

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

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Law Director Graves, Service/Safety Director Arendt, Acting Fire Chief,  
Concerned Citizen

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso/Second by Elliott to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:** Chairman Bring advised with the Police Department I actually talked to Mr. Shepherd today. I guess we have the police cars and they are all back in order now right Joe? Safety Director Arendt answered yes. Chairman Bring continued then as far as the bike path goes over there, I made a suggestion to him and I don't know, this will be up to you guys and see what you think about this. We have already had a little bit of an incident where the guy took his car and ran down there and I know you guys are going to put up those barriers but also we have to worry about the bridge and everything else there. This is just something that came up personally but I had one of my friends that actually has some acreage and somebody went back there and set up a deer stand but they had one of those cameras that they strap to the trees and they actually take photographs of any movements that come into the woods and it takes pictures of all of the deer and everything else. This guy actually did it illegally but my buddy took that down and put a note on there and said if you would like to have this back you can have it back but he actually took that down and downloaded all the pictures on that camera. It takes pictures of the area over there and it is about \$400.00 but it had pictures of us walking up to it, it takes pictures at night time and it is something that you can buy at like Gander Mountain or something. Safety Director Arendt answered I got to tell you and I hadn't thought of it but it is an excellent idea because as you know what we plan to do and we ordered them and see what you guys think of this. We ordered the barriers that are post that flat down so the police can go over them if they need to because we have had cars that actually think it is a road. I mean Pat was literally, they are out there working and here comes a car and that person is waving. The camera that is a nice idea for \$400.00 at a couple of key spots would be excellent. Just to continue on the bridge if you would allow me to, Ohio Edison I called Joe Faga and we talked about the light and stuff and I said I really want to get it up this year. So their night crew, they have a night crew that goes out and if they don't have anything like tonight if they don't have anything they will go out

there and they will start on it and he said it might take a week or two but he promises us that he will have it up before the year. So we will be able to do that but the camera, I think that we put it right by the bridge if we put one by Ferndale. Chairman Bring advised that was the other thing I was going to bring up I guess he has had several incidents of some fighting going on over at Ferndale. They have had some bad incidents over there with that and it has been a large problem even though the park is lit and everything else they are still having a lot of trouble for whatever reason I don't know why. Safety Director Arendt stated well you know if you off the subject and get onto that and Mr. Graves is handling that. It just amazes me when a parent says okay I will take you to the fight and is taking his son to go fight somebody else. It just amazes me and Mr. Graves has handled that and has actually charged all the adults. Law Director Graves advised in the most recent case in the last year we have had 3 incidents where we have had a documented situation where a parent has actually escorted a juvenile or multiple juveniles up there or participated in a fight. While I don't have any jurisdiction prosecuting juveniles and unfortunately the Juvenile Court is just going to slap them on the wrist anyway. I do have jurisdiction to prosecute those adults and they will be prosecuted to the furthest extent because I find this utterly appalling. This last one was a border line riot where you had 6 adults and I don't know how many dozen juveniles, at least 3 separate fights going on at the same time. Safety Director Arendt added 14 juveniles. Law Director Graves advised so they were all charged under our local ordinance for disorderly conduct at a park and advised on maximum fine of \$500.00. I am going to make sure that each one of these adults gets a \$500.00 fine. The last one there was a pretty brutal fight between 2 boys and the mother of one of them was there. She was actually charged with inciting to violence. Safety Director Arendt stated to continue onto that it appears in this last year, we had the fire at Ferndale and we have had several fights at Ferndale. It would be wise for me to check into costs of looking into what we can do for cameras or whatever. In the long run and you know Ferndale was turfed as well. We put the price together and Pat put it by man hours and by equipment and by costs of material and it is \$3400.00. By our man hours, us doing it it is \$3400.00. If we hired somebody else to do it it would be about \$5000.00. That person was charged already and he comes to court at the next Mayors Court. Mr. Elliott asked any chance of restitution on that? Law Director Graves answered yes. Safety Director Arendt advised he is 23 years old. Law Director Graves advised any resolution to the case I am going to insist on restitution and you know while a civil lawsuit you may have a hard time collecting when you suspend jail on the condition that they make restitution is a much better chance he will figure out a way to pay it. Chairman Bring stated I just think it is a shame because we have done how many years to finally get something nice down there at the bike path and had the Ferndale Park pretty much pristine because I don't think it has ever looked that nice in a long time and then to have people do things like that. Safety Director Arendt stated I think that it is an excellent idea, I will check into what we can do and if those cameras are that cheap and obviously they are night cameras so they probably show good pictures. Mr. Elliott advised it has been a bad year for Ferndale, you had the concession stand burn down and I think a week after that didn't they set the slide on fire or one of the kids rides. It has been turfed, there has been a lot of crime there. Chairman Bring advised Gander Mountain sells them, I don't how far out they actually go but like I said these pictures were very clear. I know

