

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
October 1, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Conrad

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** *Pending legislation before the House from Chief Shepherd –* Police Chief Shepherd explained at the last Chief's Association meeting, the Lorain County Chief's Association the County Prosecutor Dennis Will brought this legislation to our attention. He feels pretty strongly that it is going to pass. Chairman Bring asked obviously we are not getting any funding for this? Chief Shepherd answered absolutely, it is another state mandate but there is going to be absolutely no funding for it. The gist of it is which stems from 2 cases out of Elyria Police Department where evidence was destroyed or not kept, what this legislation says is that any evidence taken will now have to be maintained by the Police Department until almost the end of time. Mr. Elliott asked until how long? Police Chief Shepherd answered until everybody in particular cases passed on. Chairman Bring stated so it could be 25 or 30 years. Fire Chief Conrad stated it could be 70 years. Mr. Elliott asked even if the case has been dismissed or adjudicated? Police Chief Shepherd advised so what that is going to do is no more getting rid of nothing. So what that is going to do for us, well you dumped our evidence room and that is full right now just simple little things because we constantly rotate our stuff in and out of there. We are not going to be able to get rid of nothing so we are going to need to almost triple the space that we have for evidence. It also requires, now part of this legislation is what we call touch DNA. If you are stopped and caught with a bag of cocaine, you now have to send that bag – not only if the cocaine tests it is cocaine but we have to get DNA testing where you touched the bag to match it to you and any DNA is has to be refrigerated. Rape cases, anything like that, we are going to have to have a refrigerator basically. It is going to have to be in a secure area, it is a pretty complicated bunch of crap that we are going to have to adhere to. It also requires, you can't just listen to people tell us you know as a witness or a suspect or anything like that to listen to you, go ahead and type a report which is what we do now and just send it in. We have to video and audio tape that conversation, even if you are a witness and it has to be maintained. Again that is evidence that has to be maintained forever so we are going to have to have a room set up where we can video and audio tape and save it. You know our witnesses and everything like that. Chairman Bring asked can

you put that on disk or anything like that. Police Chief Shepherd answered the way things are done now is pretty simple, it is just we have no space – there is just no space to do it. Most of the police departments now who have built new police departments and I am not trying to sell let's build a new police department but most of the police departments now have had that in their plans when they got their buildings built and stuff. It was never required when they built this place but when they built this place, I am sure you guys are all aware – it was already too small for when they laid the last block down. But it is just something that I am passing on to you that someone is going to have to figure this out. Chairman Bring advised you guys are going to have to sit down and try to get some kind of an idea of the costs? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes, eventually – absolutely, when we are talking building on to the building or I don't know where else we can do this. Chairman Bring advised the refrigeration thing and then the storage thing are the 2 biggest things. Mr. Elliott asked the touch DNA, which is just adding to our whole line of evidence that we are going to be required to have right? Police Chief Shepherd answered right, right – right now the state does all that stuff for free. Guaranteed it will be inundated with every department having to do this now, they are going to say well now there is a cost to this – I am going to have to pay for that. Mr. Elliott advised not to mention they had a time. There was a brief discussion on bill and mandates it carries. Police Chief Shepherd advised Dennis Will feels pretty strongly that this is going to pass - their fighting it, the Chief's Associations are fighting it, Buckeye State's Sheriff Association; all the law enforcement community's fighting this but not looking very good. Mr. Elliott asked who brought this, do you know? Police Chief Shepherd answered the former State Attorney Petro I believe; he is now a member of that innocent people. There was a brief discussion on pros and cons. Police Chief Shepherd advised maybe talk with Law Director Graves on options.

## **REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD:** Chairman Bring asked Police Chief Shepherd you know we got those cameras up and running, are they actually being monitored by you guys yet or is that not capable by the boat ramp? Police Chief Shepherd answered we just got the monitor, we are able to look at it but we have to look at it on our cad screen because something is missing somewhere and I am not real computer savvy on what needs to be done. I am waiting to find out what is the next step here. The one guy that we just hired, Officer Pozywak is kind of a computer genius. He said something about a photo card; I don't know what that is. Chairman Bring asked have we viewed any of the tapes at all. Police Chief Shepherd answered the one camera that the Mayor was showing the Dispatcher, just the straight view of the ramp. Right now, they just got to periodically look at it because we don't have a separate screen for it. Chairman Bring advised I went down there about 3 weeks ago, we had a lot of kids throwing stuff, breaking stuff. Big rocks and they were going on the pier and then dropping them as hard as they could and they were taking the top layer of the concrete and breaking it. They did it – I found it at least 30 some times and then they broke off 2 of the cleats and then they also rolled the big rocks into the channel which you get a bigger boat in there and it would probably hit the prop. So they made kind of a mess. Mr. Elliott asked do we know who did it. Chairman Bring answered one of the guys saw 3 kids down there but I guess he questioned them, I guess they were

down there several nights. I don't know if they are from around here or what. Mr. Elliott asked is that a problem down there Chief? Police Chief Shepherd answered that seems to be the biggest call we are getting is kids throwing rocks. You got a kid, you got a rock and you got water – what do you think is going to happen. We will monitor as close as we can. Chairman Bring advised that far wall, if you walk down that far wall they really messed it up. He explained damage. Chairman Bring continued have we started those newer patrolmen now? Police Chief Shepherd answered they are not going to be ready – we will use the whole month of October to get them up and running. We didn't really get them hired and ready to go, all the paperwork done until I think October was the actual date we got them up and running. Right now, they are in the training process – they have got 100 hours to kind of get the hang of things and once they get the hang of that. I am looking at probably the beginning of November. What we are going to do is we are going to go ahead and put them on as an extra guy and they can still be watched by a Sergeant. Chairman Bring asked then with the 6 cars, there is not going to be a problem with having the 3 of them out there all the time? Police Chief Shepherd answered no.

