

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
June 1, 2011

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, June 1, 2011. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Law Director Graves

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2011 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

*Police* – Chairman Bring reviewed report forwarded from Chief Shepherd;

1. 05/04 – 05/05 – Ptlm. Melda, using our ID kit, went to our schools and made juvenile IDS for the kids.
2. The week of 05/15 – 05/22 is considered Police Memorial week, officers from our department will be attending local functions in Lorain and Cleveland.
3. We have been asked by Walmart (Avon) to put on a water safety program outside the store front. Sgt. Keenan and Ptlm. Reiber are getting hand out material and setting up a date with Walmart. (Walmart has been giving us about a \$1000.00 a year the last five years, we are returning the courtesy).
4. June 2 is our first scheduled practice police and fire dive together – Sgt. Keenan, Ptlm. Reiber and Ptlm. Pace are our team members.
5. Ptlm. Melda during the month of May has a couple of bicycle safety classes he is putting on for cub scouts and other youth groups.

Chairman Bring advised also attached Officer Shawn Corr has the maintenance program for the police cars. At this time 720 and 724 are out of service; that is the 2 older black cars. 720 has catalytic convertor, tires and something else wrong with it for a total of approximately \$1500.00 for repair. 724 has a blower motor I think is for the air conditioner which is out, so my understanding is they are going to take the blower motor out of 720 which is almost brand new and put it in 724 to get it back into service. They did check on the new police cars that are on order and I think it is going to be late August or early September before we get the cars.

Chairman Bring advised on the monitors/cameras for jail/lobby/dispatch, we are leaving that on for a while because we are still working on that. There is nothing new on that, it is a money issue which is pretty extensive right now. So they are making do with what they have right now.

Chairman Bring advised 2 more signs which were not taken but knocked down for the purpose of taking them. I don't know if they are taking them and selling them for scrap or whatever. So if everybody would keep an eye out and advise the police because if one of those signs go down and somebody runs through it and hits somebody – it is going to be a nasty situation. Councilman Elliott asked it was a stop sign? Chairman Bring advised one was a stop sign and one was a street sign. It was flat enough that you would not have even seen it, if you would have been driving at night – obviously people around here know it but if you just moved into the area/we just had the holiday and having people visiting and those people would not know and would run right through it.

**Fire** – Chairman Bring reviewed information packet from Fire Card as follows:

1. The Sheffield Lake Fire Department and Police Department will conducting a Dive training tomorrow June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 o'clock at the boat launch.
2. The \$540.00 that the VFW donated to the fire department was put to good use, with that money we were able to buy two Stearns Versatile Rescue Vest, which will be used for operations near the shore of water rescues. We also bought one electric meter puller with its carrying bag. At this time all fire fighters have been trained on how to use it and it is in service on E61.
3. The Fire Chiefs from Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village, Avon, Sheffield Twp and Elyria Twp have been working together to ensure that when there is a structure fire there will be enough manpower on scene to meet the requirements set by NFPA 1710. The chiefs are also working together to ensure that there are sufficient command level officers on scene at any major incident. This is an effort by the chiefs to improve fire fighter safety and operational coordination during emergency operations.
4. The Mayor has given me the OK for the Sheffield Lake fire department to participate in a joint Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant with Elyria Twp Fire Department and Sheffield Twp Fire Department. The three departments will be requesting funds to purchase MDT's (Mobile Data Terminals) for our vehicles. The three departments are also asking for funds for a station alerting system. This system will give dispatch control of certain parts of the station, for instance, the dorm lights, the bay doors. It also has the capability for different tones for different calls, for instance; medical, MVA's and fire. This will allow the fire fighters to know what type of call they are receiving and while they are getting geared up, the information for the call will be given to them over the radio. The same information that is given to the fire fighters over the radio will also be on the MDT in the squad or engine. Both of these pieces of equipment are needed for preparation to switch to Lorain County 911 dispatch, so all of the fire departments that are working together will have one central dispatch. I should have the city's cost next meeting.
5. I have two quotes for a new base radio to meet the narrow band requirements and I have attached both to this report. After talking to the people at VASU, I would recommend the Equivalent base radio, it is more expensive, however, there is a very good possibility that we will have to upgrade to P-25 digital in the near future. The

Equivalent base radio will only require an upgrade, where the Mid Tier base radio will have to be replaced.

