

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
March 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, March 2, 2011. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Rosso

Absent: Elliott (excused)

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

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2011 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

*Police* – Police Chief Shepherd forwarded a report to committee which is attached.

Chairman Bring advised I will review report at Council. He continued we are still working on the monitors for the jail, I think we are getting that typed up. Clerk Fantauzzi advised it is ready for your review. Chairman Bring advised we are going to send that off and see if we can get some money for those particular items, it is pretty substantial. They were talking about possibly hiring maybe 1 Officer or some dispatchers but I don't know how that is going. I know we got the one Police car back with the engine and that is up and running. Actually all our cars are back up and running and I know we ordered the other cars.

*Fire Chief* – Fire Chief Card advised this stuff you probably already know about, the squads; we need to look at replacing them – S72; today had a flat tire. We already had 2 tires to replace the 2 front tires so we got those changed from the Service Department and then we sent the squad over to Avon Truck and we got the wheels balanced and a front end alignment, front brakes. They checked the rear carrier bearing but that turned out to be okay so they didn't have to fix that. S71 is a 1995 and we haven't done anything to that since last year but we only drive it once a week. E63 we just had the water level gage replaced to tell us how much water is in the tank because we were using water and that costs \$671.00, so that is pretty expensive gage. Chairman Bring asked that was just the gage? Fire Chief Card answered yes they had to go into the tank and remove everything to replace all the electronics and stuff. E61 – this year we are going to have to start thinking about changing the batteries on it so they don't just die because it has got a lot of computers in it. We are missing 2 vehicles as they died and we didn't replace; T66 the utility vehicle and the Chief's vehicle. Councilman Rosso asked how many batteries are in one of those? Fire Chief Card answered I think there is 4. Chairman Bring advised you will go to the Finance Director and let her know and she will just issue a PO or the Mayor or whoever right when you get to that point? Fire Chief Card answered yes. Chairman Bring asked did you get a costs on those? Fire Chief Card answered yes and advised Lt Langin is the maintenance guy, he was just

letting me know about that stuff today. Fire Chief Card continued our man power – we are down 1 Fireman at this time because the Chief retired and then I got promoted so we have 11 Fire Fighters and right now we have 1 Fire Fighter who is on light duty so we are going to have a little overtime there. So I think we need to start looking at an entrance exam and a promotional exam. Right now one shift is running with Acting Officers and Fire Fighter Monda may retire this year so then we are going to be down 2 Firemen. Then in 3 years Langin and Koch are up for retirement. So we are also going to be looking at sending 2 guys to Hazmat training because Lt Langin and Fire Fighter Koch are Hazmat tech's so we have to get 2 more guys trained to put on the Hazmat team so we have to find the guys to do it. I will be talking to them on March 9<sup>th</sup> at our department meeting. Chairman Bring asked when you get that training, where do you get that at? Fire Chief Card answered probably at Tri C or we can send them to the state or Bowling Green, they have schools in the spring and in the fall. Lt Novak and Fire Fighter Campbell, they have been attending the Lorain County Technical Rescue Team. They train with them for ropes and confined space and whatever. We have the Dive Team, right now I think we only have 1 or maybe 2 divers. Chairman Bring asked Scott Kozlowski is right? Fire Chief Card answered he is but he kind of resigned from it for some reason with his insurance. I have to read his letter that he gave to the Chief. We haven't had any training for those guys so I am going to try to get them some training this year because if we are going to have a Dive Team on our department it is going to have to be a department thing because we will have the guys in the water but the guys that aren't diving will have to know what to do on the shore, such as; tending lines, talking to the witnesses and so on. Councilman Rosso asked is there any Police on the Dive Team anymore? Fire Chief Card answered I think Sergeant Keenan is, I don't know if he is doing it anymore. Patrolman Reiber was and I think he is still doing it because I believe he dove in Avon Lake when they had their drowning's last year or the year before. Councilman Rosso stated I knew there were a few from the Police that were on it at one time but I didn't know if they were still on. Fire Chief Card advised this year on August 20<sup>th</sup>, the Lorain County Dive Team is going to do training in our city. I am not sure where we will be doing at this time. Councilman Rosso asked is there a costs associated with that training Tim? Fire Chief Card answered it would just be for the guys to go do it. Councilman Rosso asked like their wages? Fire Chief Card advised the Lorain County Dive Team, it is nothing that you have to pay to be in. They send out the letters and the way it was explained to me it is not a team that you just activate, it is a team where they just work together – if you need more divers they will send them to you. Chairman Bring asked do we have equipment for that? Fire Chief Card answered we have 2 dry suits and 3 wet suits we have the BC's and the 3 tanks. Chairman Bring asked we get those checked periodically? Fire Chief Card answered yes they were serviced last year. We do have some ropes and I think 2 or 3 harnesses which you have to have as well. This is an expense that we have to look at now- the radios, it is a federal mandate where they are changing the frequencies for radio's; we have to go narrow band. So we are working on getting that license done and then we are going to have to change the base radio. I am working on prices right now but just a round estimate is somewhere around \$10,000.00. Councilman Rosso asked what did the Police just get? Chairman Bring stated we did bring that up at the last Safety meeting but they are looking

