stated well that is an argument that I have always had, you reach a point just like with T66; even when we allocated the \$3200.00 to fix it we finally realized that even if we put that in it wouldn't work. I would rather spend the \$5000.00 on something that we know – used obviously but we know that we can have for a period of time. I agree with you 100%, when you come to the ambulance costs – I looked at one when they had it here as a demo and the costs on that demo was \$180,000.00. Chairman Bring advised what I want to do maybe is just **refer that to Finance** and we will just talk about that over there. Safety Director Arendt stated I would ask you to look into that and I would also ask you to look into Finance we have the \$3200.00 allocated still sitting there for the repair of T66 to see if we could up that in any way to find something to replace that for right around \$5000.00. Chairman Bring stated we actually had a truck but so far nobody has agreed to it. Safety Director Arendt asked is it the truck that McCallie talked to you about – the Suburban? Chairman Bring answered yes. Safety Director Arendt stated I talked about it. Chairman Bring stated I brought it 3 or 4 times and I guess it went in to 2 ears and out 4 other ones, I don't know. We do need something. Safety Director Arendt advised right now they use the jeep. Chairman Bring stated but they have to borrow that and it is a nightmare. Safety Director Arendt stated the immediate needs; you can get away with something used to replace T66 because that is really a service vehicles – fixing hydrants, taking care of hydrants, monitoring and that type of thing but you still need it. The jeep works but it is not as functional. He continued the next immediate need is an ambulance. Chairman Bring advised sooner or later it is just going to catch up to us and we are going to have to do something/it is either plan or we are going to be forced into doing it and that is when you end up spending more money because you have to make a decision now. Councilman Elliott stated it is almost like we are biding our time until something comes up like we can't fix it anymore. Safety Director Arendt advised to actually go into another department, when I was still here I gave you guys the initial plan to purchase the additional water vehicle and if you looked at that spread sheet in 5 years you would have been able to do another one, another one, another one and you would always have your fleet updated. It is the same thing with the Fire, when you are going to have a bill that comes to \$2000 to \$3000 to fix it and then 6 months from now or 5 months from now you are going to have another \$3000 bill. Well I would rather take \$6000 and spread it over a 12-month payment

and buy one. Chairman Bring stated that seems like that has been pattern lately to where costs keep going and going and going. Service Director Arendt stated absolutely correct, when you put \$180.00 into brakes and \$220.00 in something else and then you put the tires in and stuff – you keep adding it up. I would rather spread it over 12-months and bite the bullet. So those are the immediate needs when it comes to the Fire. The Police are in pretty good shape and I hope that we renew the leasing agreement that comes up in June I believe, I hope we do that. Chairman Bring asked going back to the Fire Department, the large hose – are we still working on that too? Service Director Arendt asked the one that we have to borrow on occasion? Chairman Bring answered yes, we are still borrowing right? Service Director Arendt answered yes. Chairman Bring stated I just want to keep bringing it up until something happens. Service Director Arendt stated all I can do is bring it up as well. Chairman Bring clarified the large hose that hooks up to the hydrant, I think we only have 1 and somebody runs that over and breaks it we are in trouble. Service Director Arendt advised the only back-up that we have is the older ones that are out of service. Is it still functional, I am sure it is but according to standards we are not supposed to use it. Technically we have a back-up but it is not a break-up. There was a brief discussion on the need of an ambulance.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Councilman Elliott advised I can't remember the date but Jordan Sweeney, a little boy on my block was riding his bike without a helmet and lost control of his bike and hit a fence. He hit the fence with his shoulder but lead off with his head. I became aware of it and when I got there the little boy was out cold. When he came to he told me that he couldn't move his legs which was a big concern so I told his dad to call 911 I need an ambulance here now. The people that were involved was Patrolman Reiber, Patrolman Baker, Acting Chief Langin and I don't know the Fire Fighter that was with them but they responded and they should be commended for the job that they did. They performed very professionally, they actually were able to put the family at ease and the little boy at ease and I am happy to report that Jordan Sweeney was up the next day running around. So basically our neighborhood was in a sense of relief that nothing happened but also a sense of pride that our Emergency Services did their job the right way and very admirably. There was a brief discussion on situation and Councilman Elliott added they did a fantastic job, I was there and helped and was very proud of the way they conducted themselves. Clerk Fantauzzi to find out Fire Fighters name and both Safety Director Arendt and Councilman Elliott with Safety Committee will do a letter commending attending Officers and Fire Fighters for their work. Councilman Elliott added I was not the only one impressed, I was approached by several neighbors and I got a couple of calls saying those guys did their jobs. It is always good to be able to tell these people you know what you are lucky you live in this city, the average response time is 3 minutes but they were right there and they didn't act panicked they just did their jobs and at the same time they didn't act like robots either. They did a fantastic job!

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to adjourn at 7:43 PM. Yeas all.

**CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION:** This Meeting Of The City Committee OF The City Of Sheffield Lake, Ohio Was Held And Conducted Under All Rules And Regulations Governing The Sunshine Laws Of The State Of Ohio AS They May Apply. All meetings are recorded and available in council's office.

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**CLERK OF COMMITTEE**

*Kay Fantauzzi*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committees of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of Committee of May 5, 2010.

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**CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE**

*Dennis Bring*

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**PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL**

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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**COUNCIL PRO TEM**

*Richard Rosso*