

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
May 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, May 7, 2008. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

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

READING OF THE MINUTES:

*Motion by Elliott to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2008 meeting with no corrections. Yeas All.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:

POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD: Police Chief Shepherd advised the only thing that I have to report we had 3 guys this year out on sick leave so we have been running a little understaffed. Mark Zgodzinski who is also the Animal Control Officer is getting new knees, Frank Goscewski had shoulder surgery and Bryan Schuster has been out the last 2 months – started out with shingles and just escalated with all kinds of stress. There is probably a pretty good chance that we are going to end up with 2 officers retiring sometime toward the end of the year. I would hope that next year we start considering releasing those 2 plus the 3 part-time guys that I don't have. So that will put me like 5 guys in the hole and it is getting kind of touch. Mr. Rosso asked we probably don't have a civil service list for police do we? Police Chief Shepherd answered it is probably expired. Mr. Rosso stated Fire is the only one that has one, so we will probably have to do that some time this year. Do we have enough people on Civil Service to have a meeting. Clerk Fantauzzi answered yes, I can get a hold of Sue. Chairman Bring stated we will have to look into that.

1.) **Radio communications within departments** – Chairman Bring asked any other thoughts on that, we were talking about walkie/talkie stuff. I think I brought that up to Bill and we are going to have to follow-up with that with Bill. I don't know if it is so much purpose right now but I know even with the summer time but the winter time I think there will be more of a purpose and I will talk to him some more about that. Clerk Fantauzzi advised the summer time in my opinion is even more necessary because when they are in the ditches and stuff and at the pump stations. Chairman Bring advised I guess you are right, I will talk to Bill more about that too. I did say something to him and he mumbled something and I didn't pay attention because he didn't finish whatever he was talking about. Mr. Elliott asked is that the only solution? Chairman Bring answered they have radios and it is hooked up to the dispatch but it is on a different

frequency and I guess they don't all work. Mr. Elliott asked we can't put that on the officers portables? Chairman Bring answered I guess costs wise these walkie/talkie things would be a lot less expensive too. I know that they are very inexpensive now, some of things do 10-mile radius. Mr. Elliott stated the only bad about that is how long the battery life is and would it lasts for 8 hours, an officer would have to have it on for 8 hours unless dispatch told them to turn it on. Chairman Bring stated I think what we were finding out before though was that they had these radios but they didn't even turn them on and they were just leaving them off so they weren't getting communicated with anyway. Clerk Fantauzzi explained what is really bad is when shift change is coming up and we need the driveways done and we can't get a hold of them, one of the guys have to go out and find them. Mr. Elliott stated that could take a while to find a guy. Not to mention I know that when it snows heavy, sometimes you need a plow to actually escort you guys to a place right? Chief Shepherd answered yes. Mr. Elliott stated to me it would be imperative to have that radio on. Chief Shepherd stated the radios could be on, I don't know how much noise is in one of those dump trucks when they plow. When I used to plow with my blazer and stuff you could never hear nothing, so that could be the problem I am not really sure. Mr. Elliott stated unless they are not scanning and I don't know if they have a scan option on their radio but it should be scanning. Chairman Bring stated I think if each truck has one of those walkie/talkies or man, if they don't answer then I think Bill would obviously have to have a meeting with them and find out why because it is important. Mr. Elliott asked do these guys have cell phones, I mean if it is a personal cell phone. Fire Chief Conrad advised Dawn asked me to sit in on a meeting with a representative from Sprint Nextel a couple of weeks ago and he put together a package, he has got it priced now to provide 2 extra phones in the Service Department that would be full capabilities of walkie/talkie and cell phone use and provide an additional 3 phones that would be just walkie-talkie capable. Adding those phones to our current plan and lumping that all together in one plan, he seemed to think he would be able to get us a package with a price identical to what we are paying right now without those additional phones. Mr. Elliott stated that would probably be the best option. Fire Chief Conrad stated we are currently waiting for him to come back with a firm price quote and also he is going to drop off some phones for us to use to make sure the coverage is okay and we don't have any areas that we can't pick up reception. Chairman Bring advised Bill said something about that and I don't know why but he was not too keen on that idea. I think because of the work that is involved with the Service Department getting out of ditches and doing all that stuff and he is afraid that they will drop the phones or whatever. It was a concern of his and obviously if this is a good costs then we can take a look at it. Mr. Elliott stated wouldn't he have the same concerns if it was a small little walkie/talkie thing. Chairman Bring stated no they aren't that expensive, the phone thing is you can put them on vibrate and put them in your pocket and if you don't hear at least you can feel it.