there is different types you can buy but you can strap them right to the trees and strap them up higher. Just a suggestion and actually Larry said any kind of camera we can down there would be beneficial, he said it has worked pretty well down there at the boat launch and he said if we could maybe look into that he would appreciate it too. Safety Director Arendt stated to continue with the police, I heard you mentioning earlier – we do have 2 police out, one with a back injury and Tommy had a heart attack. They think they did the angioplasty today. Did the Chief tell you when he may be back? Chairman Bring answered possibly on Sunday. Safety Director Arendt advised I think I talked to the Chief after you today and I think it may wind up being about a week longer. Chairman Bring advised he may have talked to him, he and I were just having a discussion. He said that Tommy was trying to get back and he said he was going to try to come back on Sunday. Safety Director Arendt stated the Chief has done an excellent, excellent job of filling in with our part-timers and filling in/rearranging – he has actually done an excellent job with doing that. We have had some incidents where Detective Campo for that robbery and stuff and instead of creating overtime, we give him time off. Tony is very satisfied with that, the Chief has been really trying to work on the budget and he has been rearranging things. Especially with this instance with the 2 people that we have off and I think he has done an excellent job. And Mr. Elliott I heard you say that we are under-manned and stuff but Mr. Graves is suggesting and has been working on a potential entrance exam for police and fire – just so we have something on file and we have candidates that would be qualified in case let's assume Tommy has another one or somebody else has another one and part-timers aren't necessarily willing to leave full-time job that they are making a lot more money to come here. Like we have a real good part-timer, I think he works at Poly One and he is always on Saturdays and been here for 20 years. The guy is super and he knows what he is doing but he is not going to leave his full-time job for that. That is one thing that Mr. Graves is working on. Also I don't know if Mr. Bring has had a chance to tell the other members we acquired a Detectives car, 2000 sable in fantastic shape and we probably have to put \$300 to \$400 into it including with the radio, a right rear bearing, a light cover but other than that it is super. It is a detectives car, it is not surveillance car and this is one thing that we were talking about earlier this week. It will be used for if Detective Campo for an interview where you really don't want a marked car to be seen, it will be used for that and it will be used to interview witnesses or anything like that. He will continue to take a marked car to say the federal court in Cleveland, courts here but it will be equipped with everything a Detective needs. I was on a suicide scene where we actually had to send somebody out to go get what Tony needed because he didn't have it so the Detective car will be fully equipped. We will put one radio in it, we are not going to at this point and the Chief suggested that we do not put lights in it – we don't really want it to stop vehicles. We can call regular patrol on that. What I mean by Detective versus surveillance, in this instance in any town when there is drug dealers they know what the police drive. If we needed a surveillance car we would have to buy one every week because it just isn't going to happen. They know what that car is. Another thing and I don't know if the Chief told you today one of the people that we had a raid on earlier this year which I am very happy she is now in jail on a \$150,000.00 bond involved with 3 other individuals from Sheffield Lake for bank robbery. So we were able to help with that which again I am very happy with.

