

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
**Sheffield Lake, Ohio**  
September 3, 2008

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, September 3, 2008. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Conrad, Mayor Piskura

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

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

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

**POLICE CHIEF SHEPHERD:** Police Chief Shepherd reported I have given the annual report 2007 to the Chairman. Chairman Bring advised I am going to try to do a report on this, the annual report from the Police Chief. Overall most of the crimes have gone down, I noticed juvenile activity is actually gone up somewhat. Even traffic accidents and stuff, most of those have gone down. If you really take a look at a lot of this stuff, we really aren't doing too bad. For as much as everybody was saying crime is going up and everything else, if you look at all these reports and see what is going on I think our city is doing a very good job and the Police Department is doing a very good job. I really don't see any problems. The only thing I did see I think in 2007 we had more break-ins and I think that was because of that one outfit that was running around, that professional outfit and I think you guys caught those guys didn't you? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Chairman Bring advised even the Animal Warden stuff, most of those have all gone down too. Police Chief Shepherd advised the only thing we are kind of hurting in is the percentage of cleared cases, solvability has gone down to like 58%. Mr. Elliott asked is that because of manpower. Police Chief Shepherd answered I was only working one Detective last year, I have been trying to help Tony as much as I can. Mr. Elliott asked as far as juvenile crime, is it always the same kids over and over again or is it just random? Police Chief Shepherd answered I would say it is random. Mr. Elliott asked what kind of crime are we talking about is it more like vandalism? Police Chief Shepherd answered mostly vandalism, I think the whole thing includes curfews. Chairman Bring advised it says unruly – in 2005 there was 41/ in 2006 there was 54/in 2007 there was 56 and you had complaints. Actually the complaints went down in 2007 and probably the kids are just bored, they have nothing to do and they are out there running around. But that is still not a lot. Mr. Elliott answered it is definitely not a big problem as far as other cities are concerned like Lorain or even Elyria. Chairman Bring asked on the boat ramp, did we get any of the camera's up?

Mayor Piskura answered there was a logistical problem with Ohio Edison as we don't own the pole, they own the pole. So we had to work that out, we did work that out and they are going to let us use that pole but the contractor that put in the meter. He put in a wood base and Ohio Edison required a metal base and they got that changed out today. I talked to Joe Faga this afternoon, they are going to connect up the power in the next couple of days and then we will be able to install the camera's. We had to get electricity to it, we have to get internet to it and then we have to get the box with the camera's up. So we are almost done with the electricity part and then the internet and the camera shouldn't take too much longer. Chairman Bring asked that will go right to dispatch? Mayor Piskura answered there is going to be 2 camera's, 1 will be focused on the parking lot and it will be a pan and zoom camera so that will go directly to dispatch and they will be able to zoom in and look around if they want. The other camera will also go to dispatch and will be focused on the launch and beach areas, that one will in addition go to dispatch. Chairman Bring asked the activity down there? Police Chief Shepherd answered I have them tracking every incident or call that we get down there and there is nothing to get excited about. Mr. Rosso asked how was Ohio Edison to work with, did they give you a rough time? Mayor Piskura answered well initially they did because they typically don't allow third party equipment on the poles and the district manager doesn't have the authority to allow it. So I contacted the President of the Company and we worked something out. He explained alternatives if not allowed to put on their pole. Mr. Elliott asked are we still having trouble with bikes down there? Police Chief Shepherd answered nothing really to report about. Mr. Elliott asked as far as the camera's go, we were supposed to be monitoring in dispatch but I was told that there is like a computer shortage or something like that that you guys couldn't monitor the boat launch at all times? My question is are we going to be able to monitor it? Mayor Piskura answered they are going to be able to monitor it. It is an internet based camera, there is a computer at dispatch with multiple windows we could put a second monitor up and monitor the internet based camera. That is where the old printer from leads that we don't use is going out and the monitor is going up there and it is going to come right through the computer that is right there in dispatch. There was a brief discussion on the monitoring system and the working of it. Chairman Bring asked on the part-time people that hired the other day, is that working out or did you put them on yet? Police Chief Shepherd answered I haven't put them on yet.

