

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
July 6, 2010

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Tuesday, July 6, 2010. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Councilwomen Stark and Huska, Safety Director Arendt, Acting Fire Chief Langin, Former Fire Chief Rouse, Service Director Smith, Concerned Citizens

READING OF THE MINUTES:

*Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2010 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairman Bring advised I just wanted to recognize that we had Top Cop awarded to 2 Sheffield Lake Police Officers and we never really recognized them – Sergeant James Mariner and Patrolman Ken Collins.

REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:

Fire - Acting Fire Chief Langin reported as you are aware our part-time haven't pretty much been active since December. We have recently lost another one, he got hired full-time in Avon Lake – Fire Fighter Walters is now over there and Fire Fighter Szytec is getting hired in Sheffield Village. I talked with the Safety Director and they were wishing to borrow a set of gear for him down there for a period of time until they can get him fitted for his own gear down there. I don't know we will be getting them back if we are. The squads have been down quite a bit in the last month or so. We had 2 units out of service at the same time. I don't know if you are aware of that or not but that was last month. Currently we have 1 down today, it has got another charging system problem and the city's mechanic John McCallie is going to be addressing that. He has got it half apart and he will be advising me tomorrow as to what the repairs are going to be on that or what is going to be needed. Fire hydrant testing has started, I have gotten with John Edwards and he has got it in the Press. We are starting from west to east across the city, currently we are right around the Warwick area. We are moving at a little slower pace this year due to not having part-time people and we have to use an ambulance instead of utility vehicle because that is out of service. I did have something for you to look at, it is a call we ran on last month. The door to balloon time was 34 minutes and this patient came out with virtually no damage or anything. St John West Shore was kind enough to send us pictures if you would like to see. He explained there is your blockage before and here is your opening afterwards. Chairman Bring stated they say you have got about a 60 minute window time. Acting Fire Chief Langin advised total time on the call I believe was under the hour window. We commended our guys very much for that, a very professional group and I think we do an outstanding job. Chairman Bring asked those leads and things that you hook up – does that help out. Acting Fire Chief Langin answered that 12 lead, if you look at this Dennis – the 12 lead was sent by us at 22:12 and the balloon time went in at 23:08. Chairman Bring

asked so without that they would have really not known where that blockage was and stuff. Acting Fire Chief Langin answered that doesn't definitively tell them where the blockage but it tells that there is a problem when they go in. She is doing fine now. Chairman Bring stated with the ambulance, last week when we were having a meeting we stopped afterwards and we did have both ambulances down and Mr. Langin did act appropriately – we actually borrowed one from another city and it was really appreciated that they let us do that but it was very good thought process on him because we were stuck because we could not take that other ambulance out because the alternator was shot on it and we would have not made it to and from the hospital. Acting Fire Chief Langin concurred right, we did end up using that on at least 1 if not 2 calls in the down time that squads were down. Chairman Bring advised the ambulances are starting to break down more consistently here. Safety Director Arendt stated we have discussed this before, I think you can look at past minutes of the meetings. I have said many times eventually we are going to bite this bullet. Chief Langin called me when the ambulance were down and we talked about Avon Lake, he went and got it and they returned it. We were lucky that the city had it, the biggest problem is obviously is the costs. We looked at a demo last year and it was what - \$285,000.00. Acting Fire Chief Langin answered no, I think it was like \$168,000.00. Chairman Bring stated we looked at one this year too and the demo was only \$145,000.00 and that is actually going to be the model because the newer ones have the diesel engine – they have that extra tank on it that you are going to have to fuel and that is another \$10,000 or \$12,000.00. Acting Fire Chief Langin stated it is between \$10,000 and \$12,000 next year versus this year. Safety Director Arendt stated I will say it again eventually we are going to have to come and make out a plan that says this is what the lease is going to costs, this is what the lease buy-out is going to costs. We got to work with Wendy now that she has taken over to find out and Dawn was doing it before on what these particular items costs us per year and it gets to a point as we all know – if you are spending 2,000 or 3,000 dollars to put in per year, we might want to look into at least a purchase option. Chairman Bring stated they have a 5 year plan and obviously it is a little bit more money but that is what we had talked about the last time we looked at this thing. I think they were going to give us what \$15,000.00 for the other one. Acting Fire Chief Langin advised that will probably be down from that figure now. Safety Director continued that has to be done and obviously we have still not replaced 66. We still have an open PO for \$3200.00 I think it is and I talked to the Service Director and I talked to John McCallie and asked them to look into something that might costs as high as \$5000.00 and try to get that purchase order. Currently they are using the jeep and it really isn't functional when it is available. These are things that I am not afraid to put on the record, I would like to see us get something out there. I think we can get something decent to replace 66 for \$5000.00. I think we have to look into a lease purchase for an ambulance. We can almost guarantee and these guys know, once this gets fixed we will have another one down or 2 week from now. Chairman Bring stated fortunately it is alternators and stuff like that but it is going to get worse and then we are going to end up with nothing. Safety Director Arendt stated I will bring it up again. Acting Fire Chief Langin stated I did have one other thing with some of the new directives that have come out in the last couple of weeks with keeping the bay doors closed and in this 90 degree heat. Chairman Bring stated it is stifling in there. Acting Fire Chief