Unfortunately we still have a lot of domestic violence cases and what we have been getting more of lately which is very disturbing, very, very disturbing is child pornography. We have been getting a little bit more – more then we want and Detective Campo is really getting on this. Hopefully when the other 2 guys come back to work, we will actually be able to utilize Jarod's skills as well with Detective Campo to really try to curb some of this. Mr. Elliott asked were there any plans on hiring part-timers, bringing in part-timers? Safety Director Arendt answered we have enough at this time, I think my suggestion would be is wait until if we decide to do a civil service exam and find out where we are at on that to try and qualify people. Then we can actually hire part-time off of that list where we will know they are qualified and we will know that they are trained and we will everything; their records and everything already established so we can go for part-time there. If it continues as it is we are okay but it is really going to hurt if we are in the same situation starting in May or June where we will be having problems because people tend to begin to take vacations and stuff like that. So we will probably have to do something by that time like additional part-timers. Mr. Rosso asked you are doing a promotional tests for Sergeants and entry level? Law Director Graves answered we may or may not be conducting the promotional tests for Sergeant. We may conduct the exam just to comply the eligibility list for Sergeant. We are having discussions right now with the legal counsel for the OPBA. There are a lot of budget concerns to look at as to whether or not bringing new Sergeants in. Mr. Rosso stated I don't think necessarily that we had to promote but I thought we have to give the tests. So you are saying we might not have to give the tests. Law Director Graves stated I will just tell you what the law says, how is that. The law says is where there is a vacancy in a promoted rank, Civil Service Commission shall conduct an examination and certify the top scores for promotion. So if those vacant positions exist they will have to be filled and then if the city was in a budget situation those positions would then subsequently have to be eliminated. We are looking at a lot of different possibilities at this point as to how that is going to proceed. Mr. Rosso stated I thought we had to run the tests but we didn't have to promote, so you are saying we might not even run the tests. I mean I don't have a problem with it. Law Director Graves stated if the 2 vacant positions exist if they haven't been eliminated, we would have to fill them and then demote based on seniority – that is what the law says. If the 2 positions do not exist we could run a tests, comply an eligibility list for Sergeant. So there is a lot of discussion right now going on and we will keep you apprised of that. Mr. Rosso stated I just thought you had said before that we were going to run one. Law Director Graves stated yes and the letters are going out, I mean the letters have been signed by the Civil Service Commission but like I said right now they do have the second round of the Fire Chief tests scheduled and Fire Fighter Monda is going to take it and assuming he gets a passing score he will be certified as the Chief. He is the only that selected to take it and what the law says on that is if we have one person that has expressed a desire to take the tests then that person gets to take the tests and they have to achieve a minimum passing score. Now concurrent to that we have an amendments for civil service rules set for public hearing, I guess the Civil Service Secretary didn't get this out in time but they are meeting next Wednesday and it will be set for public hearing prior to that tests and it is going to say that in the event that after 2 tests are run and we don't have a passing score then we go outside the department. A passing

score is either certified by the testing agency ahead of time or it would be computed as one standard deviation. I think it is going to be 70% passing score again. There was a brief discussion on last tests scores. Chairman Bring asked are we still looking into getting cameras for all the cars? Safety Director Arendt answered absolutely, as a matter of fact I am kind of surprised, I am still waiting for the ones that we got from the grants that Bill had and then it won't be this year but early next year my goal is to have every car camera'd. So I think we will only have to outfit 1 car I think which we will find the money for it. Mr. Elliott asked anything new on the computers for the cars? Safety Director Arendt answered again same situation, we are literally just waiting for them.

Chairman Bring advised we are going to move onto the Fire Department. Safety Director Arendt advised 66 is still out being fixed, I don't have a date on when that is going to come back. I do believe it is an essential piece of equipment that we need. We can't afford a new one, it will be fixed and hopefully it will last for another couple of years. Everything else is going well in the Fire Department. Chairman Bring stated a couple of things, I think we only have 1 big hose that is actually viable. The hoses for hooking up directly to the fire hydrant are unusable. Apparently we get these hose tested and we have to go to either Sheffield Village or Avon Lake to have those tested. The last time Sheffield Village said no and Avon Lake said no so we had to pay somebody else to do it for us. Safety Director Arendt stated if you go back to the minutes about 3 meetings ago, the piece of equipment costs \$800.00. I have asked Acting Chief Langin at least twice to put a voucher in, I can't make the voucher up for him – put the voucher in and give the voucher and I will see what we can do. The piece of equipment to test is \$800.00. Chairman Bring stated I heard it is \$2000.00. Safety Director Arendt stated you could be right and I could be definitely wrong. Chairman Bring asked so they have to come from him then? Safety Director Arendt answered yes I have asked him just put the voucher in, the department head is supposed to put the voucher in and it is supposed to come to me and I am supposed to go ahead and approve it, sign it then it goes to Dawn in Finance to see if we have the funds available but if he puts it in because I was aware, he told me that we were turned down, one was broke and we were turned down twice. By rule you have to have that tested every so often. Chairman Bring stated he said the only thing is if you had a fire and somebody wasn't paying attention and they ran that over he said we could be in trouble. Safety Director Arendt stated I will contact him before I leave this evening and ask him to put a voucher in for it. Chairman Bring stated I also talked to him I guess they have got the radios are all up and going, I guess that is really working very well. They can pretty much communicate with everybody. The only thing that he said now is that some of the other cities are going to a computer like GPS system, when they take off they go. He said the only thing about that is that if you are not online with them he said you can't communicate with them. As far as that we do not have that capability yet but he is not too keen on that because if you are looking on the computer and that would go out or something then you really don't have communication. He still likes to have the talking thing but city's are going to this computer. I also brought up the fact of having maybe 2 small GPS's which basically are next to nothing anymore because if you run into another city for mutual aid, instead of looking up a map you can punch that in. Safety Director Arendt stated I would be glad to purchase those because he talked to me about that, he didn't get into GPS's. Chairman

