

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
June 2, 2009

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Tuesday, June 2, 2009. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Safety/Service Director Arendt, Law Director Graves, Grant Administrator Gardner, Acting Fire Chief Langin, Concerned Citizens

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES: None.**

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD: None.**

**ACTING FIRE CHIEF CONRAD:** Acting Fire Chief Langin advised the ambulance has been repaired. I got it covered under warranty through Brown Manufacturing. Chairman Bring asked we had to pay some didn't we? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered no, we are probably going to end up with a 0 costs on that. It was supposed to be \$1,000.00 and I beat them up and he gave into that. The second ambulance is in right now getting re-welded, same thing. They checked the floor and the floor seems to be okay but the back welds in the corners were started so they are re-welding those and covering it under warranty also. Mr. Elliott asked what was wrong with them, I am sorry I didn't hear about the initial problem. Acting Fire Chief Langin explained the welds were cracked, some of the aluminum welds were cracked in the flooring on one and the back corners on the box area of both units. Mr. Elliott asked how does it costs over a \$1000.00 to fix a weld? Acting Fire Chief Langin explained the original estimate was \$15,000.00 just for S71, they had to take the entire flooring out of it and prop the axles out of it and re-weld the box on it. It was pretty extensively repair but it is back and it has a brand new floor coverings in it and stuff now. Chairman Bring asked did they tell you a time frame on how long they thought that would hold up? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered it is like brand new now, as far as the box goes. It has still got some other issues but those will have to be addressed in the future. But the box is completely structurally sound now. We ordered the ANSI vests, so we will be compliant with the roadway. They are the rip-away and reflect ability for anything on the roadway that would need to be done. The smoke trailer went off last month, we took it around to Tennyson and Knollwood. That is always a good thing to do for the kids. I have been here long enough that I have had adults. The AFG grant – most of the stuff is in and up and running with that now, except for the thermal imager is not in yet. The gear washer has been delivered and installed, the XO bail-out systems are delivered and one shift has been through the training. I managed to get with Dan Russell, the

coordinator and trainer and he is doing them all on an on-shift basis. Chairman Bring asked that is the rope training, somebody donated a house or something like that for training? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered yes, Mrs. Connell up on Lake Road was so gracious to do so. It was kind of difficult to put together a 2-story house within the confines of Sheffield Lake that we were allowed to rip apart and jump out of windows. But we managed to get it pulled together. Like I said Dan Russell, he was only supposed to do one class but he is coming back to do 3 classes so he is doing them on an on-shift basis to keep overtime costs to a very minimum. Chairman Bring asked do we have other cities coming to that too? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered this last one we didn't but he has got a couple of guys that are actually driving up from southern Ohio to take the training. It is you have to have the system to do the training, we are one of the few departments in the area that has got this system and it will be very beneficial if that is ever needed. Hopefully never needed but if you got to jump out a window rapidly, you can basically just hook it a window sill and go. Like I said Mrs. Charlene Connell donated the house and that was really great and she also said that she would be willing to – the swat team is going to be doing some stuff down there and we will be doing some other stuff down there. Chairman Bring asked is that house going to be torn down? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered probably burn it next spring for training I hope so. He continued Fire Fighter Crittle is back on shift, he has recovered from his neck injury. He was playing basketball and ended up fracturing a vertebra in his neck. So he is back up and running now. We started fire hydrant flushing the first of the month, about a quarter of a way through the city – maybe a third of way by today. We plan on painting them after we flush them. We have some stuff set up for June 17<sup>th</sup> to do some extrication class out here with our new extrication tools; jaws of life and everything. Mr. Elliott asked correct me if I am wrong, we have got all new jaws and everything right? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered yes, that was part of the AFG grant. Chairman Bring advised they have those heavy duty washer machines and everything now for the gear, so we don't have to them to Avon Lake now. Mr. Elliott asked when are those getting installed? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered they are in, the washer is in and the jaws have been here for a couple of months now. The only thing that isn't in is the thermal imager camera and it should be coming shortly. Chairman Bring advised we had a fire at the concession stand, did we have a fire at the Shoreway Shopping center too? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered yes, one of the welders when they were demo-ing caught a little bit of stuff up there and it was minor. Mr. Elliott asked what concession stand are we talking about? Clerk answered Diamond Lil's at Ferndale. Mr. Elliott stated you guys should have let it burn. Chairman Bring answered they did, it is gone. Acting Fire Chief Langin advised it got in pretty late into the burn. We are still working on it, it is very suspicious. He continued we put the masks in the squads for swine flu, they are reusable masks. We are still doing the blood pressure checks up at Apple's. Clerk advised that need to be changed in the paper, it says Giant Eagle. Mr. Bring asked the house that burned several months ago and that is boarded up, we haven't had any problems with that at all - over there by Kenilworth? Acting Fire Chief Langin advised I believe that is going down? Chairman Bring asked are we demo-ing that? Safety Director Arendt answered yes. Acting Fire Chief Langin advised I thought I saw some people over there the other day. Chairman Bring asked Joe do you have anything on the Police? Safety Director Arendt answered they are