6. I have also attached the vehicle management report that Lieutenant Langin prepared for me. Both E-61 and E-63 are scheduled to have their annual service in September.

Chairman Bring reviewed attached costs and quotes. Councilman Rosso advised Fire Chief Card called me with a couple of things; apparently there was somebody from ODNR at the boat launch maybe over the weekend inspecting a few watercraft and one of them happened to be Scott Kozlowski's and he mentioned where are the "no swimming" signs. These kids can't be going off this pier/the rocks area. So Chief Card brought up that they really should be posted no swimming because he is afraid that when someone will go in the water and the undertow will take them out and they will not be able to recover them or save them if you will. Law Director Graves advised I think in the rules and regulations it does say no swimming in the channel area. Councilman Rosso stated jumping off of the rocks – his concern is that someone is going to go in there and they are not going to be able to save them. This ODNR guy mentioned that should be posted as no swimming off of there. His other concern too is that someone is going to eventually fall between the rocks and get hurt. Chairman Bring stated I think the Mayor was okay with them jumping on the other side but I will have to check and find out. Councilman Rosso stated his concern is that the undertow will take them out, I am talking about Chief Card – that was his concern was that. On the same thing though, on the other side where the beach is he says that we should get buoys to put up there to mark that as swimming to prevent boaters from getting too close to where we are allowing swimming which is a safety issue also. So those are the 2 things that he wanted us to know. Chairman Bring stated one thing that I don't know if we do have down there and I never saw is a stand-up/throw out safety donut. That is something we should have down there and I know they have it in Avon Lake. Councilman Rosso stated it would probably last about a week before somebody will take it. Chairman Bring stated I know but you can't not do something because of the fear of it. Councilman Rosso advised I think that used to be an issue on that pier in Lorain. So anyways those were the 2 things and I told him that probably falls under Park Board. Law Director Graves stated I don't think there would be any issue with putting a life ring over on the beach area behind the library to the east of the boat launch. I think that the general policy from the city from the Mayor was that we were not going to discourage fishing or swimming in the lake out on each side but we wanted to make sure that they were not in the channel where the boats were coming and going. One of the concerns has been that the grant money that the city received for the boat launch itself was for boating, only boating and you know we didn't want to I guess advertise that there was fishing and swimming but at the same time we didn't want to discourage it. Councilman Rosso stated I would say it would be a good discussion between the Chief and the Mayor to discuss his concerns. Chairman Bring stated we are doing a Dive practice there tomorrow.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

*Compressed Natural Gas* – Chairman Bring advised this is something I thought might be

worth looking into. They are fueling cars now with what is called compressed natural gas and it is sold by the pound but it also equates to a gallon at about \$.89 cents a gallon. You can put it in certain vehicles, you can get kits to install in vehicles. It is called a conversion kit, if you have somebody do it it costs about \$8000.00 a car. I am trying to find more information on the kit which I am still waiting for information to come back to me. I am sure if somebody else can do it, I am sure our mechanic can do it to. Average fuel is about \$3.50 a gallon, so we are saving about 75% there and this is supposed to be a cleaner burning fuel and it doesn't harm anything. As a matter of fact it makes a car run better and you can do it either on diesel or gas, it does not eliminate the gas – you can still run on gas if you have it. This is just a supplemental tank and it adds 2 of me to the car weight wise – 500 pounds because of the tank. You know we average 16 to 18 miles to the gallon, so last year's budget for the vehicles for the police department were \$46,000.00 in fuel costs. The reason I am bringing this up now is when we get these 3 new cars, it may be worthwhile looking into. I obviously have to do a lot more as far as looking into costs and whether it is even worth it or not and I got to talk to Mr. McCallie but I thought I would bring it up. They are making these filling stations throughout the US and the best thing for us is if we get them in the vehicles/we don't really run out of the city. We would ultimately see if they could make some kind of a station and we could also do it on natural gas. I know several years ago, approximately 14 years ago or so the school bus's all changed over to propane and at the time it was a real good idea but then propane went pretty high and was not economical so they switched them back. I am working on that just to find out if it is worth it or not. I did talk to Shawn for current information on mph on our cars now. You could probably be looking at an investment of \$20,000.00 in 3 vehicles. It all depends on if they would do a filling station at our facility or not. I think the initial investment might be a little bit but after you get it going and as far as I know you can actually buy the vehicles with it already converted. I don't think fuel is going to go down, the cheapest I saw last week was \$3.55. There was a brief discussion on the proposal.