Bring stated that was my suggestion for GPS's. Safety Director Arendt advised for \$120.00 for a GPS. Chairman Bring explained he said a lot of times they get in there and they start looking for maps and he says a lot of times they know where the roads are but they aren't quite sure. I told him I would love for you to get one of these things, you can put it on the dash or whatever and you punch it in and it will tell you exactly when you are going to arrive and everything else, it tells you where you are going, it tells you the routes. Safety Director Arendt stated I have no problem, he didn't discuss it with me. There was a brief discussion on going to the computerized communications. Chairman Bring advised committee through a grant we just acquired some air bags which we never had before, you put them underneath the vehicle and then using one of the air tanks you can lift something up. They just got those, he had boxes when I was standing there today. Safety Director Arendt stated they got a few nice things this year; the jaws, these air bags and a couple of other things. Chairman Bring advised the turn out gear washing machine is up and running and that is working out very well. It is less things that we have to keep borrowing from everybody else. Safety Director Arendt stated fortunately the Village has been very kind to us, not just our agenda this evening but they have been very kind. We had to borrow a bit from them, a drill bit when we had a tap-in to do on Lake Road because we didn't have a drill bit. We have the drill bit now. Chairman Bring stated something else I was going to bring up, it just happened when I was over here today - the fuel truck pulled up over here and the fuel that we were getting over here wasn't compatible to the new trucks so we stopped that guy and asked him if the new fuel that they were putting in those tanks over there would be compatible to our new fire truck and the guy said absolutely. Apparently the problem we have over there is that we got a 450 or 550 gallon tank for gas but we only have a 250 gallon tank for diesel fuel and what he would like is right now he has to run that truck to BP. So he said if we went over there and used that the problem is if you guys start snow plowing, the 250 gallons can go in one night. I talked to the fuel guy and he said that they would put a tank in and all he would have to do is put the post in and they have the catch basin underneath there - it is a single tank or you can go to a double tank and he said you can add like 450 gallon tank to that and he said that would work out pretty good for us. That was the suggestion he made so the only thing we would have to do is put those metal posts around for an accident barrier or something. Safety Director Arendt stated I will check on that tomorrow because I don't know if Bill told you that he and I were talking about that fuel yesterday and apparently the new fire truck was supposed to have some high-grade and they had to go to BP. But I guess now the fuel that they have here is compatible and I will call the fuel company tomorrow and if they are willing to put that extra tank in. There was a brief discussion on fuel tank hazards. Chairman Bring stated they are looking into some kind of active vests, they are about \$200.00 and what they add is actually a cable for the back that you can actually hook onto. If somebody would fall into the water over by the boat ramp, you could actually hook a life-line onto the back of these things and the guy could actually go near the water if he fell in it is a life jacket and they have the lifeline to pull them back in too. He said he is looking into maybe possibly looking into a grant for that, he said they are rather expensive at \$200.00 a piece. Safety Director Arendt stated it depends on how many we need. If we got 1 guy that has to go in the water then we only need 1. How often are we going to need? There was a brief

discussion. Mr. Elliott asked are we any closer to a 5-year plan like you discussed before? Safety Director Arendt answered been working on it and it is a little bit harder to do then just like in the Water Department, it is a little harder to do with Police and Fire. I have got it right now for equipment but I am also including in manpower. You take a look at Captain Komlosy, in 2 years he is going to retire and the Chief is going to retire in 2 years. What manpower are we going to be at then? What promotional ranks, what steps are we going to have? So as far as equipment I can give it to you tomorrow but as far as an overall plan of what I think should be in there, it is a little bit more difficult because I am talking to these guys. The Fire is not too difficult because they are all young guys, I think he is the oldest one and I don't see him planning on retiring right away. But Komlosy definitely says 2 years he is out and the Chief says definitely 2 years he is out and then you are down to Tony and then Jarod and go right down the line and then you say okay where is our next promotion coming from. Is it going to come from inside or is it going to come from outside? Usually preferably you always like to do it from inside. Chairman Bring stated I think we have 10 fulltime including the Chief. Safety Director Arendt stated the Chief theatrically is not supposed to be a first responder. That becomes an issue and so you really only have 9. Chairman Bring advised I think we have 12 plus the Chief over in the Fire Department.