Langin stated I spoke briefly with the Service Director about getting some sort of ventilation and I was going to get with Joe but today was kind of a hectic day and it didn't work out. Chairman Bring advised that was the Mayors request. I have actually drove around since that night and been to a few other Fire Departments and I have only seen 1 or 2 that were actually closed - the rest of them are all open. I know that there was a problem when they left the one time that there was things that were unattended but when they are there I don't understand why they can't have that open. Safety Director Arendt stated well Chief Langin and I talked last week and we intended on getting together but his schedule didn't permit it. So whatever day he has this week, we will go over all the new directives and try to make some modifications to them and see which ones make sense to make some changes to them. Councilman Rosso asked do you think you can make those changes Joe? Safety Director Arendt answered I think I can recommend those changes. I think that the Chief will bring his points across, I will bring the points across that I have. I have gone through the Firemen's code book that I gave you, I have gone through other things. I have no problem making the recommendations if I feel they are correct. Chairman Bring stated you know we had a mold issue there years ago and it has got eradicated but we still need circulation through that place and that was part of leaving the bays out and the small air conditioner. I think we want to go back and have another mold issue because that was quite a bit of money and we were fortunate to get it done at a very reasonable cost only because there was somebody local that did it. I think we need to keep circulation there.

Police – Safety Director Arendt advised the Chief is on vacation again, he was back last week – he was gone like 2 or 3 weeks before that. Really don't have much problems. I have Captain Komlosy to give me a call for the last couple of days and I haven't heard from him. Bureaucracy at its best still with the computer situation. Chairman Bring stated I know we got a costs on the computers and I guess it was a little high and I don't know what we are doing with the money, it is just sitting there in limbo. Safety Director Arendt answered it is bureaucracy at its best, they should have been installed with the proper equipment by now. We are actually still waiting for the Cisco person. Chairman Bring advised I actually do have a letter from Cisco from that, you know about that. Also with that Amvets is requesting that they can donate \$1500.00 for the Taser batteries. I don't know if they are waiting for a recommendation from the Safety Committee, we have been borrowing batteries or interchanging batteries for the Tasers. There was a brief discussion on process of putting money where it is supposed to go. Councilman Elliott advised it is my understanding that we have needed these for quite some time and Community Days is coming up at the end of the week, so whatever we have to do to push this through and get it done quickly. Safety Director Arendt reported also what we worked on before the Chief left and usually he doesn't do it until September and I asked this year to do it a little earlier to work on our overtime budget because we had several officers leave we have got money sitting there but our budget hasn't changed for the part-time officers. By the end of the year the way it is figured now if we don't replace the officers with that money it will be about \$55,000.00 short for the part-timers because they are replacing the full-timers. I got that note to give to Tammy and she is actually working on that so we can make adjustments sooner then waiting until the last minute coming to Council and asking for it to be done. Councilman Rosso asked did we get something back from Amvets saying that they are

