

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
October 5, 2011

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, October 5, 2011. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Law Director Graves, Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Card, Councilwoman Stark

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso/Second by Elliott to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2011 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

*Police* – Police Chief Shepherd reported for the month of October, some of the things that are going on training wise - the 3 Sergeants; Mariner, Goscewski and Keenan are attending a free seminar on legal updates and the use of deadly force. Campo and myself are attending free FBI seminar on violent crimes and towards the end of the month Corr, Green and Reiber are going to a suicide bomber school as far as training for the month of October outside of our normal in-service stuff that we have through the LETN. Activities for the Police Department; this coming Friday Corr will be assisting out at the JVS, about twice a year they put on a team driving seminar where the cops help the kids about the traffic laws and stuff like that and kind of ride in the car with them. It is like 4 hours, we assist; the State Patrol, the Sheriff Department and I think Avon Lake. Halloween night we will have 3 patrol cars out plus a Detective. I instituted a new program where the Detective works like a 9 to 5 shift one week and the following week he is going to work like 2 to 10. We have been having a lot of house break-in's and they have been happening on the afternoon shifts and this will also free him up to do some interviews with the juveniles because they are in school all day and they don't get home until after 3 and if he goes home at 4 then there is nothing outside of overtime or rescheduling stuff. We are going to try to see how that works out for a little bit. But Halloween night there will be actually 4 people out.

**Grants:**

a.) *MDT's* – Police Chief Shepherd advised we put together a computer for the one car that we have that doesn't have one cruiser #726. We need an air card for that and Tammy is working out the details on that. Shawn called Verizon, so if we order one we get it for 1 month free and we got to pick it up. I don't know what they are paying but I think it is like \$38.00 a month or something like that but she was going to have to talk to the Mayor about that. Cruiser#730 (light blue cruiser) had a major problem – the air

compressor and serpentine belt and everything went out so we have it over to the Ford garage and it is \$850.00. My only complaint is on the maintenance budget, we are going to have to budget about \$2200.00 to \$2500.00 per car, right now it is only being budgeted like \$700.00 per cruiser and it only takes a couple things this to wipe us out. When the 3 black cruisers went down; 1 with no engine and the other 2 that are sitting over growing weeds, we had to use the other 3 cars. Well, all we did was compile mileage and wear and tear and now we are paying the price because they are starting to fall apart.

- b.) **2011 Drug US Prevention Program Grant** – working on.
- c.) **SOS – Secure Our Schools Program Grant** – Councilman Rosso asked what exactly is that? Police Chief Shepherd answered I think what that is is trying to get an Officer inside the school along with training. I don't know if that would help us get an Officer but if we got an Officer he would have to be dedicated to the schools. Councilman Rosso asked it would have to be a school in Sheffield Lake wouldn't it, so it would be one of the elementary schools for now. Chairman Bring stated so it would for the 3 we have.
- d.) **Police Grants** – Police Chief Shepherd advised Bill showed me a grant for a Segway, one of those things that you stand on and ride and that is the last one that I saw. Everyone that I get through email or something I take it over to him. Councilman Rosso asked what would we do with that Segway if we got one? Police Chief Shepherd answered don't ask me. Chairman Bring concurred exactly what I was thinking. Councilman Rosso stated why even waste our time, you couldn't even make it down the roads.
- e.) **Monitors/cameras for jail/lobby/dispatch** – Police Chief Shepherd stated I did talk to Bill about gearing a grant maybe to what I told you way back in April about the video system and the monitors that are failing – that should actually be our priority right now than anything. Chairman Bring advised I was just going to mention that the monitors and the cameras are still way outdated and sooner or later we got to do something with that.

**Vehicles** – Chairman Bring advised the vehicle maintenance reports are attached and Shawn does that and Shawn does a very good job with all that.

**Jail** – Police Chief Shepherd advised the jail toilet hasn't worked in 2 weeks. Len called some guys up and they are kind of having a hard time fixing it because it is so out-dated that it looks like the whole system going to have to be replaced. Chairman Bring stated that is a commercial grade probably. Police Chief Shepherd answered we have 2 toilets; 1 in each cell and when one flushes it just travels over to the other one and then when they flush it just travels right back to the other side. So we have 2 guys that have been committed for 10 days and they are both in 1 cell over there. The other bad part is we have to go in every morning with a bucket of water to flush the toilet. So before that becomes some sort of health issue or lawsuit or something we have to make some decision on how we are going to remedy that. The only other thing is both

my overtime and my part-time accounts – I talked with the Mayor about it and he said Tammy is aware of it and they are going to kind of work something out but the money is disappearing faster than I can imagine, like I said we are down 4 people for full-time Officers so the part-time are trying to pick up that time. It is getting tough but we are getting by.