FIRE CHIEF CONRAD: Fire Chief Conrad reported Sunday the full-time Fire Fighter Wes Mariner who was hired started, that was his first day and today was his second day so we are back up to full strength. Chairman Bring asked he is happy? Fire Chief Conrad answered very.

1.) **Squad** – Chairman Bring stated I think we have talked this several times. Fire Chief Conrad advised I talked with the Mayor several times about the possibility of with the extended lease, possible funding it this fall and once we get a better grip on finances. I know the city's has gotten their first disbursement for the year and they will wait for the second disbursement and once they got a better handle on exactly what their revenues are then make a decision later on in the year. Chairman Bring advised the foreclosures and everything are really putting a crimp on the city right now. Mr. Elliott asked any update on the fire truck? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes we just got an email a couple of days ago. That has been delayed approximately 2 weeks, some sort of production line with the scheduling and with the volume of trucks that they are now building. So they have indicated that there is an additional 2 week wait so we are looking at the middle of June now instead of the beginning of June. Chairman Bring stated something I saw on the news the other day. They had a thing on saying that these people got picked in a rescue squad or something and they were supposed to be giving them some kind of shock on their heart and stuff and that was omitted for some reason, do we keep records of what we do when we are in the squad cars and stuff like that. They said that they omitted the records after a certain period of time, it was 5 days or 3 days, I don't know if that is true of what was on there. Fire Chief Conrad advised yes it is hard to filter out the truth on any incident on a news report. There has been plenty of times I have been in an incident and either read about or see it on TV and I am wondering if they are talking about the same thing sometimes. But for our department, Dr. Evans is our medical director. He goes over our more serious runs and some of the runs that we don't run into very often. He reviews those and if we documented that that person had a rhythm and we did not shock then he would definitely be asking us questions as to why. Chairman Bring stated I was just kind of curious, I saw that report and was wondering how we would handle that situation. Fire Chief Conrad advised you don't know the individuals that wrote up that report, how much experience they have, you don't know if it was a documentation problem or if it was truly a mistake that was made – human error. But it sounded from what was on the news report was that with the rhythm they had they should have shocked and that was the rhythm that they documented and if that wasn't the rhythm that they had and it truly was a non-shockable rhythm then there were drugs that should have been given in that instance and those weren't given. So either scenario there was something that should have been done that wasn't and those are the things that Dr. Evans is always looking for and is always training us on. Your question may be about the recall of the information – once we get to the hospital we print out the information on our serious calls and those are part of our reports so there would be a paper copy of that rhythm. Chairman Bring asked so that is something that is recorded and then you guys keep on record. Fire Chief Conrad explained the machines themselves if you don't hit the button that prompts that information to print then that information is lost in a set period of time to save the memory on the machine. Chairman Bring stated I think that is what happened in that case. Mr. Elliott asked so there is reports done as far as what we did and what we didn't do? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes we document what we find, what we did and if there is something that comes to light as to treatment – whether it should have been given and wasn't or why a certain