into that and Larry did a price on that. The government hasn't made anybody switch over to the narrow band yet because some of the larger cities the additional costs to that system is going to be dramatic and with the economy being the way it is, they are not instituting it yet. I think they backed off another year or 2. Fire Chief Card advised from what I just heard at the Lorain County Chief's – it is 2013. Councilman Rosso asked what was it that the Amvets and VFW just donated? Clerk Fantauzzi answered that was for the interrogation/interview equipment. Chairman Bring advised but he did a costs on that narrow band but he said they keep backing off of that, that was supposed to be instituted a couple of years ago but like I said the additional costs; the City of Cleveland or Toledo gets to be almost millions of dollars and they don't have it right now. Councilman Rosso stated just a question but why do I need one in Police and Fire, why can't I just have one in the city and it somehow handles both. Fire Chief Card advised because they are on a different frequency then we are, even though they are both narrow banded they are different frequencies and the departments on our frequency is Sheffield Village, Avon and Avon Lake. Then if you have the Police on there then there is a lot of radio traffic where you are being walked on. Clerk Fantauzzi stated there is supposed to be grants opening up on that soon. Fire Chief Card concurred that is correct, I just talked with Bill Gardner today and asked him to try to find some grants for radios. Chairman Bring advised fortunately you guys already have the narrow band radios that were donated which are all compliant. Councilman Rosso asked is the Police also 2013? Chairman Bring answered yes. Councilman Rosso asked so they are both the same time frame? Chairman Bring answered yes and advised with the way things are going, if the economy stays the way it is I am assuming that they may back that off again but you never know. They could tell us you are going to have it tomorrow. Fire Chief Card continued then on February 28<sup>th</sup> during the storm, we responded to 8 calls for basements flooding. That shift had to pull meters off of houses because they were flooded above the electrical in the basements. Councilman Rosso asked is that what they call you for to disconnect the electrical? Fire Chief Card answered we were called for water in the basement and smell of gas, the flame gets put out on the furnace and water heater and then the gas keeps bubbling up. So we go there and we turn off the gas, pull the meter and then they have to get their basement drained. Councilman Rosso asked people aren't just calling because they got wet basements and you got to go out and waste your time? Fire Chief Card answered yes it has happened. Chairman Bring advised you have elderly people who have no clue who to call and they are going to call these guys because they are panicking. Fire Chief Card advised we just go out and try to point them in the right direction. Chairman Bring stated that is something that I wanted to bring up tonight because obviously this is a pretty bad situation, is everybody trained to give a rundown of what a homeowner should do in case you guys cannot get out there right away, that you can read to them and say you need to do this or that or should not do. Is there any way we can get something printed up so that people are aware of that because I know that several basements you told me were almost a foot away from the floor joists. So you got your hot water heaters, you got your gas heaters and who knows what else appliances down there; electric and so forth, you know that could end up with a fire or explosion? Fire Chief Card answered there might be some things they can do but I really would not want to advise