**Community Days report** – Chairman Bring reported there is a report attached, there was very few problems but again we want to thank them for that.

**Dive Team training** – Chairman Bring reported I actually went to that.

Chairman Bring asked as far as the bike path and stuff, has everyone been pretty good down there? Police Chief Shepherd stated winter is coming on so the kids aren't out in the cold, usually in the summer. We have been having a pretty strong presence of enforcement there, the guys getting out of the cruisers and going down and chasing the kids off the bridge because around 4 o'clock I notice on my way home every day that they start to gather there and call back to station and have them go down and run them out of there. Chairman Bring stated I had a lady call me the other day and said that there was a possible abduction and that was on Belle and Richelieu. Apparently she called the Police with her version of the abduction thing wasn't anything dramatic but kids got off the bus about 3 or 3:30 over there and there was a light green car apparently and I guess there was an older gentleman with 2 younger people in the car but they had asked the kids if they wanted a ride and the kids tried to turn and run but apparently on that street there is a lot of parked cars. According to what she said that you guys had come out and said that they are legally parked because they were so far off the curb but she said if there is any way that somebody can kind of keep an eye on that and I told her that I would relay the message. That happened last week I think on Wednesday or Thursday. Police Chief Shepherd advised a report was filed and every year when school is in session, the day shift gets out there by a quarter till and night shift stays on as long as they can. All the bus's are being followed and any time we get a report of any trouble spots or anything like that at the bus stop area we always have an Officer pay a little closer attention to that. Chairman Bring asked as far as the cars parking on the road and I know that we still have an issue over there on Lake Road where they are parking either on the sidewalk or the bike path and they continue to do that. I just went by and there is 3 of them on it right now. I talked to Len about it but he doesn't believe that it should be Steve going out to cite these people, he said it should probably be the Police. I think that needs to be addressed and I know that they were warned by Shawn and they continue to do it. Police Chief Shepherd asked where is that at? Chairman Bring answered right next to Blackie's (the barber). You can't miss it, every night you go by there is 3 cars or a van out there. Police Chief Shepherd asked so it at the east end? Chairman Bring answered yes, they used to have 3 cars but the other night they had 4 out there and they were all parked either on the sidewalk or the bike path. They are doing it during the evening as well during the day. I don't think it so much a problem during the evening but they are also doing it during the day and when people are out walking they can't walk on the sidewalk. In the evening it is not that big of a deal as long as they stay off the bike path, as far as I feel. Police Chief Shepherd asked on the Belle/Brockley parking thing, is she talking about them crossing the sidewalk? Chairman Bring answered she didn't say anything about crossing the sidewalk,

she just said there is an absorbent amount of cars parked in that area and it is hard for the kids to see because they are walking in between the cars. She says there is a lot of people who have room in the driveway but everybody seems to be parking the street. I don't think we can do anything that we can stop them from doing that. She is frustrated with the kids because they are going to the bus and they are walking in between the cars and they are not looking. I told her that I would relay the message but I said I don't think we can actually do anything else. Police Chief Shepherd advised we were getting a complaint over on West Shore of a kid in a green mustang who just everyday has to light it up and Jason Melda one of my part-time guys caught him yesterday with a 48 in a 25, so I had to him write an extra note to the court of the neighborhood complaint of the way this kid has been driving. We finally got him and would deeply appreciate if he sent a couple of days in. Chairman Bring advised Patrolman Melda is a very good Officer.