treatment was given then we would have to go through our medical director to explain ourselves and be trained on that. Something else to bring up, the news kind of made some disparaging remarks about the low number of people that are resuscitated in Northeast Ohio. They cite studies like in Seattle Washington and they have a phenomenal recovery rate for people that supposedly code but you got different laws in different states. In the State of Washington, paramedics are allowed to show up at the scene of a heart attack and if the persons health condition is such that they are not what we call workable, they are allowed to pronounce their patients dead by themselves without a physician so those don't show up in their records as being a non-resuscitated patient. In the State Ohio paramedics are not able to do that. If we get to the scene and they are not obviously dead either from foul-play where the police would be involved or something where you know that they have been dead for a period of time and in which case we would call the Coroner. We are obligated to resuscitate those patients, knowing full well that they have very little of any chance of recovery and those show up as a non-recovery patient which would impact our numbers negatively. So you hear stories about how terrible Northeast Ohio is, a lot of it has to do with how you compare numbers. The other thing the City of Seattle does do that they do very well is they have a very proactive pre-ems arrival program. Their citizens are trained on CPR a lot more than the citizens in Northeast Ohio are. So that when the units do get to the scene, there is a lot better chance of recovery just based on that alone. Chairman Bring asked would the city ever be able to do the CPR training here at all? Fire Chief Conrad answered we do a Fire Fighter who is trained as a CPR Instructor. However, shortly after getting that training he went to another Fire Department so since that time we have had a couple of folks who are interested in pursuing that. However, we have been doing quite a bit of training in other areas that frankly are required attention more quickly than what this CPR is. Chairman Bring asked so for them to get a certification they have to take the classes? Fire Chief Conrad answered we would have to send them to school to get that training. Chairman Bring advised I was thinking about that the other day and wondering if we could offer that. Mr. Elliott asked that is not a very expensive training though right? As far as sending them to school, they would just go down to Elyria to Red Cross. Fire Chief Conrad answered right like anything else you have got overtime costs and it is not so much the initial training, there is equipment they have to buy with that and then there is paperwork that has to be sent in and certified. It is like anything else in this world, everything you do there is a certain costs with it. Chairman Bring advised back to the Police, not to get rid of the Fire Chief. We had a complaint the other day of a lady on Belle, she said that they have had an excessive amount of speeders going down that road and the only thing that is stopping them right now is that we got such bad chuck holes – they are doing the dukes of hazard over that. I know that she had talked to Shawn Corr about it and I guess he has shown up a couple of times and obviously as soon as they see a police car they stop doing it. I told her that I would kind of let you know what was going on. Mr. Elliott stated they did advise that it was in the afternoon around 5 pm and it is all 4 of those streets there - Holl, Brockley, Knickerbocker and Belle. All 4 of those streets, it seems like people are pulling off Idlewood and then cutting through to Lake Breeze and when they do they are just flying down those

streets. Since Holl and Knickerbocker have just been redone, I think those are probably the worst streets. Police Chief Shepherd advised what we do when we get speeding complaints in a particular area, we usually put a note out and the guys will try and pay as much attention as they can there. It is almost impossible to designate a guy to just go sit there for the whole day and see what you can do. They go over there and they will make their presence known but like the Chairman said, when they see the car sitting there then everybody slows down. Mr. Elliott stated then once you leave then in 5 minutes then it is right back to normal. Chairman Bring stated I told her that I would make mention of it because she said with summertime coming up and the kids are going to be on their bicycles and out, it is just more volatile. Mr. Elliott stated we did tell her that at school time you guys are busy patrolling the schools which is really more important and all the bus stops. President Podmanik advised there is a police presence on those streets, I have seen it – they do make the rounds there, they are there. Mr. Elliott stated I used to drop my little boy off at school and you guys would sit right in front of the school watching, I mean that is more important. Police Chief Shepherd advised Lorain has had several incidents where people have tried to procure children to get in the cars. As a matter of fact I think Tim Card's child was even accosted in Lorain so it is mandatory that they are there at opening and closing. So that kills your patrol right there because we are going to be there. I would rather see 2 speeders go down the street then 1 kid come up missing. Mr. Elliott advised absolutely, that is more important then watching speeders. We need a strong police presence in front of our schools and you guys are doing a good job out there. Police Chief Shepherd thanked him and said I will make note of that though. Mr. Elliott asked Fire Chief Conrad you know a lot of people now are starting to switch over to these new light bulbs. Those costs saver light bulbs, the fluorescent ones – I have heard media reports saying there is a mercury in these new lights and I even heard a report that if one breaks that you should call the Fire Department. I was wondering if you know how high of a mercury content do these lights have and should these people be calling you if one does break. Fire Chief Conrad advised as anything in manufacturing, they put as little mercury in there as they possibly can get away with – just to make the light work. The information that I have read on them is it is very miniscule, you will hear a lot of environmentalist touting them that they are good because they save energy. You will hear another group saying that they are a nightmare, that they are a hazard on the environment because of this mercury content. I think that those discussions are based on accumulative affect of all the light bulbs that would be getting dropped into a landfill somewhere. As far as us being contacted, that has never been a problem or anything that I have ever run into in the public. Mr. Elliott asked then it shouldn't be a concern if you break one then? Fire Chief Conrad answered no, it is the same thing as your fluorescent bulbs and your lights even in this building. Fire Chief Conrad advised the county does their semi-annual hazardous waste pick-up and they will take those fluorescent bulbs at those collections. There was a brief discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Grants – Fire Chief Conrad reported the vehicle exhaust system has been completely

