

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
June 4, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, June 4, 2008. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Police Captain Komlosy and Fire Chief Conrad, Councilman Kovach

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Elliott to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2008 meeting with no corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD:** Police Captain Komlosy reported **none**.

1.) *Radio communications within departments* – Chairman Bring advised I talked to Bill about that radio thing, we are still trying to talk about that. Mr. Elliott asked did he say anything about the phones? Chairman Bring advised they are accusing him of losing more phones than he is worth. Mr. Rosso advised I am not sure that phones are the right idea either, they are in those pits. Chairman Bring advised I am going to talk to the guys over there and we are going to see what they have to say. There was a brief discussion. Fire Chief Conrad advised I did talk to that gentleman from Sprint, he is still working on that proposal for us. He apologized for the delay, he said he had some personal problems and he is also trying to get some information from somebody that I guess hasn't gotten it to him in a timely manner. So he apologized for the delay but he is going to try and get it to us and we should have it for the next meeting I would hope. Mr. Elliott stated I think the biggest concern on that was on snow emergencies, do you know if those trucks have a scan button on their radios. I think this whole thing could be alleviated with just a simple telling them to scan the channels. Captain Komlosy stated those trucks, when they are plowing are so noisy that you not going to hear the radio. Mr. Elliott stated the question is then even if we did get a walkie-talkie, would they even hear it? Captain Komlosy stated walkie-talkie can have ear plugs, there are other options with them. Fire Chief Conrad stated plus if they carry them in a shirt pocket then they can hear that. Captain Komlosy stated it is one of those situations, I don't know if you will ever solve. But usually within 5 or 10 minutes when we are out there we can usually track down a truck, I mean the city is only 3 miles. Mr. Bring stated I am going to talk to Pat and I will talk to a couple of the other guys and see what they have to say and then bring it back to discuss a little bit more. Something else was brought up the other day, I guess on Walker down by Guenther Park. Some residents saw

commercial vehicles going down there, I know I mentioned one time about Schill's going down there and I haven't seen them do that in a little while, I don't if you guys have stopped them from doing that. Captain Komlosy advised I stopped and talked to their business and asked them not to use Walker Road. Mr. Bring continued I had a report on Ferndale, a couple of the residents said there was a younger gentleman on a crouch rocket going about 50 or 60 miles an hour. He did several times, one of the residents got mad a pulled out in front of him. Captain Komlosy asked any time period? Mr. Bring answered it was like a Saturday and like 2:30 in the afternoon. Captain Komlosy advised we are watching speeders on there, we are writing tickets on there but we all know we can't be everywhere. Mr. Bring advised it was Ferndale and Grantwood. Mr. Elliott asked in theory, if we brought a part-timer in to patrol the streets just for speeding. My theory is if they wrote one ticket, it would pay for their salary for the day, is that theory correct? Captain Komlosy answered pretty much. Mr. Elliott stated I haven't talked to the Mayor about it, I just wanted to make sure that my facts are in line before I do. Captain Komlosy answered if it is Councils wish that money be allocated for a part-timer hourly guy to target that, I am sure that is something the Chief would be happy to do. Mr. Rosso stated we have to be careful though, that fine money goes to the general fund. It doesn't go to the Police Department. Mr. Elliott reported a red and black chevelle flying around, it is an older car. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Bring advised the boat ramp will soon be open, are we going to make kind of a regular patrol on that at least once or twice a day and at night. Captain Komlosy answered yes. No we don't know if there is going to be any restrictions after a certain hour or not, that is something that I am sure will come up. Mr. Elliott answered 24 hours. Captain Komlosy asked is there fishing going to be allowed? Mr. Bring answered that is what the Mayor said but I will find out exactly, we probably need some kind of rules for you guys to have. Captain Komlosy answered we have park rules now. There was a brief discussion on restrictions and park rules which the Park Board will handle.

**FIRE CHIEF CONRAD:** Fire Chief Conrad reported the fire truck is supposed to be finished either today or tomorrow. The dealer is going to go down and inspect it on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> and it should be delivered to Ohio by a week from this Friday. It will be at the dealer in Midvale Ohio for 1 to 2 weeks for the dealer prep that has to be done down there. He advised of the work that needs to be done. Delivery is looking now like the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. Fire Chief Conrad explained on the training needed which will be done by the dealer and also disposal of the old truck. He advised one of the stipulations is that old truck cannot go back into fire service, so we can't even donate it to like a township that may have a use for it. There was a brief discussion on delivery and getting rid of old truck.