homeowners to go out and mess their gas meter. Chairman Bring stated I mean to get of the house, things like that. Fire Chief Card advised I can put something together like that, we don't have anything like that right now because when they call we just go to the house. Chairman Bring stated well I am sure you had more than one call obviously and you can't be everywhere at one time. Fire Chief Card answered this time we were lucky because all the calls came one right after another instead of one on top of another, as they were clearing a call another one was coming in and it just worked out that way. Chairman Bring stated I think what happened too is that it happened at 3 o'clock in the morning so a lot of people were still sleeping and most people didn't even realize that anything got flooded. So then when they woke in the morning that is when the phone calls started coming. Fire Chief Card advised during all of this they did have a fire in one of the houses, it was actually in the furnace and they quickly handled it and then that just became the same of the rest of the houses with flooded basements – turned off the gas and pulled the meter. Chairman Bring stated but you get some people that want to go down with a lighter and try to turn the thing back on. Fire Chief Card advised that is the one thing, if we were pulling the meters in these basements because if the water was up above where the electrical was with the receptacles down low – we are not going to walk through water with receptacles in the water. So we just pulled the meter and I think there were a couple basements that were flooded that didn't have that high of water so we just killed the power at the box. Chairman Bring stated I think the last time this happened was 20 come years ago but to be prepared just in case so that everybody is on the same page so if someone calls you can say this is what you need to do real quick. He referenced a house that did blow up in similar situation. Anyhow I was just thinking about it after this happened as I had 3 basements that flooded, the furnaces went out and the hot water tank. Fire Chief Card advised right now we don't have a document like that but will work on. Just one more thing on that EMA advised - I called them they said that they are still assessing all the damage and as far as any government help right now they are still not sure. If anyone does call just to tell them to watch the papers because they will put it in the paper as soon as they know. Chairman Bring asked so if they declare it a disaster then the insurance company or FEMA will step in and pay for some of this damage? Fire Chief Card answered I don't know that answer right now but I can find out. Councilman Rosso asked do we need to let people know that they should call some place so they know that it affected X amount of people. Fire Chief Card advised I don't want to overwhelm EMA because I am sure that they are getting calls every few minutes but I can call them and get those type of answers. Chairman Bring advised if you can tell Kay and I can advise when I do my report at Council. Councilman Rosso stated do we need to tell them that, let's just pick a number – that there were 50 houses in Sheffield Lake that had water damage and that gets added to the list. Chairman Bring stated I think there has to be some stipulation as far as declaring it a disaster or whatever before that actually happens. I talked to one of the insurance companies and that is what they told me but until that happens the insurance company is only what is on as a rider for Stormwater but if you don't a rider then you are on your own but if the disaster steps in then you have another option. Without that you are basically you got flooded and you got to fix it and too bad. Chairman Bring advised I had renters and they had renters insurance but the renters insurance doesn't cover