installed and it is up and running and we have had no problems with it to date. We have purchased the rest of the fire fighting gear for the new part-time guys with the excess monies that were left over in that grant. As mentioned in the minutes from the last meeting, we did apply for grants for 2008 and hopefully we will hear something about that sometime late summer or early fall. Mr. Rosso asked did you apply for any rescue squads because that would take care of that problem. Fire Chief Conrad answered unfortunately a rescue squad is considered a priority 3 vehicle for us. They very rarely if ever get down to priority 2 and they never get down to priority 3. So based on that we applied for a light rescue vehicle. Mr. Elliott asked and that is to replace our pick-up truck? Fire Chief Conrad answered it wouldn't replace it but it would carry some equipment that that vehicle now carries. If we were to get this other vehicle you would still want to have a pick-up truck or an SUV of some sort, just from wear and tear and from gas mileage. To drive that thing around town to flush hydrants doesn't make much sense but it could be done. Chairman Bring asked when the Police and Fire go out, they leave the trucks running all the time – is that something that is done by everybody all the time and is there a reason for that? Police Chief Shepherd answered as far as the Police when they come to your house for a call, depending on what the call was sometimes they do leave the car running. I have told them not to let the cars sit out here running. But your batteries go down real quick if they are not. So if you see them sitting some place running radar, the car has got to be running and if they got to run back out to the car and go on another call – starting from a cold start does more damage to the internal working of the motor. Fire Chief Conrad advised we have got the same problems, show up on a scene especially if you have to leave the vehicle out in the road then you have to leave the lights running. If the vehicle wasn't running the battery would go dead. The hospitals now with the bays that you can back into we have to shut our vehicles off and over the years there has been several instances where the vehicle then doesn't start. The batteries are going bad or the alternator goes bad – it is enough of an inconvenience when it happens when we are trying to come back from the hospital but we don't want that happening on the scene of an emergency.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lights in Queens Court area – Chairman Bring stated we are not having a pole put up – **REMOVE.**

ATV – President Podmanik advised I own ATV's that are recreational vehicles. I haul them out of the county because there is no place to ride them around here. The question you have to ask yourselves is do you want to recommend that ATV's be allowed to be used on the streets in this city and if you do then you have to determine how you are going to let them be used; recreational, transportation, utility? You are going to have people in the winter time who are going to use them utility; for their own personal use. Now if you want them go out and snow plow driveways for profit then they have to be equipped. Recreational use, we have no place here to ride recreationally. Mr. Rosso stated isn't the question not that you want to let them loose in the streets but our current ordinance prohibits you from even using it on your private property. There was a lengthy discussion on different uses to include golf carts - **REMOVE.**

Increase Manpower in Fire Department – Fire Chief Conrad advised something we have been trying to do for a while in the Fire Department is get our manpower increased. The increased number of squad calls, the increased times. We are having more and more instances of back to back squad calls, response is delayed waiting for either Sheffield Village or Avon Lake to come over on those calls. Like I say it is getting higher and higher every year. I didn't bring exact figures with me but I do have some numbers to run by you tonight just as a rough idea of what we would be looking at; the assistance to fire fighters program has a program called safer which is to help offset the costs of manpower. The monies that are available for each person that you hire over a 5-year period, they would reduce your personnel costs by \$105,425.00 per man. With that reduction in the costs of what it would cost the city to hire 3 additional personnel. Obviously the revenue is not within our current budget to support that. What I am proposing is to apply for this grant, if we were to receive that grant – at that time then put some sort of an issue on the ballot that would be in the area of one and a half to possibly one and three-quarters mils and that would allow us a 5-year period of taxation to hire these personnel and have them available for the 5-year period that the monies from the grant would be available. At the end of that 5-year period it would then be up to us to justify to Council, the Administration and more importantly to the citizens that the costs would probably jump to about 2 mils because we wouldn't be having that federal money off-setting some of the costs and at that time it would up to us to justify to the citizens if the program has been a success and if it is cost effective enough for them to continue supporting it. It is the best way that we can do this from a cost basis to make it as cheap for the city to do this as possible. What I would be looking for from the Administration and Council is just the support in the form of yes go ahead apply for this grant and see if we are able to receive it and then at that point we would then address the additional revenues that would be needed for the city to fund it. Chairman Bring advised I think what you would have to do is get that paperwork and the mileage, we could send it to Council or Worksession and have a discussion on it, what do you think Ed? Obviously the economy and everything, to try to pass any mileage right now. But it won't hurt to look at the program and see what everybody else's thoughts are. Fire Chief Conrad advised the good thing about this is we don't have to commit to do this until we would be notified. Last year the grant worked out that Fire Departments starting getting notified the end of November, the beginning of December and if we were to receive notification that we have been accepted then that would give us maybe through December, January and mid February would be the dead line to get an issue on the May ballot for next year. Mr. Rosso asked have you reviewed this with the Mayor yet? Fire Chief Conrad answered I have reviewed some of the general discussions but I have not had a chance to go into detail with him on the specifics on this. Mr. Rosso stated I don't even think it should come to Council or even a Worksession until the Mayor has reviewed it and endorsed it. Chairman Bring advised he has actually told us to take a look at it because I did talk to him about it. He told us that it is basically up to us to take a look at it. Mr. Rosso advised unless he is going to get on board and say I am behind it, I am not getting behind this with hey we are going to go with this at the last minute – get it pulled out from underneath. So until someone comes back and says reviewed it, it is the right thing

