

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting

Sheffield Lake, Ohio

April 2, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, April 2, 2008. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Bring, Elliott

Absent: Rosso (excused)

Attending: Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Conrad, President Podmanik and Councilman Kovach

READING OF THE MINUTES:

*Motion by Elliott to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2008 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

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

POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD: Police Chief Shepherd advised we got an email from the government on that grant that we talked about earlier and we got turned down, they said there was so many people that applied and it had X amount of dollars which big cities got it and little cities got it too. Chairman Bring asked is that something we can re-apply for next year? Chief Shepherd answered yes, this is the second year that we have applied for it. Evidentially they will get tired of reading our grant request and grant it. Mr. Elliott asked was that for the computers in the cars? Chief Shepherd answered yes. Chief Shepherd continued Sergeant Payson just told me, I have to refer this to the Safety Director and Mr. Graves, Steve's Auto is our towing company and anybody who gets their car towed and they don't come and get it he then files for a salvage title. Well, the state does not allow him to do that anymore, the Police have to file for the salvage title – we have to put \$200.00 in escrow and every time we have to apply for the salvage title it costs it \$2.00 which comes out of the \$200.00 we have in escrow and we basically have to eat that. Sergeant Payson checked with Avon, Avon Lake and all the surrounding departments – they just go ahead and do that because my first thought was why don't Steve put the \$200.00 in because he is going to reap the benefit of selling the car and apparently all the other Police Departments do it on their own. Chairman Bring asked that is a one time \$200.00 thing? Police Chief Shepherd answered \$200.00 thing one time and they leave it in escrow, right now he has got 3 cars that need to have salvage titles so we are only talking \$6.00. So it is there for life for the agency. I will have more to report on that the next time, like I said I just got it as I came in today. Mr. Elliott asked the other departments do it on their own? Police Chief Shepherd explained no, what they do is go ahead and pay it because my first question to Sergeant Payson was the tow company is going to reap the

benefit from it then why don't they put the \$200.00 in the escrow because when they get the salvage title – they sell the car for whatever they can get out of it. Well we don't have a guarantee that we are going to have the same tow company year after year after year, it could be somebody different. I guess it is just kind of a thing that the cities, you know we are only talking \$200.00 which will probably last in Sheffield Lake – we will all be dead by the time they burn that up. There was a brief clarification on costs. Chief Shepherd explained Sergeant Payson pulled the law up on the internet under the BMV website, it is \$200.00 which goes into escrow and each title that you apply for costs you \$2.00 which they take out of the \$200.00 that you have banked which is there forever until it is gone then after it is gone I guess you have to put in another \$200.00. Mr. Podmanik asked when did this law go into affect. Chief Shepherd asked I guess it has been in effect for quite a while. Mr. Podmanik asked how can they justify forcing cities to go into the salvage business because that is exactly what they have done. They are forcing us to get a salvage title. Chief Shepherd answered I don't know. There was a brief discussion on the possible liability and possible reasons why; car values, cover ups for stolen cars, etc. Chief Shepherd stated we are going to turn this over to Law Director Graves. Chief Shepherd advised I am sure you all read in the papers that we caught the robbers. Committee advised good job. Brownie's put a large sign up thanking SLPD. There was a brief discussion on situation. Chairman Bring advised possible issue of when plows are out, dispatch can't communicate with them. Chief Shepherd explained they are on a different frequency now, they used to be on 4 so our cars can't call them. There was a brief discussion on possible emergency situations where you would need to get them on the radio right away. Chairman Bring to speak with Service Director Gardner regarding problem. **Chairman Bring advised clerk to keep on agenda for follow-up.** Chairman Bring advised on Walker Road from about 3:30 to 5:30 I am walking the city again, I swear I go down there and 50% of the cars are exceeding the speed limit by at least 15 or 20 miles an hour and I know it is 25 mph. There are people that do go 25 mph or 30 mph but some of those people are just flying through there. There was a brief discussion on issue. Mr. Elliott advised I spoke with you before Chief about people parking at the end of Holl, they are starting to do it again. They are starting to block visibility when you are turning off a Lake Breeze when you are heading northbound, sometimes you can't even see if there is somebody sitting at the intersection. Chief Shepherd asked wasn't the city going to mark that? Mr. Elliott stated no, I believe we were going to talk about it. We need to start marking it somehow. Chief Shepherd answered it probably wouldn't hurt to mark all of those areas where we have stop signs that are going to intersect with another street. There was a brief discussion on subject which will be brought up at Roads and Drains.

