

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
February 6, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, February 6, 2008. Councilman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Rosso, Elliott

Attending: Mayor Piskura, Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Conrad

\*Motion by Rosso to nominate Mr. Bring chairman of Safety Committee. Yeas All. Committee changed start time for Safety from 7:30 pm to 7 pm.

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD:** Police Chief Shepherd advised on this North Ohio Law Enforcement Data Sharing, I don't know if any of you read in the paper there is some sort of a problem. The State Chief's Association is getting grant money from the federal government to run this and now the federal government is saying they shouldn't have been getting such a large sum of money so that is kind of in limbo. If you would like to take that off the agenda. It is going to be quite a while before that surfaces again. **REMOVE.** He continued we have the computers are all up and running, everything is hooked up now. As a matter of fact, it got finished today and everyone is real happy, they are real nice and fast. Shawn Corr just completed the third grade seat belt program, every year we go to the school with all the third graders and Shawn puts on a real nice program. They have that Vince and Larry, the 2 safe car dummy guys that come along and help them do the program. It is a pretty good program and that is all completed. Mr. Bring asked when the boat ramp comes up to par and we start going with that, do we have any plans or ideas for supervision planned for that? Chief Shepherd answered other then whoever is working will just kind of keep an eye on it. Mr. Bring stated the only thing I was thinking about is when anybody is swimming there in the evening hours, that is what I am concerned about. Mayor Piskura advised I am sure that everybody is aware of the updated security cameras that we have throughout the city buildings. I approached JoAnn Eldridge about partnering with putting a system in the Library because they have a little security guard running around there right now. But partnering with them and putting a system in the Library and having cameras for us looking at the launch, looking at the beach and looking at the lake conditions that we can use to put on the internet so people can get on there and see lake

conditions, if the launch is busy – just as a novelty thing. But that in addition take those images along with the Library's images and actually pipe them right to dispatch on another monitor. We haven't talked about it enough to actually report on it but that could be one potential way to keep a good eye on it. They are infra-red cameras, they see in the dark so if there is a need. If that is a go, we can always just put it down there to see. Mr. Rosso asked that will posted no swimming won't it? Mayor Piskura answered only on the west side, not on the east side. The west side is where the boat traffic is going to be and where the sand trap is that the ODNR had requested that we not allow swimming or discourage swimming. We said we would put a sign up that says no swimming but on the east side, I am actually thinking that we are going to encourage it. Mr. Rosso asked will there be time limits? Mayor Piskura answered that is up to the Park Board. Mr. Rosso stated where it is really an issue is at night. Mayor Piskura stated if you have a recommendation I can always bring it back to the Park Board. Mr. Bring stated I think with Avon Lake thing, each one of those were run in the evening, that is the only thing that I am concerned about. Somebody jumping off a rock and hitting their head. I think that is a great idea. Mr. Elliott stated we could probably put a posting up that says no jumping off the pier. Mayor Piskura stated we could probably do stuff like that, whatever it takes to keep it as safe as possible but as far as the hours themselves but as far as the hours themselves that is a Park Board thing. Mr. Rosso stated wouldn't you think that would be the worst time is at night. Mayor Piskura answered absolutely, I agree 100%. Especially about 1 o'clock in the morning when all the 20 year olds are out. Mr. Rosso stated what can you do if you don't have a sign that says you are not allowed to be down there, could you make them leave. If it is a city park it closes at the time all the rest of the parks close right? Mayor Piskura answered that is something that the Park Board is discussing basically right now is what time limits to put on the parks because of the desire to keep the launch open 24/7 and because of the request of the requests of some residents to post new signs where they had fallen down or faded away. I think they are discussing the closing times right now. But without question, I think that we could push for a safety issue that we don't want swimming at night and you know rather than tax the Officers if I can get JoAnn Eldridge to come around. Actually we have a system there anyway, we would just have to bear the entire costs of it. In actually viewing things so that if something is going on down there the dispatcher will just see it and we might be able to head something off at the pass. Mr. Bring stated I know my friend has one of those laser car washes and he has a thing set up and he can sit right at home with his computer and watch the cars go through and everything else and that would be the same thing you are talking about. It is really a nice system and it works perfect, if somebody goes threw then he can get the license plate number and everything else. Mr. Elliott asked Chief Shepherd, here as of late we are still under a flood watch, is there something that the Police Department does like patrol certain areas that are flood areas within the city? Chief Shepherd answered if it gets high then we notify Bill Gardner and he usually sends somebody out.