willing to do this? Safety Director Arendt advised from my understanding is for this committee to say yes go ahead and do it, that money is there. *Motion by Elliott/Second by Rosso to request a donation of \$1500.00 from Amvets for the replacements of Taser batteries and cartridges. Yeas All. Chairman Bring advised we have had crosswalk down by the boat ramp, we have had quite a few residents complaining about that. People walking across the street and cars not stopping and everything else. I approached the Police Chief on that issue, he really didn't give me an answer as he was looking into the particulars on it; on whether we actually have to put the little yellow fold-out things which makes you absolutely stop if you have those on the street. Now I talked to one of the other Officers and it is in the law that if you are standing there and there is on-coming traffic there has to be a reasonable distance when you walk out there – that you just don't walk out in front of traffic as you have to be aware of your circumstances. You can't just walk out there and expect them to stop for you – that is not the way the law reads. What the Officer told me is if you go out there and you are standing in the one lane, the traffic still has an opportunity to go by and then when you get into that lane it will come behind you but they do have to stop. It is not something that you just walk out there and expect the traffic to stop if they are only 20 feet away from you. So we have an issue down there, I spent some time down there watching that. The kids seem to be fearless and they just walk right out in front of these cars and the cars are stopping and blowing their horns and yelling at them. That is not solving the problem because one of these kids are going to get hit and we are going to have an issue here and it is definitely a problem. Some people said something about the light down there, I don't think we have to do anything with the light because it is a caution light. The only other thing they can do is put up crosswalk lights but that is funding and everything else. But we do have several crosswalks going across Lake Road so it is not just down there. Safety Director Arendt stated I kind of know about the law on this because about 6 years ago I put one in another city. All you have to do legally is have crosswalk signs 30 feet before the crosswalk and cars are required to stop when they see pedestrians in that crosswalk. Does it happen – no, not always. Councilman Rosso asked the way I read this law which is yes they have to stop unless there is a traffic control signal or sign then the pedestrians do not have right of way – they have to honor the traffic control signal. So at the case of Lake Breeze and Abbe Road with the lights, they can't cross and expect traffic to stop – they have to do whatever the light says. Safety Director Arendt stated that is true but the crosswalk I think that Mr. Bring is talking about is not an active light – that is a blinking light in that area. Councilman Rosso stated that is still an operational light – pedestrians do not have the right of way I don't believe at Lake Breeze or Abbe. Safety Director Arendt stated my understanding is if we have the signs 30 feet from the crosswalk/pedestrian crossing that they have to stop. Chairman Bring asked even on state highways because that is considered a state highway. Safety Director Arendt stated the only reason I am bringing this up is because it is in front of city hall in Lorain – the crosswalk and the signs are there. As I said do people always stop – no but the law states they have to stop. Councilman Rosso stated this whole crosswalk thing falls under the Ohio Revised code 4511 and various subsections. Nowhere in there did I ever see anything that said you had to style a sign 30 feet in front of the crosswalk but the only thing that I could see was if there was a traffic control device and it says clearly either a stop light or a sign