**Fire** – Fire Chief Card reported we had our Dive Training in August, we hosted Lorain County Dive Team which included our Fire Department and Police our Department. We borrowed a dive dummy from the Coast Guard and we sunk it out there past the break wall and we did certain patterns to find it and everybody found that and then we also through fake guns out in the water and practiced searching for evidence as well so everything went well. Chairman Bring advised the only thing was it was flat, calm, crystal clear water – you could have found a dime on the bottom. Fire Chief Card stated it will not be that way when we are doing it for real. Chairman Bring advised everyone was very professional, I spent a couple of hours down there with that and it is neat to go to and watch the guys in all their gear. Fire Chief Card advised Mr. Gardner and myself worked on the AFG grant for the squads and that was turned in on time. So it should be February or March when we find out. The joint grant that I was doing with Sheffield Township and Elyria Township for the MDT's and the station alerting system – once we get that stuff we can transfer our dispatch over to 911 and that grant was also turned in. We will hear about that around the same time as the squads. E61 and E63 – they both have had their pump tests and their service done for the year. Chairman Bring stated I went to that also, that was in Brunswick where they actually hook the pumps up and tests them. It is a pretty neat facility, you would have to see the place and see what they do in there. They also have a portable system now too, I guess this thing was \$80,000.00 and they can bring it out to your facility. I don't know what they would charge to come out and set it up but it might be worthwhile to have them do that. I think this is something brand new that they are just doing but by the time you pay maybe \$30.00 or \$40.00 worth of fuel and pay somebody to go out and get the truck and come back – it might be worthwhile to have them come out and do something like that. That guy actually lives here in Sheffield Lake, so he took me out and showed me the whole facility and what they do. They actually rebuild engines and they do the dyno testing for transmissions and engines. Fire Chief Card advised they are just getting involved in the ladder testing. American Test Center right now has been doing our ladder tests and we have been driving our trucks to Avon Lake and we do it together. Next year we will probably switch to WW Williams because they will just come right out to our station and do it. He continued last month I sent Fire Fighter Davis to a Drivers Training Instructors School and

so now he is our Driver Training Instructor and this month he is currently working on training all the shifts for drivers training. Once he finishes with all the class room portion of that training than we will have to set up a drivers training in the parking lot of the shopping center so we can all go through the course. Police Chief Shepherd advised at Community College through a police grant got a driving simulator for driving a police car through an emergency situations, I could line that up for you guys if you want. Fire Chief Card advised I am also working on a grant with Mr. Gardner, it is a Workers Comp safety grant so we can replace our cots with better cots. It has to be inspected by Workers Comp and I was in the process of doing that with the Inspector and then we got a house/apartment fire so I had to leave so I have been waiting to have that rescheduled. Chairman Bring advised in that apartment fire one of our Fire Fighters actually rescued an elderly lady and he did a real good job with that. Recently had 2 fires in Sheffield Village that we had to do mutual aid with and I think Mr. Card said that is the first time that that has ever happened. Fire Chief Card advised Wes Mariner is one of our younger guys, Lt. Langin went into the apartment fire and was knocking the fire down and Wes Mariner was searching and found an elderly lady in the bedroom and moved her and as far as I know she is doing fine.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

***Police part-time uniform allowance; entry level*** – Police Chief Shepherd advised since of the beginning of time that I can remember, not even when I wasn't the Chief whenever they would hire any patrol Officer here, Walter or Schmidt whoever was the Chief and myself even when we hired somebody, most of the time we don't have enough stuff to get them started. So what we were doing they were given a small penance of like \$150.00 and like I told you today the holster we require is a security 3 level holster which is \$105.00 so giving them \$150.00 really doesn't cover a whole lot but it is a good faith thing. When we were hiring part-time dispatchers, we were giving them \$100.00 and it would get you a couple of shirts and a pair of pants. I think a pair of pants is \$49.00 and shirts are \$40.00 so that \$100.00 you are not getting a whole lot but it is a gesture of we'll help you out to kind of get you started. It has never been written anywhere and I think that became an issue and Dave and I talked about maybe that part-time employee ordinance something added to it. Every April everyone gets a clothing allowance; full-time and part-time people. Part-time dispatchers get \$150.00 which doesn't cover a whole lot and part-time patrol Officers get \$300.00 but the full-time people do pretty well. I would like to see some good faith gesture made and maybe put it in writing that in the years to come that we do compensate them a little bit. Like I said the expense of a gun belt, uniform, shoes and everything and then starting off at minimum wage at \$10.00 an hour is a squeeze. We expect them to look and be sharp out there and I think that is our responsibility to help them a little bit. Law Director Graves asked what did you say about every April, they get \$300.00. Police Chief Shepherd explained it is in the full-time peoples contract and this goes way back when Kathy Thomason was able to get that passed. All part-time patrolman get \$300.00 because they have more an expense then the dispatchers do because they have gun belts, etc. Law Director Graves asked that is just for the patrolmen, there is nothing for part-time dispatch. Police Chief Shepherd answered they get \$150.00