stormwater damage. Councilman Rosso concurred people were stating I have flood insurance and to your point that doesn't cover stormwater. Chairman Bring stated you have to have a special addendum for that and that is extra. If a pipe burst then it is covered under that, if it comes up through the stormwater because of this then it is not covered. Fire Chief Card advised I just got an email today from Tom Kelley, EMA Director and he was going to a meeting at 2 o'clock this afternoon with the national weather service as they are anticipating another big storm this weekend. I was hoping that he was going to send me a report on that but he will send out to all the Chief's and I haven't gotten it yet. Chairman Bring stated I am sure he is overwhelmed too. Fire Chief Card asked you want me to let you know. Chairman Bring answered yes just tell Kay and I will add that to the minutes so we can inform people. Fire Chief Card advised so we may have another situation this weekend.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Law Director Graves advised the Mayor and the Police Chief did conduct a series of interviews with candidates for the part-time dispatcher position and I don't know where they are with making a decision but I know they interviewed a number of different candidates. As far as the Civil Service Commission, their priority right now is the process of testing to create an eligibility list for the Police Department because that hasn't been done in a number of years. So they are going to do that through Tri C and then I think the plan will be to move into a test for the Fire Department to get an eligibility list and then the Chief and the Mayor will discuss promotional test. Councilman Rosso asked is the Police one for an entry level? Law Director Graves answered yes just an eligibility list. Councilman Rosso stated technically they are supposed to do that every 2 years. Law Director Graves answered the list expires every 2 years, it has rarely been kept up and usually what happens is there is a vacancy and then quick we run a test and create a list. Ideally you would always be running a test and keeping a current list so that when there is a vacancy you can just interview and hire off the list. Fire Chief Card stated if we are going to have to look at tests I would like to do a promotional first because I really need a Lieutenant to run a shift. Chairman Bring stated I think that would be up to the Mayor. Law Director Graves advised I don't know if I talked to Council about this but they are looking at getting into a program with Tri C which has worked out pretty well in other communities, you pay a large upfront fee but it is a one-time forever fee and then they will run the test for you, compile the list and then it goes into their batch and then it is on one master list for all the communities that have participated. So we might get 500 names but all communities can share the list and each time we want to run a test the only additional costs in the future to the community would be the costs of running an advertisement. The costs of running the advertisement is getting less and less now that you can put most of the information on line. So you can run a very small ad and say see the city website for all the details and you don't have to run these massive advertisements. We should be able in the future to run test at very little expense and with Tri C handling everything with no effort locally and bring them in here and have the test or have them at the Community Center and administer it themselves. It should work out pretty well. Councilwoman Stark asked are they doing that for Police and Fire or is that going to be strictly Police and they were talking about doing the Fire?

Law Director Graves stated so far they have done the written and physical agility for the Police. They still haven't got it up where they can do the written for the Fire but they are working to implement that. Chairman Bring asked has the Mayor said anything about the part-time Firemen that we do not have anymore, has he mentioned that at all or are we just going to stay the way they are because we don't have any part-time Firemen? Fire Chief Card answered it is something that I would like because I need the manpower. Law Director Graves stated it is something that is difficult to implement with the current language in the contract that requires the 3-man minimum manning full-time bargaining unit. So you got to always have the 3 full-time guys and then part-timers. Chairman Bring stated I didn't know what the reasoning was, I just knew that we didn't have them anymore. Fire Chief Card advised the part-timers always filled the 4<sup>th</sup> position because we always had 4-man shifts which if we show up at a house fire, the difference of 3 and 4 man shift is pretty huge. Councilman Rosso stated I think it is all a financial issue and David's point is as long as we are having an issue with 3-man minimum manning and the overtime coming out of that. Law Director Graves stated these are issues that are being discussed in the context of the continuing negotiations with the IAFF which just to bring you up to speed on that we are at present prepared to go to fact finding. Law Director Graves stated just to bring you up to speed on grants. We did receive the grant for the live-scan finger printing that is a \$10,213.00 grant with a \$1,023.00 match to the city. I will have legislation Tuesday for Council to approve that and authorize the Mayor to sign that agreement. The 100% grant for the Police SUV has been written and submitted, we have not heard back from them yet. Mr. Gardner will be writing for a follow-up grant for additional license reader and FBI approved printer and camera. Chairman Bring stated that is more equipment to go with the live-scan. Law Director Graves concurred and added that is a \$4000.00 grant with a \$1000.00 local match. Chairman Bring advised actually one of the Officers that is looking into that said at the time if they could get that particular item which is the live-scan and then the other equipment is not necessarily needed right now but there is an additional costs which comes out of city funds and he didn't think right now that it was worthwhile for the city to put the extra money into it. Law Director Graves advised I will hopefully get the legislation to you by Friday via email.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Rosso/Second by Bringto adjourn at 7:36PM. 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  
*Dennis Bring*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committees OfSheffieldLake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is a true and exact copy of the Minutes of Committee ofMarch 2, 2011.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Richard Rosso*