doing their job. The Chief is on vacation for 2 weeks, will be back next week. Chairman Bring asked on the Shoreway Shopping Center as far as the fencing and stuff, are we going to keep that up and how long are we going to do that? Safety Director Arendt answered well we rented it for 6 months, there is additional asphalt being removed currently and will be done by Friday. We got dirt coming in from Ferndale and dirt from the service area to spread that and seed that as well. The fence will up there for another 4 or 5 weeks. Chairman Bring asked the boat ramp cameras, have we got that all taken care of? Safety Director Arendt answered they are currently fixed, the Police reported it being frozen when it was actually working – the Dispatchers just have to learn how to reboot the machine to be able to get it back on line. Chairman Bring asked back to you one more time, the Fire Engine – with the clean out and everything else that is still okay? After it builds up with the carbon and everything else? Acting Fire Chief Langin answered yes, from what I hear the 2010 models are 3 times as worse then what we have. So the EPA is doing us a lot of favors there. Safety Director Arendt advised Acting Fire Chief Langin you won't have to worry about a 2010 model. Safety Director Arendt advised we have had a rash of car break-ins, they are actually not broken in – 29 cars. Mr. Rosso asked all over or certain areas? Law Director Graves answered they are really all over town and they are not breaking windows or anything because people have left their vehicles open and they are most likely kids going around late at night and going in the cars and taking anything that is loose. So that is what we have. Mr. Elliott stated that seems like is a replay from year to year to year here. Chairman Bring stated people leave their cars open, it is an easy grab and it is their own fault.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:**

*Sandy Jensen, 865 Warwick Drive* stated I am just here to comment and question something I observed last night. I know that our Firemen are highly trained, they are not highly paid – they are paid well enough, they are highly trained professionals and our Chief current and past and Council worked very hard to get new rescue squad and fire truck and it was a long time coming. Last night I was just shocked because I witnessed our Firemen using our new equipment to water grass seed. Now like I said we are highly trained professionals, they are not gardeners and I just felt like that was so disrespectful to our Firemen and to the equipment and I just was not happy with that because that is not why we have a fire truck to water grass seed. I wondered, we don't have many fires in town but I just wonder how the community would have reacted had there been a fire and response time had been delayed because I would have said well I saw the fire truck watering grass seed if they had known why the truck was a little late coming because you have to unhook the hose and get it all together. That is something that I don't want to see using our good equipment and our good guys doing something like that. I know that we are a small community and you know, we don't have a lot of money so we are trying to do the best we can with what we have got but I just thought that was really kind of - like I told the Lieutenant on duty and also Andy Monda whose title I don't know, I said I think this is asinine and both directed me to come to the Safety Director because as a taxpayer that is not how I want to see our equipment used and it rained – there was rain in the forecast. I

don't know what ODOT does when they plant grass seed, do they just plant seed and it comes up with natural rain or do they water it. Safety Director Arendt answered I can assure you that they will continue to water. Mrs. Jensen asked the firemen will, why? Safety Director Arendt answered because I think that they can use the exposure, they can get out there, they can train, they can use hose. If they take the ambulance to a grocery store to pick up groceries then they can take it to sit out there. On the response time, this town is 2.6 miles and this shopping center is I don't know how many miles away but the response time would be more than an extra 30 seconds I would be surprised. As far as equipment goes, equipment is made to be used. They take it around town, they can it to the shopping center. Law Director Graves advised it also needs to be clarified that they are not to water when it is going to rain. Mrs. Jensen stated it did rain last night. I was just on my walk and people were commenting oh my goodness, look what they are using our new truck for. I am always the one that comes. Safety Director Arendt asked would you like make the city have the expenditure to water it? Mrs. Jensen answered I think we should just let it rain. That is why I am asking how does ODOT do it? Law Director Graves stated I think is absolutely right, they should not have been watering when it rained. I think that is something that they are going to clarify and I have talked with the Acting Chief about that – they are not to be watering when it rains. So that has been cleared up, somebody has to water that when it is not raining and the alternative would be to use the Service Department. I mean somebody has got to water that. Mrs. Jensen stated I was just walking and people were complaining because I talk to people on my way and I said well I will address it because that is what I do. Safety Director Arendt stated then address it when they take it to the grocery store too. Mrs. Jensen stated I have spoke with Firemen in the past about that but they are not hooked up to anything. Mr. Rosso asked don't they take the truck or ambulance or whatever to the store because if they have a call they respond from there versus coming all the way back? Safety Director Arendt stated I am comparing it to them taking it to the watering site, the same thing. Mr. Rosso asked are you talking about the fire truck or the ambulance, maybe I am confused? Safety Director Arendt answered both were there last night. Mr. Rosso advised the concern would be I guess the delay in unhooking and rolling the hose and this and that. I don't see how the two are comparable, I can see how the ambulance is comparable but I don't see how the fire truck is. Was that last night? Mrs. Jensen answered last night. Mr. Rosso stated is that why they were there when I went home from Roads & Drains and I said I thought there was a fire because I saw the fire truck up there. Mr. Elliott stated I got to tell you I saw them last night, at first I thought why are we using the Fire Department to water grass but then the more I thought about it they are taking precautions – they took the fire truck and they are taking the ambulance in case they have a call either/or. So I don't see how you would be taking any services away from residents, I think they can respond from there just as easily as they can from the Fire Department and obviously they are going to break away if it is an emergency anyways. Nobody ever asked me but if you were to ask me I have no problem with it and plus that equipment you have to use it, if you don't use it. That is just my opinion. Chairman Bring stated it is a small city and actually I have seen it in other cities driving around that they have used it for other purposes, so I don't think this is totally out of order. Mrs. Jensen stated I guess we have never planted grass in this city before? Chairman Bring

stated for how long it took them to water it, I am sure it wasn't a very long time but for the guys to get out and people to them – it is not bad to see the Firemen out doing stuff regardless of whether they are watering grass or not. It is not like they were doing something malicious or something wrong. Mr. Elliott stated I stopped and saw them and I asked about it because I thought the shopping center caught on fire again.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott to adjourn at 7:30 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 2, 2009.

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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*