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD:** discussion above.

**ACTING FIRE CHIEF:** discussion above.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Law Director Graves advised we continue to monitor the situation in town with the registered sexual offenders. Officer Schmidt has been designated as the Registration Officer, so they do have someone over there that is going to be at least monthly checking on this. We do have one individual in town who is living too close to a city park and I have sent him a letter mandating that he relocate immediately. If he does not then we will file an action asking for an injunction for courts to order him to move from this residency. We also have 1 individual who is required to register with the Police but has thus far refused to do so. Our most recent ordinance makes to register with our local police department a first degree misdemeanor and I advised him on the phone today that if he wasn't registered by tomorrow I would be charging with a first degree misdemeanor with failure to register in our local police department. So we are continuing to aggressively enforce that. We also had a situation where an individual in town had a couple of pit bull dogs get loose into a neighbors yard and kill her pet cat. That is still under review and I believe the county and a patrol officer is going to assist us with the determination process. If in fact those are pit bulls they will be ceased and they will be charged with 3 offenses; failure to confine vicious dogs, failure to register and the pit bulls failure to insure. We will aggressively follow up on that one as well. Safety Director Arendt advised one of the sex offenders we literally a wheel out and measured, we did pretty detailed through the Building Department and myself to make sure. As I was talking to Mr. Graves you the county is responsible for this pit bull incident if we need to call them. As I told Mr. Graves today you know they are going to tell you that

they are going to be here today and they are not going to be here today and sure enough they were going to be here today and they didn't show. It is something that we are going to have to consider in another meeting in another place to possibly deal with. We have one particular individual that can do a part-time warden and we just have not done that. He got married, he was out of the country for a while and he is back. It is something that I think that we are going to have bring up for emergency situations such as this if we can't get the county to come out but has to go through ordinance and stuff so we have a designee right? Not to hire him, I mean if I wanted to bring that guy in – we just bring somebody in, he has to be listed as ours. Mr. Rosso stated we had an Animal Control Officer and we got rid of him. Chairman Bring stated the budget says 0. Mr. Rosso stated the Dog Warden says \$700. Law Director Graves stated there was an issue there with the dual employment as well. Mr. Rosso stated but he has since retired. Law Director Graves concurred you are right, he has so he is an eligible candidate. Safety Director Arendt stated that is something that we have got to consider. Chairman Bring stated we eventually are going to do something. Mr. Elliott stated I know we talked about having a full-time guy that was actually going to patrol 3 jurisdictions right, it was us, Sheffield Village. Mr. Rosso stated Vermilion was in there somewhere, I think it was Vermilion, Lorain and us. Safety Director Arendt stated we have a candidate that works full-time as the Dog Warden. Mr. Rosso stated it has been a while having one guy, one person to cover 3 cities – kind of like a part-time basis but it didn't work out for whatever reason. Law Director Graves stated most important that whoever it is is just on call. We really don't need an Animal Control Officer patrolling around but for emergencies or for a situation like this where we need some identification, that is where we need the assistance. Mr. Rosso stated my favorite topic as I was coming up Lafayette, that stop sign can't be 5-feet tall on the corner over here. I know do nothing on getting out to replace all the ones that under or invalid but I am just going to keep pointing them out as I see them. Safety Director Arendt stated since we talked about the incident of stop signs a while back, I have since been unconsciously noticing and I was in Gettysburg last weekend and literally went through one because it was so light and it couldn't have been 2-feet tall and I said because I was with a former police officer I said you know what if I get stopped. Mr. Rosso advised as long as you aren't in a rural area you are okay. Safety Director Arendt stated Bill, as long as you are here can you do me a favor before I forget and write up a PO up for the hose testing equipment and then the next time you are on duty if you and I can get together and talk about Mr. Bring's suggestion about the GPS's as well. Later or early next year we will talk about a life support jacket, so if you write that PO up. I don't think I will be able to get that that this year but at least early January. Safety Director Arendt stated I would like to introduce you, this is Dave Valez and he is our electrical inspector. The reason we are together this evening is because we were working on something.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott/Second by Rosso to adjourn at 7:45 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 December 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*