- 1.) *Squad* – on hold, no funding.
- 2.) *Increased manpower* – **REMOVE.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grants** – Fire Chief Conrad reported the grant that we received for the vehicle exhaust system and the turn-out gear is done, the excess monies that were left over we bought

additional turn-out gear for the fire fighters. We still had \$1280.00 that were left over and I had to apply to amend our grant to use those funds and we were successful in doing that so we are able to use that towards fire prevention within the city. So in our application to manage that grant, we told them that we would use it to buy literature for the schools for this fall for fire prevention week and that we would use it to add smoke detectors and batteries for our senior citizens. The Red Cross was providing us with smoke detectors and batteries for quite a while and they have since discontinued that program. They are looking for another corporate sponsor to keep it going. Mr. Bring asked about gear washer? Fire Chief Conrad answered I didn't apply for it and explained why but hopefully will for this year, I asked for a washer and an hydraulic tool. Mr. Rosso advised Fire Chief Conrad to check with the Law Director for legislation to get rid of old truck. Fire Chief Conrad advised one of the things that we had to do with getting this fire truck is have the class for all the guys in the Fire Department, it is a drivers training class for the fire service. We haven't had it here in probably 5 or 6 years. NFPA would like to see your fire fighters have it annually, so we went through 4 hours of the classroom yesterday and today. We broke it up in 2 different shifts and then we will go through the second 4 hours next Tuesday and Wednesday. Then next Friday, the shopping center has allowed us to use some of their open area for the practical part, the driving tests of it. Mr. Bring asked are you guys still going down there and testing the shopping center like you do with all the other businesses and stuff. Fire Chief Conrad answered yes they get inspected. Mr. Bring asked have they fixed all the violations? Fire Chief Conrad answered I can check with the OIC of Fire Inspections hasn't come to me saying that he has been getting any resistance from anybody. Mr. Bring asked Captain Komlosy we talked about the cage in the car the other day. Do we use that car specifically for patrol, we don't need that for transporting prisoners? Captain Komlosy answered we don't, we can get a cage in it. It has not had a cage and is now used for patrol but it is also used for schools. Mr. Bring asked so right now, you guys aren't really concerned about it? Captain Komlosy answered I am not and the Chief has not expressed any concern on it. When the Chief comes back, I will ask him about it and if he wants it done then I will work on it. It is the only vehicle we have that doesn't have a cage. There was a brief discussion on other vehicles.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Elliott advised the Mayor brought up last week about possibly changing our fleet over to a more fuel efficient car, he mentioned Focus's and I think those are too small - maybe the Escapes. Captain Komlosy advised in good conscience going to a non-police rated vehicle to me is not the way to go and the Chief too. Mr. Elliott stated I think some of the Escapes are police rated. Captain Komlosy answered no they are not, they are parking enforcement and like a security type - that is the hybrid. There was a lengthy discussion on police package vehicles, costs and fuel efficiency.

#### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY:**

Mrs. Barb Mingee stated I am very upset because I learned that the position of the Dog Warden was eliminated. I have 4 dogs, they are small and they have been attacked or all most attacked 4 times within the last 6 months and my dogs are on a leash when I walk

them. My favorite spot to walk is down Ferndale, it is nice. The side streets never are because a lot of dogs are running loose. The last incident was very frightening because a very big dog that probably weighed 75 to 80 pounds was loose by Hollywood and Ferndale and it came after my little dogs. I have my dogs trained pretty well, one of them is very young but I said just sit there because the best thing you could do when a dog is coming after you is just not do anything. That didn't stop that dog, it went after my very little dog that weighs 10 pounds. The 18 pound one then tried to snap at it because it was bothering the sister so I always carry my cell phone with me so I called the Police Station and I asked if there was a police car or if they could get the dog warden. They have done that before after hours and called when there is an issue. She said we don't have a dog warden, we don't have a kennel. She said do you need a car, it sounds like you do. I said I am just going to stand here, I am not moving and pretty soon the dog went away a little bit and I kept walking and it came again after me. The man on the corner West Shore and Ferndale helped me, he hung onto the dog while I got home. I called Mr. Podmanik because he is Council President and said why don't we have a dog warden and he didn't know. I called Mr. Rosso and he called me back and he said he didn't know either. So I went to see the dog warden and everybody knows he had knee surgery and I was speaking with him and he is very upset about this because the letter was written by Larry Shepherd who it wasn't his idea to eliminate the position and it was delivered by a police officer stating that his position was terminated and he said I thought I did a good job, I have been doing this a long time and he doesn't make that much money. He said I got my knees operated on so that I can do my job even better, he is very upset. I am very upset because I think a dog warden is crucial, I mean there are so many dogs running around the city. I thought the Council had to approve a position being eliminated, am I wrong. Chairman Bring advised I think administration can do that at any time but I don't know that has been eliminated – has it been? Mrs. Mingee stated he got the letter. Mr. Rosso stated the way I understood it he was going to be off for 22 weeks or something like that and then they were going to get somebody else to do it. The Mayor had said he wasn't going to be without an Animal Control Officer for 22 weeks so he was going to replace him. Chairman Bring stated I will have to check on it. There was a brief discussion on the issue. Mrs. Mingee stated if they are not going to bring Mark back, I am here I feel the city would have so many dogs running loose and the police can't put them in the back of their car. Captain Komlosy stated if there is an issue with dogs, we can always contact the county kennel and the county dog warden will come down. There was a brief discussion on the dog warden truck is in for repairs and the possibilities of what can happen without an Animal Control Officer.

**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.

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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 4, 2008.

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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*