**FIRE CHIEF CONRAD:** Fire Chief Conrad reported under rescue squad, I have talked with the Mayor and the Finance Director and we may be able to come up with some funding within current appropriations for us to be able to order an ambulance. Hopefully sometime this year, the lease would be structured so that our first payment wouldn't be due

until 2009. So that would put us in a little better financial stance also. Mr. Bring asked do we have a costs on some of those too? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes right now they are running about \$150,000.00 and our lease would be anywhere from \$25,000 to maybe \$30,000 a year. Mr. Bring asked if we would get that would we have to take some of our equipment some of the radio and stuff and put it into those and have it installed or does that comes with it. Fire Chief Conrad answered depending on the equipment that is in our current ambulances, like the sirens that we have in there now. Coincidentally, we have been having problems with those, the one is in at Vasu right now to get fixed. So you wouldn't necessarily transfer that over, a siren would come with the new vehicle. The radio, we would have to see how old that particular unit is and compare costs of a new one versus the expense of taking it out of the current vehicle and paying to have it installed in the new vehicle. I mentioned our one ambulance now was down without a siren. We were able to use a siren from another vehicle, we have got that wired in temporarily while that particular siren is into Vasu for repairs. The tires on another ambulance were starting to wear irregularly again, it is just a problem with that Ford front-end. We took that to Ray's Auto today and had him rotate the tires and balance the 2 tires that we switched to the front of the vehicle. We have been talking to the Mayor about hiring additional part-time fire fighters. We interviewed 6 people and want to hire between 3 and 4 of those people and all 6 were good candidates. One of them lives in town and we would prefer to hire him first. Mr. Bring asked did we lose a fire fighter? Fire Chief Conrad answered we lost one fire fighter last spring/summer who was hired by the Dayton Fire Department and a second fire fighter resigned and moved to Colorado. So we are down 2 from where we should be and 3 or 4 from where we were about 3 years ago. Mr. Bring stated in light of what happened the other day and you guys actually did a very good job, both of you guys with that oxygen tank and that could have been a big disaster but is there anyway that we can find who has those tanks in their houses. Even like people who do welding and stuff like that, so you guys are aware of that stuff. Is there anyway to look into something like that? Fire Chief Conrad answered I don't know about the welding carts, usually that stuff is set out in a garage so you kind of know that things are going to happen in a garage. But as far as home use of O2, they come with labels and warnings and placards that people can put in their windows and stick on their doors. The majority of people just don't take the time to do it. It would be nice in a perfect world if everybody would do that. Mr. Rosso stated why don't mention that, I am sure that John Edwards would put it in the Avon Lake. Mr. Bring stated when I was reading that the other day and what you guys went through and one of the fire fighters had his hat blown off and everything. If that could have been 15 seconds and you would have been inside the house, it could have been something very serious. Fire Chief Conrad stated if somebody was close to that room when that tank went they definitely would have had some percussion injuries and it could have been very serious. Mayor Piskura stated I talked to Tom Kelley who got the report and forwarded it to the Emergency Management Association. They are talking about Sheffield Lake's fire and our management of it and the explosion of that O2 system like in Australia, it is on their hot sheet. So they are talking about it everywhere. Fire Chief Conrad added Tom Kelley sent it out to his contacts in Emergency Management throughout the country and some of those have sent it to their world wide contacts. Mr. Bring stated it would nice if we got some