to do, I am on board with it. Chairman Bring shared the Mayors thoughts as far as concerns of funding after the grant runs out. Fire Chief Conrad recommended what Avon Lake does that we didn't do when we hired the 3 guys back in 1978, at one point we decided to make that levy permanent and locked in the mileage at that point and time. Probably what Avon Lake does is a better way to go, they either do a 3 or 5 year renewal and at the end of each period they review their costs for those personnel that were hired under that program and they adjust the mileage accordingly so that basically every 3 to 5 years you are re-justifying these costs to your citizens and they have the option to continue supporting it or to say hey it is not worth the costs that we are paying and we are not going to support it any further. Mr. Elliott stated my question is where this city is going to be in 5 years and you can't just drop 5 employees at the end of 5 years, is that how many you were talking about – 3? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes. Mr. Elliott stated my next question is is this a Fire grant or is it a Safety grant, could we tack on a couple of police officers to that too because we have always talked about increasing our manpower on the police side from 2 to 3 per shift? Fire Chief Conrad answered it is much in the way that police grants were a few years back where it was only for police personnel. These grants specific and they are just for Fire personnel. President Podmanik advised if I remember right we did a lot of scratching to keep those cops after that cops grant got pulled. It put us in a bind for about a year, year and a half and we finally managed to get ourselves square on it. The problem is if you don't plan now for the end that is where you get hammered. Fire Chief Conrad stated that is why the only way I can see this happening is with an additional revenue source and obviously it would be up to the people to decide if they want to support or can support it. It would up to us to tell them what the positive features would be and they would have to make a decision if it is worth the money that we would be asking for. Chairman Bring stated you would have to look down and see if it would cut overtime hours and that other stuff and see how much of a benefit it would really be overall. Fire Chief Conrad answered correct, I have done just a little bit of that. I don't have some real firm numbers because you would be increasing your manpower there would be less full-time overtime, how much that would be only time would be able to give you a firm number. There would some additional costs though that you would need for your part-time personnel because we now use our part-time personnel to maintain manning at 4, to maintain a 15 man department with 5 on a shift – there is going to be more hours that would be needed for your part-time personnel to meet that requirement. But overall there should be a savings. Chairman Bring asked this grant is strictly for full-time personnel only correct? Fire Chief Conrad answered correct. Mr. Elliott stated my biggest issue is where this city is going to be in another 5-years. Chairman Bring asked you don't think it is worth while sending it to Council? Mr. Elliott answered oh no I think we should send it to Council. Mr. Rosso advised I don't think it goes to Council until the Administration has bought into it and gets behind it. Fire Chief Conrad advised the Mayor and I had scheduled a meeting for this week for him to sit down and for us to go over the numbers. Unfortunately he was delayed in a couple of other meetings. Chairman Bring stated once you guys have your conversation, I will sit down and talk to him and then at next months meeting we will talk about again. If you can add that to the agenda Kay. Mr. Elliott stated I do agree with

Rick though, we should have the Mayors support. We should have a yes or no from him before we even waste our time discussing it.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott to adjourn at 7:50 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 May 7, 2008.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

Dennis Bring

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Richard Rosso