then the pedestrians do not have right of way. The rest pretty much said the way I read it was as long there was a 2 lines painted across the road that was a crosswalk. Safety Director Arendt stated I will get you the actual code reverting to the sign issue. Chairman Bring stated I think for the residents there is a total misunderstanding – they are just walking out there in front of traffic and it is not what they are expecting and like I said somebody is going to get hit. The biggest concern here is Community Days is coming up in a short time, you know with the hot weather and stuff like that with them crossing the boat ramp and walking over there to cool down. We are really going to have to pay attention to that. As I said I can't get a direct answer from anybody because it seems like it is very vague. Safety Director Arendt stated I will get you the Ohio Revised Code. Councilman Elliott asked can you ask Dave for a legal opinion on whether our crosswalks are legal or not. Safety Director Arendt answered it still goes to the Ohio Revised Code, it still goes by that and a lot of those codes have changed when it comes to signage. Councilman Elliott asked we can create a city ordinance right on a state route? Safety Director Arendt answered I don't think you can on a state route. Councilman Rosso asked what does it cost for those little signs like Avon Lake has, they have those 12 inches by 4 that has the yield sign? Safety Director Arendt answered I could check. Chairman Bring stated I think that is the only thing that is going to work is if they have some kind of a light but even with that I think we are still going to run into a problem with it. People are so used to driving down that street and not paying any attention. Safety Director Arendt stated if you ever go down Route 6 past city hall in Lorain you will see the thing and you will see the sign and you will see people standing there and watching cars wheezing by them. Chairman Bring stated again people have to be aware of their surroundings, they just can't walk out there. Councilman Elliott stated in my opinion once that issue is settled, we need to sit there and start enforcing it and we need to start enforcing speed on that road too. Safety Director Arendt stated in just coming here today and if any of you passed the boat launch area, it is filled and I was going to talk to the department after the meeting there is a congregation of young people starting as I was coming here. Councilman Elliott stated as we talked about before there is more activity up there and along with more activity up there you have more criminal activity and with more traffic – you are going to have more traffic accidents. I think it is important that we run speed up there and that we start enforcing that crosswalk once we get that information. Chairman Bring stated on a lighter side, the cameras over there are fixed. I was in the dispatch today and the cameras work extremely well. I don't know if this is nonsense or not but I brought this up to one of our dispatchers but what would be the chances of actually having some type of loud speaker down there that ran right to the Police Department. Safety Director Arendt stated never thought of it. Chairman Bring stated with the Police Department if they saw somebody doing something they could actually say something that would deter the kids – whether it would work, I don't know and costs I don't know. Safety Director Arendt and Councilman Elliott stated that is a good idea. Councilman Elliott advised I was in the Police Department a couple of weeks ago and the TV or monitor is starting to go down and that would be helpful to replace it. Chairman Bring stated again still in dispatch – that channel 4 is still picking up feed, we are getting fishing reports from Michigan, we are getting reports from other townships and that is a mess and that needs to be addressed. The interference is terrible and it is a problem, so we

need that to be looked into. Chairman Bring stated this is actually for Len, all these bicycle guys going up and down Lake Road and they are almost in the road. I actually stopped and talked to some of these people and asked them why and you know what their reasoning is – it is not clean and they are afraid to get a flat tire. So we need to clean the bike path. Service Director Smith stated we just swept the bike path 3-1/2 weeks ago and then the brushes broke on the street sweeper and I have them on order. So as soon as the Safety Forces free up my mechanic a little bit I will get the street sweeper. Chairman Bring continued Pleasantview over by Abbe Road Lumber, the gentleman now has a trailer where executive lawn care is sticking out into Pleasantview, we had a semi there last night and then we had that rent truck blocking the road. If a fire would happen our fire truck would not get down there. There is a truck there right now basically sitting in the road, he cannot park there. Safety Director Arendt so noted situation. Chairman Bring continued we got the windmill going up probably in about 3 days, is that all going to be boxed off so no kid is going to run up there and grab that? Service Director Smith answered yes. Councilwoman Stark asked the fire hydrant on Thelma Drive that has been down since last fall, what is the status of what is being taken care of that? It has been down since before winter and I know during winter we can't do much with it but it has still got 3 barricades in front of it and these people who live at the end of the street don't have a fire hydrant. Safety Director Arendt advised Service Director Smith there is a file on it with all the information. Acting Fire Chief answered right now we are trying to prioritize that if there is 2 or 3 in a row that are out, just on Lakewood Beach today there were 3 out in a row so they fixed the middle one so that we would have some supply in that area. They are trying to get the ones that are grouped together first and then work out from there.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott/Second by Rosso to adjourn at 7:25 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.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE

Kay Fantauzzi

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

Dennis Bring

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 2, 2010.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Richard Rosso