and they used to get nothing and then I kept saying that is just not right. Chairman Bring stated the only problem is we just had a dispatcher that was hired and then a short time later they quit. Law Director Graves advised what brought this to light was we had a part-time dispatcher that got the \$100.00 and they were only here a very short period of time and then quit. The question came up can we take that back? We did take it back but when I took a look at it I said let me see the legislation and Tammy and Larry took a look and there didn't seem to be any. I talked it over with the Chief and also the Finance Director and everyone seems to be comfortable with a \$100.00 initial uniform allowance for dispatch and \$150.00 initial uniform allowance for the Officers. Chairman Bring stated you want to just write it up then. Law Director Graves advised it should come out of Safety and we can just take it to Council. The other issue is our newest part-time patrol Officer Mr. Pace did not receive this and he is the only one that did not receive this and I think that it would be only fair to make this retro so that he would be able to receive it. If this committee is in agreement, we can just write this up as a first reading. Police Chief Shepherd advised if I could run one more thing by you Dave while we are here, it is kind of an un-written policy that we kind of had when the part-time Officers went to get the \$300.00 clothing allowance, at that time we were at full staff we had quite a few full-time guys at that time and when I was telling the guys if you don't work a minimum of 300 hours a year you are not going to get a clothing allowance. At that time I had Jim Kamholz who was working 3 days a week and only get \$300.00 and we had another guy Jim Biehl who is no longer here working only 1 day a month – well it is not fair for him to get the \$300.00 and Kamholz who is working 10 times as much and he got \$300.00. Law Director Graves advised I will pull that ordinance and maybe we can look at revising that to have some type of minimum hours. Police Chief Shepherd advised if there was a minimum standard in there then I think everyone would feel better because that is usually a gripe towards the end of the year, you know I am only getting \$300.00 but he is getting \$300.00 and he was only here 2 days a month. Councilwoman Stark asked we just give them the money and we assume they are buying clothes or do they have to provide you a receipt that says I paid this much for a gun belt and I am reimbursing you for it or are we just giving them \$100.00 and saying please go spend this on this but they can actually spend it however they want to. Police Chief Shepherd answered what we do is we have an inspections process, each guy is inspected before they go out on the road by the OIC or the Acting OIC so if you have worn or tattered clothing you are told about it one time and you get spanked if it happens again. Everyone is pretty honest, like I said \$150.00 to \$300.00 is going to go real fast. I should have a list of clothes here to give you a better perspective but I know for a fact this stuff is pretty expensive. Gun belts don't wear out – you probably get 10 or 15 years out of a gun belt/holster is the same and it depends on how you take care of stuff. You know there is people that take care of their stuff and there are people who are just pigs and can't help themselves. Most of our guys and you know you all see them, they look pretty pristine in my opinion. Through the years, we usually have like asp holders, mace holders and stuff like that but I have 0 at this point. If we hired 2 people tomorrow we would have to completely outfit them and to completely outfit them you are talking \$700.00 to \$800.00 per person. Chairman Bring

asked part of the uniform is also a bullet proof vest correct? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Chairman Bring asked are all your Officers required to wear those when they go out? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Chairman Bring asked that is checked? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Law Director Graves asked how are the part-timers scheduled? Police Chief Shepherd answered I put out an availability and I always have a 3 month schedule put out and they let me know what they can work – they cross off days and shifts that they cannot work. Law Director Graves asked but if they so choose everyone is given the opportunity to work the same number of hours? Police Chief Shepherd answered absolutely. Law Director Graves asked so no one could make the argument that hey he just never schedules me, I would work more hours? Police Chief Shepherd advised we have a policy that says you have to submit for a minimum of 12 shifts a month, you are not going to get 12 until now. Everyone now is averaging between 7 and 8 except for Ptlm. Melda who fortunately for us doesn't have a job at all so he is available 24/7 and I am working him. Law Director Graves asked is there a minimum number of hours you would recommend as far as a draft ordinance? Police Chief Shepherd answered that is hard to say. Law Director Graves advised we will put together a draft for a future meeting. Councilman Elliott stated I would like to see a safeguard put in place for why this was brought up to begin with, maybe if a guy doesn't work with us for 2 months then we can recoup all that money. We got lucky this time but I think maybe in an ordinance form we need something in there. Councilman Rosso stated out of all the part-time people we have hired this has happened once, it is \$100.00. Police Chief Shepherd stated we hold 2 weeks back, they are not going to rip us off. Chairman Bring stated even though it is only \$100.00 I think you have people here that are not going to allow it just to go away. If it happened a couple of times in a row I would be all over it but this is the first time that I remember doing it. Again Tammy follows every nickel that goes out of here and that also reflects on Larry because you guys recommend hiring these people and if they go away, I am sure you want to get back whatever you got. Police Chief Shepherd advised she went through her training process but when it was time to come out of her training and go on her own she quit. Councilman Rosso stated I don't have a problem with you get it after you complete your training. Councilman Elliott stated it is not so much that as I think we should have something that states if you quit within 2 months we get the money back or the uniforms back. Police Chief Shepherd stated if I could comment on the uniforms – I wouldn't want no one else's uniforms back. Probably none of us in this room could wear the same size shirt, so it is almost worthless.