Law Director Graves advised we had a situation where one of our new part-time dispatchers after only a short period of time had been paid a \$100.00 clothing allowance and then tendered her resignation. The Chief was asking is that something that we could recoup. I think they did actually go ahead and deduct that because I don't think she used it because she was only here a short period of time. The first thing I did was talk to the Finance Director and asked is there an ordinance, is there something that authorizes a clothing allowance for the part-time dispatchers and she thought there was and she went and looked and talked to the Chief. Apparently there is not, apparently after talking to the Chief it is just something they have done forever. When they hire a part-timer they give a \$100.00 initial clothing allowance and then there is an ordinance that after a certain period of time which I think they pay it in April then they get a \$150.00 annual uniform allowance. But there is nothing that authorizes that initial start-up and part-timers did have to go out and buy their uniform. I don't know that anybody has an objection to giving them \$100.00 because at start-up part-timers aren't making that much money. But we should have something on the books that authorizes it. I wanted to see if you might

want to sponsor that. Councilman Elliott stated so it would be like after 2 months of employment, what I am saying when you give them the \$100.00 are you putting a time limit on that to where we can go back and deduct that \$100.00 from their pay?

Councilman Rosso stated if you are going to require them to wear a uniform starting day 1 then you might as well as give it to them day 1. Chairman Bring stated that is the same situation we have in the Fire Department because they have to have certain equipment and that is why they have gotten rid of some of the part-time people. You can't interchange like they used to because Tim Card just told me that the other day, he said when that person comes on you have to outfit them with their own gear and it is the same thing and you cannot send somebody out there without the proper gear and it is the same thing with this thing you can't have somebody sitting in dispatch that looks like a homeless guy. Councilman Rosso stated I mean you have been doing it for how long and this is the first time it has come up. Not the first time that we are giving it but that it was an issue that hey we gave it and they didn't stay that long. Law Director Graves stated I haven't heard anyone opposed to giving them the \$100.00 when they first start to go out and get their dispatch uniform but we ought to have an ordinance that says that. It is one of those things that we have done it for 30 years and everybody just assumed that there was and it doesn't appear that there is. Councilman Rosso stated my comment was more to Eric's, hey if they are not here X amount of days we are going to take it back. Law Director Graves stated put a date of when they would receive, in other words maybe they have to make the initial investment but then after maybe in their second paycheck or something they get the \$100.00 almost like a reimbursement. The recent change they start out at the minimum wage and then they go after 100 hours they go to \$10.00 an hour and then after 1000 hours they go to 7% of the full-time dispatchers. Chairman Bring explained we changed it because it was 1000 hours for the first one. Law Director Graves stated it was basically going to take them 1-1/2 to 2 years to get off of minimum wage. Chairman Bring stated as a part-time, it could have been 3 years. Law Director Graves so now after 100 hours they can at least go up to \$10.00 an hour and it makes it more competitive with other communities. Chairman Bring advised you know once they get the 100 hours in because they have gone through their training and can assume they are going to be here – just a thought. Councilman Elliott stated I know some departments are actually instead of for their first year they are not issued a full uniform, they are actually issued a shirt. It is kind of like a golf shirt almost with the department insignia on it and they are supposed to wear dress pants with it. It is a lot cheaper than having to buy a full uniform. Chairman Bring stated like Rick said this is the first time it has come up. Councilman Elliott stated I am not against trying to recoup our money from a guy that gets on and quits right away. Councilman Rosso stated why do dispatchers have to have a uniform. Chairman Bring stated there is people that they have to take care of. Law Director Graves stated maybe this is a conversation that involves the Chief because I really don't know much about it. Chairman Bring advised I will talk to him about that \$100.00 clothing allowance for the part-time dispatchers.

Councilman Rosso stated I would to thank Sergeant Mariner for volunteering to the VFW function in playing the bagpipes. I believe he piped in the VFW color guard. Also to the

Firemen that were on duty, they didn't leave the station but they came out in front of the bays and stood at attention through the ceremony which was commented on. So again thanks to those guys.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott/Second by Rosso to adjourn at 7:35 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 June 1, 2011.

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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*