1.) ***Radio communications within departments*** – Chairman Bring advised they were supposed to have dropped them off, I don't know if that happened yet? Police Chief Shepherd answered they gathered all of ours up. Mr. Rosso asked are you talking about cell phones. Police Chief Shepherd answered we returned ours last week. Fire Chief Conrad advised they showed up today and did that.

**FIRE CHIEF CONRAD:** Chairman Bring asked Fire Chief Conrad is this you're last meeting? Fire Chief Conrad answered no I will be here for November, December and January. Fire Chief Conrad advised I am planning on having a talk with the Finance Director and the Mayor in the next couple of weeks to impress upon them and Council and Safety Committee, we really need to find the funds to get a lease for an ambulance for next year. It is just every year goes by those ambulances are in for more and more repair and out of the last 2 months that back-up squad was in the shop for almost a month. So it is only a matter of time, some day they are both going to broke down at the same time. Chairman Bring stated probably wouldn't be a bad idea to get the costs of what it is costing us to repair here in the last few months too? Fire Chief Conrad answered we are typically and this is for all vehicles, it is anywhere from like 12,000.00 to 20,000.00 a year depending on whatever. Chairman Bring asked just to maintain? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes. Chairman Bring asked that is for everything? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes, that is for the fire trucks too. Now the maintenance on the fire truck should go down because we got the one that is brand new. Our current front-line pumper though is now 12 years old, we replaced the pump in that about a year/year and a half ago. Hopefully we won't have any major repairs on our pumpers over the next few years but the squads are definitely getting to the point to where there is just always something constantly wrong. They know their own way back and forth to Ray's auto now. Overall our calls this year are up about 5 to 10% over what they were last year; we will have some firm numbers by the end of the year. Hydrant flushing continues we are up to Hollywood, Pasadena coming from the west and heading east. We had a gentleman who's going for his Eagle Scout badge; he got a few of the Boy Scout troops together. I believe it was last weekend or the weekend before and they went out and painted just over 100 fire hydrants. I was going to try and have all the

fire hydrants painted this year, the past Service Director was working with us and they went out and painted a few. I was going to try and have some of the guys paint some this year but with administering the grants and now working on this fire truck and an increase on our call rate, we just haven't had the time to go out and get that stuff done. Chairman Bring advised it really made a difference when they painted it. Fire Chief Conrad advised we asked them to do some of the major thoroughfares. If we get a couple of days, either between us or the Service Department I would like to finish up the major thoroughfares. It is my understanding that Lake Road is either completely done or almost completely done. They missed one or two on Abbe Road, I would like to get those and Oster Road I seen they weren't able to get to that because they ran out of time. If we do get some time, we will get out and try and get the major ones done at least this year and hopefully we can get to that. Chairman Bring asked so when you are set-up to leave, are we set-up to where somebody is going to step in? Fire Chief Conrad advised Lieutenant Langin is the senior Officer in the department and by contract he would be the Acting Chief until there is a test to give and the position is filled. Chairman Bring asked the new truck and stuff, we have had that out several times; do you have to take that back after a certain time; so many hours or anything after you run the engine? Fire Chief Conrad answered no, just the normal vehicle maintenance on any pumper. Chairman Bring asked have we actually used the pumps at all. Fire Chief Conrad answered oh yes; the guys have been out pumping with it. It is certified the day it came here, they do that at the manufacturer. They make sure it pumps at its rated capacity. This time of year is when we normally pump tests our trucks. We will have to do that for the reserve truck, we are trying to get the new truck in service and then we will send it out for its annual pump tests. Mr. Elliott asked the new truck isn't in service yet? Fire Chief Conrad answered no, we still got a couple of cabinets left. The one shift has been in charge of putting that all together and I have been on them to try to speed things up but they have a legitimate excuse – they have been hammered for calls the last 4 or 5 shifts which is the last 2 or 3 weeks. Chairman Bring asked what are we getting called out on, traffic accidents? Fire Chief Conrad answered just a lot of squad calls the last few months. Chairman Bring stated I have actually heard a lot of sirens lately. Fire Chief Conrad concurred we have really been taking a lot of calls here lately. Fire Chief Conrad advised there was a slight increase throughout the year but this last month or month and a half it has been really bad.

#### **OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Police Chief Shepherd advised Sgt. Schuster just made contact with the Pension Board and they have offered him 60% tax free, so he is probably not going to come back for the rest of the year. He has filed an appeal and more then likely he is going to be gone. Paysor has his hearing in October 18<sup>th</sup> or something like that. I sure would like those 2 positions filled because I will not be able to do it with part-time people. To fill those with part-time is killing me now, with Schuster not working – he hasn't worked since February but he is good until I think February of next year on sick time. He is definitely going to go and Paysor is 99.9% sure that he will be gone by the end of the year this year with his legs you know. I would maybe like to see us get an un-marked car.

The shooting we had the other day, we had no car to put the gathered evidence in and it is here on station and it was kind of a free-for-all. We had guys going back and get this and go back and get that and go back and get this. Chairman Bring advised actually I talked to Captain Komlosy about that Tuesday. We are going to have to look at it when we do the budget this year; I was going to talk to the Mayor about it.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:** **None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott to adjourn at 7:26 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 October 1, 2008.

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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*