**Animal Control Officer** – Chairman Bring advised the reason that I put that in there is there was a person who lived in Vermilion but she was actually the Animal Control Officer for the City of Bay Village and was laid off. The reason I put that in there to show you that not only we are having issues with monies, that is also an issue over there in Bay Village and they did lay off there Animal Control Officer and I believe that they are also using County. A lot of people ask me are we ever going to get an Animal Control Officer again but it makes it very difficult to bring an Animal Control Officer in if we need Policemen and Firemen that are more important and that is just my opinion. Councilman Rosso asked what did we spend on an Animal Control Officer when we had one, a part-

time job? Police Chief Shepherd answered I think he was budgeted \$7000.00 but you have to remember you got to get him a car, you got to get training and all the equipment. You are talking a pretty big expense to restart it now to be honest. There was a brief discussion on recent issue with a dog at large. **REMOVE.**

***Regulating products known as “spice/bath salts”*** – Law Director Graves stated I talked to the Chief today and I did do a little research. This is a real problem, these are otherwise legal substances that cause very similar effects to other illegal drugs and a lot of dangerous lingering effects and a lot of young people are experimenting with them here in Sheffield Lake. The Governor did sign legislation including spice and bath salts as prohibited substances and that will go into effect in mid-October and the Federal DEA has also banned them and that will also go into effect in mid-October. Some communities have had pre-empted the State locally banned them and I had thought maybe that Sheffield Lake should go in that direction. But at this point we my-as-well just wait for the State law to kick in. Chairman Bring asked is this something that they call these things or this actually what they use? Law Director Graves answered these are street names, the bath salts are not really bath salts – it is not the beads that they are crushing and that is another problem. These are just legal chemicals that the street name is bath salts and spice is like incense that they grind up off the stick. So that will be treated in the same manner as marijuana, spice will be. Fire Chief Card advised the Fire Department and the Police Department because we go to the same calls but we have had quite a few calls and we have had to transport these people to the hospital and most of them are juveniles and they are actually crazy. Law Director Graves advised they say they can have days and days of lingering hallucinations and extreme paranoia. **REMOVE.**

Law Director Graves advised we did receive a notice to reopen on wages, so we will be getting some negotiations with the OPBA on wages.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

***Compressed Natural Gas*** - Chairman Bring advised I went to a seminar on that, it was in the City of Avon Lake. The City of Bay Village was there and Len and I attended that, Avon Lake and another city and they did a 4 hour seminar on this. Again it is something worthwhile looking into, costs savings is pretty substantial and they already have vehicles that are already made up with propane which is about \$1.00 a gallon savings. We did find out that even though it is a \$1.00 gallon savings you do lose 15% efficiency. If you go to the compressed natural gas you are saving almost \$1.50 to \$1.85 a gallon and that is something worthwhile looking into. There are several fleets that are getting changed over and they are saving millions and millions of dollars. Obviously we have a small city but with all these other cities a compressed natural gas station costs \$250,000.00 to build but if you get everybody on board with that to have a filling station and once that is in the area, to maybe convert some of the cars or vehicles would be worthwhile. But I looked at just our 3 cruisers, if we took the 3 new ones and converted them we would save somewhere around \$20,000.00 a year in fuel. That is almost a part-time person, you know anything we can do. It is becoming a hot topic because of the natural gas that is available and seems to be more available than ever before and we don't foresee gasoline going

down any time soon. Law Director Graves asked are there any grants? Chairman Bring advised speaking with Mr. Gardner about it. I do have literature on that and I will bring in and leave it in Council Chambers for anyone who wants to read it.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Rosso/Second by Elliott to adjourn at 7:48 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 5, 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*