FIRE CHIEF CONRAD: Fire Chief Conrad reported I had a lengthy discussion with the Mayor and Finance Director last week. Unfortunately they tell me that they do not have the anticipated revenue available for us to make a purchase at this time. So I strongly advised them that the units we do have I don't know how much longer we are going to get running those as front-line units. I requested that instead of taking the stance of hopefully we will have the money for next year, that we need to have a plan in place so we can purchase something by this time next year. It is not to the point to where the vehicles are costing us so much in maintenance that it would pay for the costs of the lease, the lease is going to be

more expensive but we are definitely getting into a situation where there is more down time, more expenses. We have got one of the trucks now that the oil pan is looking kind of bad and in those vehicles in order to change the oil pan – you have to remove that engine from the truck. It is a \$4000.00 job just for a lousy oil pan. If something changes in the future, you know maybe some revenue comes in that we weren't anticipating we might be able to commit to it a little earlier. It is about \$150,000.00 right now. Chairman Bring asked how much was the least costs? Chief Conrad answered the least costs would be anywhere from \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year depending on how many years you stretched it out. We were looking at a lease that the first payment would be due a year after we purchased the vehicle. The salesman just called me today and mentioned that they have now got a lease program that is due 18 months after the vehicle is purchased. I haven't had a chance to talk to the Mayor about that particular information yet. Maybe with that we might be in a position to do something even this fall. Chief Conrad continued we did get permission from Council to get rid of the old fire gear that we had for the guys. That has been taken care of, that has been disposed of. At our last meeting we were talking about hiring additional part-time individuals – we did hire 4 qualified candidates and they are now on the roster. The exhaust system has been installed in the Fire Station, there is a few things they have to tweak yet to get that finished but for the most part it is up and running. If anyone would like to stop after the meeting tonight to take a look at it then you are welcome. Chairman Bring asked how it works and Chief Conrad operations. Mr. Elliott asked is that the last thing that was left on that grant? Chief Conrad answered there is now some money that are left over from that grant because when I applied for the vehicle exhaust system, we had originally spec'd out for the pick-up truck and the fire truck in that third bay. That required a more expensive rail so that you could have 2 vehicles operate out of one bay. After we got the grant, we found out that we got the grant for the fire truck, when we get that fire truck we will only have room in that third bay for our current fire truck. That allowed us to just put up a single vehicle rail in that bay, it significantly reduced the price to install that exhaust system. I can show you the differences if you do have an opportunity to go over there tonight but in short we have got about \$5000 or \$6000 that are left in that grant. We will be able to use that to get some of the gear that we need for these new part-time guys that we hired. Anything above \$5000 we will be able to put that towards fire prevention in the Fire Department. Mr. Elliott advised by the way I was in there a couple of weeks ago and noticed the remodel job you guys did – a really good job on that department, it looks a lot different then it did. Chief Conrad answered yes it came out really nice, all three shifts. Mr. Elliott stated they did a good job and probably saved the city a boat load of money too. Chief Conrad advised I would venture to say we probably saved, 10, 15 maybe \$20,000 on labor. They worked on it all last year, all through the summer – it was quite extensive and looks a lot nicer. Mr. Elliott asked did you go to Florida and check out that vehicle? Fire Chief Conrad answered not yet, hopefully sometime the end of May. It is scheduled now and hopefully we will have it right at the end of May, beginning of June. Mr. Elliott asked you will take some pictures? Chief Conrad answered yes. Chairman Bring stated I know you guys said you were going to trim that ladder off and I know I looked at the doors and it looks like they have them all the way up. I was looking at the way the concrete is and stuff and I don't know if that truck is going to