kind of registration or something so you guys would have addresses. Fire Chief Conrad advised we are looking now to see if they make like those "tot" finders stickers, we are looking to see if they have actually got them for oxygen and then we would purchase them through our fire prevention program and have those available for people. It would work the same way, you would have a sticker on the front door so that we know that oxygen is in the home and then they would put the sticker on the window of the room where it is actually kept so we would know which room it is. At this point and probably most Fire Departments now are looking at revamping our standard procedures for fighting fires in the home where we know there is oxygen. We definitely won't get into the room that is involved, just for that reason and we will probably fight a fire from the outside until it has darkened down enough that you don't have to worry about that explosion. The part of the bad problem with these things it is just an inherit part of the system itself. If you look at the valve on an O2 tank, there is like a set screw on the back of that valve. In the middle of that set screw there is either a hex head for like an allen wrench or there is a slot for the bladed screw driver. Well in the middle of that is like a 1/8 inch hole that is drilled in there, they fill that up with a metal that melts when the pressure gets too high. The difference between that metal and the metal that is contained. Mr. Bring stated it is like a solder or something like in a real hot fire would actually melt. Fire Chief Conrad continued right, it will release with the temperature, it will also release with the pressure. Most of those tanks are filled to 2000 to 2200 pounds and when the pressure gets up close to 3000 pounds that safety release valve actuates and it bleeds the pressure off the tank. Unfortunately it is coming out of that small 1/8 inch hole and it just doesn't bleed the pressure quick enough. Ironically the tanks that are partially used with less pressure are the ones that are more dangerous. The flames can impinge upon the tank, weakening the integrity of the tank for a longer period of time before that release valve activates causing the integrity of the tank to drop below critical point to where the tank then explodes because it has not released enough pressure yet. Basically they are designed so that if you leave them in your car on a hot summer day and the sun is beating down on them and you have them underneath a black towel or something like that, that once the tank takes enough pressure to blow that release valve, it activates and then it just empties the tank. It is not like a propane tank that it activates and then it just shuts off and the industry does that on purpose because an aluminum oxygen tank reaches that pressure then they do not want it placed back in service until it is hydrostatically tested again. The other part is when those tanks, when the release valves activate they were then releasing oxygen into the fire which then increase the intensity of the fire and made it burn all that much hotter. When that tank blew it took 2 X 8 floor joist and splintered them below the floor and then it kicked out the stud walls in the corner of that room, displaced the one wall by I believe it was 5 or 6 inches and the other wall by 2 to 3 inches. So there was a lot of force in that room. It also displaced the top plate on the stud wall in that one room. Mr. Elliott stated I was told that there were some neighbors that helped in pulling some people out of that building? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes, neighbors directly to the north of the structure that was involved. The husband was outside and smelled or saw smoke and he said he was very much aware of a couple of the homes in the area that have wood burners but he immediately recognized this as something different and out of the ordinary. He went around to see what it was and saw smoke coming from the front of the

neighbors home. Either he called 911, his wife then went and checked on the neighbor and she had gotten herself to the front door and the front interior door was open and she was trying to push the screen door open and that is where she had collapsed. He then went over and assisted her and that time another one of their neighbors was driving home for lunch or driving back to work from lunch and saw what was going on and three of them actually picked her up and carried her over to the neighbors home. Mr. Elliott stated you might want to recognize them somehow. Fire Chief Conrad answered the Mayor had asked me to get their contact information. Mr. Bring stated I know the Avon Lake Press had his picture and everything. Fire Chief Conrad stated we were thinking about possibly waiting until the owner is released from the hospital and maybe get all of them here at once. Mr. Bring asked that house is all boarded up now? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes and it is my understanding the insurance company is going to demolish the home and there is talk about maybe putting a modular home on top of it. There was a brief discussion on prefab homes.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grants** – Fire Chief Conrad reported the turn-out gear was delivered Friday and it was handed out over the weekend and the beginning of this week so everybody has been issued their new turn-out gear. The gear that we were currently using, we have made arrangements with Avon Lake to use their gear washer. We will do that next week, that gear will be washed and then it will be put away. In the event that our new gear would become contaminated or would need repairs then we would have something to use in the interim until that new gear got replaced or repaired. Chairman Bring asked Avon Lake actually lets us do that for free. Fire Chief Conrad answered yes and the Village will also let us do that from time to time. They also have air filling stations for our air paks, they will also let us use that to refill those. Mr. Elliott asked I thought we were going to buy a gear washer with that grant that we got for equipment? Fire Chief Conrad reported I had talked about putting that in with the grant for the gear. With talking with the people who administrate those grants, it was my understanding that our ability to get accepted for the grant would be greater if we didn't have the gear washer in it this time and then applied for it later. I just needed to show that we had some way of cleaning the gear, that was another factor that helped us get the gear but we were one of the first Fire Departments in the country to get the grant for the gear and it was because we could show a little of savings by not having to buy that this year. Also under grants, we opened up 4 bids for the vehicle exhaust system this Monday. One bid was strictly for the equipment, it did not include labor, installation, connections. They had a whole list of exceptions that were to be "performed by others". So that bid has been rejected. The other 3 bids are by the major manufacturers who we expected would be bidding on the process. The most expensive system is the one that Sheffield Village, Avon, Elyria and Avon Lake has in their stations. The other 2 I believe Rocky River has one and Parma has the other system. So between now and my making a recommendation to Council has to which unit we should buy, I am going to visit those other stations and see how they like their systems. Like anything else, if you are talking to one company their product is the best and the other 2 are not very good and they all have good things to say about themselves and bad things to say about each other. We just have to look at the specifics and how they will