come in at a level angle and I am kind of concerned about that. Chief Conrad answered we have the same problem with our current fire truck. Nobody has backed it into the bays with an empty tank. Mr. Bring stated it is not even that, I am just worried about the height with it coming in at a different angle. Chief Conrad advised that is why we are so particular about keeping the ice and snow off the apron as another inch would make a big difference.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants – Fire Chief Conrad reported we are applying for this years grants for the Fire Fighters program. Under equipment I am applying for a rescue tool, a thermal imager bail out system for the guys for their gear and a washing machine for the turn-out gear that we received last year. Under training I am asking for a rope rescue training and training that comes with that bail out equipment. Under vehicles the last vehicle that is a priority 1 vehicle that we don't have would be a rescue truck to carry rescue equipment as opposed to an ambulance for medical treatment. I am requesting a light duty rescue vehicle, it would something we could put our dive gear, rope gear, rescue gear on that vehicle. Right now it sits on the picnic table, it sits on the bay floors and we have to physically grab it and throw it on the truck when we have those types of calls. So if we are deemed needy enough, hopefully hear is some positive news on those grants sometime this fall. I just got a call from Betty Sutton's office this evening, we did receive a \$7900.00 grant for fire prevention. Lieutenant Card deserves the lion's share of the credit for that, he wrote most of that grant. We worked on it together but like I say he did most of the work. With that, we applied for a power point projector, lap-top computer that is designed to be taken in the trucks, taken out to the schools and if it is dropped or something like that – it is not a fragile piece of equipment. Tough book or something like that I think is what it is called and those are quite expensive – the grant will pay for that. Also we are getting one of those "sparky" suits that you look like sparky the fire dog. Now all 3 rookies in the Fire Department are being called sparky. He continued the only other thing under grants is this summer they will have what they call a safer grant that is available, it would be a grant to where we could possibly look at increasing our manpower and I would like to bring some more information to the next Safety meeting. I will have some numbers for you to look at and how it would be feasible, what would be required on the city's end and how we would go about that. Mr. Elliott asked Chief Shepherd did we ever get that camera? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Mr. Elliott asked can we get a little demonstration at Council? Chief Shepherd answered yes, we had a little bit of a scheduling problem. Detective Green was going to bring it in and Kay wasn't able to schedule it in.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lights in Queens Court area – Mr. Elliott advised from what I understand they wrote again, they want to know when it is going in. Chairman Bring advised I guess Bill had contacted the guy from Ohio Edison and got a reply back and according to them they can't put a wood pole there – it has to be a decorative pole. It is something to do with the way they put the streets that a regular pole would not stay up. So it would have to be a decorative pole, so I am going to have to talk to Bill and find out why and how much. There was a brief discussion on the pole. Mr. Elliott asked Chief Shepherd, until we get

this pole in can we step up patrol in that area? Police Chief Shepherd answered as much as we can.

ATV – Chairman Bring advised of concerns and stated we would like your opinion of that such as ATV to plow snow or on personal property. Mr. Elliott stated I believe there is a guy that lives on Belle I believe that comes and plows a lot of the driveways for some of the senior citizens who live in the area and I just don't want to see him get a ticket for doing a good deed. Chief Shepherd answered I don't think that would happen. If they are plowing or some sort of legitimate reason. We all know the difference between the racing ones, the ones that are zipping up to the Village to ride. That was one of our biggest problems then everybody would be calling us. There was a lengthy discussion on what it is being used for (plowing, etc), possibly including golf carts, possible registration of these types of vehicles, age limitations/time limitations. Mr. Elliott asked Chief Shepherd, do you think the golf cart would be feasible in this city? Chief Shepherd answered I would prefer golf carts over the 4-wheelers only because we are going to get a kid that is going to run and I don't want anybody to chase anybody like that because that is a disaster waiting to happen. The golf carts are nice and quiet, again it would have to limited to where they are going to be at, if someone gets out on Lake Road - no. We are not a quiet little village like Wakeman. There was a lengthy discussion on subject.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott to adjourn at 7:54 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

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 April 2, 2008.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE
Dennis Bring

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM
Richard Rosso