best meet our needs for our Fire Department. The good news is the highest bid came in \$5000.00 under what the assistance to fire fighters grant program gave us so we would be able to use that additional \$5000.00 to enhance our program which would allow us to buy additional turn-out gear for some of these new part-time guys that we are looking to hire. So we won't have to incur any costs to give them their turn-out gear. We received a letter from St. John's West Shore that they are going to supply our 2 rescue squads with CPAP devices, that stands for Continuous Positive Airway Pressure. What it does is instead of having a mask on that gives you a little bit of pressure and helps you to breathe easier, it now creates a tighter seal around your mouth and your nose and that pressures forces the oxygen into your lungs. A lot of time we get these patients that have chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, referred to as COPD and their drive to breathe diminishes, they call us and they are using all their strength and all their energy to breathe but you get to a certain critical point where you can no longer force the lungs to breathe any more. In the past we would incubate these individuals and they would go onto a breathing machine at the hospitals where it would take days, weeks and sometimes longer to extubate these people to wean them off these machines. The CPAP devices are supposed to be from what I have seen in the date and people that are already using them, they work great. They discontinue the need to intubate patients and the discontinue the need for them to have extended stays at the hospital to get weaned off of the breathing machines. These are about \$1000 to \$1200.00 device each. St. John's West Shore is buying them and they will own them and maintain them and they are giving them to us for our use. We signed off on that the other day and I know Council is looking at a new ordinance for donated equipment but I talked with the Law Director and the Mayor and since that is not into affect yet, we were still able to accept that. This is something that I hope that that new ordinance when it is in place would still allow us to accept these types of donations and it wouldn't hinder it. Fire Chief Conrad advised this one came with a letter, we got it like the end of January and they wanted us to sign by I think it was by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Is there a process in place that we would be able to accept something like that on a real tight schedule and then run it by Council at a later date. Mr. Elliott stated I don't know of a process, I assumed it would come through the Mayor. Mayor Piskura asked does this require any kind of contract? Fire Chief Conrad answered this one doesn't but sometimes it does. The Life Pak12's that they donated this year for the heart monitors, they gave us that equipment and we have to carry the annual maintenance contract of that. Mayor Piskura stated I would say if it requires a contract it would have to wait until at least until it came up in front of Council. If it doesn't require contract then we can always just take the donation and hold it and if Council decides not to accept it, we just give it back. There was a brief discussion on different circumstances for donations. Police Chief Shepherd advised we applied for a grant for the computers in the cars. We haven't heard anything on that yet so it is still kind of in limbo. Mr. Elliott asked did we get that camera that is supposed to be on a pole? Chief Shepherd answered yes we got that last year. We were supposed to bring it to Council but we could never get with the Officer that was trained with it and Council timing and sitting up a presentation. But we will get that in here and let you see it. It is basically a camera on a expandable pole with a little computer screen at the bottom so you can look like up in the ceilings and see if

there is somebody hiding there and looking under vehicles, etc.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Lights in Queens Court area** – Chairman Bring advised we got a cul-de-sac down there and people are saying they can't see what is going on and they are worried about break-ins and stuff like that. We kind of addressed that, the Service Director is going to put a pole up down there.

Fire Chief Conrad advised I would like to start up some discussion not so much tonight but in the future, in the late 70's when we went to a 4-man shift and became a full-time fire department we were running about 475 calls a year and now we are in the neighborhood of 900 calls a year or better with the same amount of manpower. This has increased our situations where we have got second squad calls happening simultaneously. It has increased our need for mutual aid from other surrounding departments and it gets to the point where it happens quite often and it starts taxing their services. Right now we are the only Fire Department in northeast Ohio that doesn't have a capability of handling all of our second squad calls. The number of calls is starting to put a strain on our current personnel and I just think that the time is fast approaching where we need to sit down and discuss adding manpower to the Fire Department. There are grants available now through that assistance to Fire Fighters program. They will pay 90% of your first year costs, I believe it is 70 or 80% of our second year costs, 50% and then 30%. Basically they would give us some money to help us offset the costs of hiring these individuals for the first 5 years. With Safety's permission and Council's permission just to at least pursue those avenues, I would like to see us at least discuss this subject and maybe look into possibilities of enhancing our services and increasing our manpower.

Fire Chief Conrad advised with this new gear that we did purchase, we have got some gear now that is 2, 3 and 4 standards old at this point. It has no value and we can't sell it to another Fire Department because they are prohibited from issuing it. I presented the Mayor, Law Director and the Finance Director with letters today to ask them about the process of bringing it to Council so that we can dispose of that.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott to adjourn at 8:09 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*

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CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

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 February 6, 2008.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*