1.) ***Radio communications within departments*** – Mayor Piskura advised we are actually waiting for a new phone coming out from Verizon, we had a quote in and we were going to switch over like a month or two ago but we were told by the rep's to hold off for a couple of months because we will be able to get this new wonderful thing with our package if we just waited until the next year. We are going to push to talk cell phones and there is supposed to be something wonderful where even if the power goes out kind of thing they are still usable. They are acceptable to replace the radios, maybe not necessarily emergency radios for police and fire but as far as communication between dispatch and service. Then we will get rid of the repeater lease, we will get rid of all that radio stuff. There was a brief discussion on concerns of damage to phones; ie, being in a ditch, etc. Mayor Piskura advised there will only be the people that have cell phones right now will keep the cell phone service, everybody else will have the phone but the

cell phone won't be activated just the push to talk will. So they will basically just be radios. After a brief discussion of concerns, Mayor Piskura advised I think that concerns can be addressed in just a policy. Police Chief Shepherd advised we had a break-in up at the shopping center that we can't elaborate on a whole lot but we got the kid in jail, he has been in the empty buildings several times and I don't think he is the only one. He tunneled from building to building by just knocking walls down and one of the empty buildings up there we discovered a problem today which we are investigating without elaborating a whole lot. So there will be a policeman will be sitting up at the shopping center in a cruiser maintaining security. There was a brief discussion on situation.

**FIRE CHIEF CONRAD:** Fire Chief Conrad reported our back-up squad 71 was out of service for quite a bit of time. We had to have the oil pan replaced and in those vehicles to replace the oil pan they have to remove the engine. So it was about a 2 or 3 week process and then when they put the oil pan back in somebody didn't put the sealant in properly and it was still leaking so it had to go back to have that done so we lost another week or two of service there. When we got it back there was some problems with the power supply for the strobes, those were ordered from Vasu and those have been replaced so we have that back in service now. We are still working on putting 61 into full service, it is in service now as a back-up. We still got a little bit of work to do in the cabinets to mount all of the equipment in there. The fire hose that we ordered when we ordered equipment for the truck has come in and it is not just for the new truck, it is part of that program we talked about for the last couple of years so now our fire hose has been significantly upgraded. Hopefully a purchase next year and we should be done for the foreseeable future. Chairman Bring asked we got all the equipment we need for the new fire truck? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes, there is a couple of things we held off on and we will probably get that out of next years budget. But nothing that we absolutely had to have now. Chairman Bring asked the exhaust thing is working good? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes, the company came out and hooked the new truck up to the vehicle exhaust system so that is all taken care of. Mr. Elliott asked what about the old engine, is it gone now? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes, that was put out to bids. Interesting enough, a salvage company bought it but the gentleman who bought it is on the Board at the Lorain County Fair Grounds and they are going to use it out there to water down the track and for shuttling water during the fair. I believe they had it available for the Police thing earlier this summer where you guys drive around with the needy kids. Didn't they have it available for Open Heart? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Fire Chief Conrad advised so it is not going to get salvaged out and they are getting some use out of it. We gave them a couple of lengths of the old hose that Council had authorized us to throw out because it is no longer usable for the Fire service but what they are planning on using it for just filling up the truck and stuff we gave them a few lengths of hose with it too. Chairman Bring asked everything else inside the department, we are in good shape with all the other equipment? Fire Chief Conrad answered we have a few things that need to be addressed, hopefully we will get that assistance to Fire Fighters grant and we will be able to take care of most of our major needs at this point. Obviously right now, that hydraulic tool is an issue. Chairman Bring stated that equipment washer that is coming, you said you might want to do something with that too? Fire Chief Conrad

answered if that grant comes through, yes.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grants** – Fire Chief Conrad advised we took delivery on our “Sparky” Fire Dog suit. It is over there now and we will using it this fall for Fire Prevention Week. Chairman Bring asked is that primarily for elementary and stuff? Fire Chief Conrad answered yes.

**REMOVE.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Mr. Elliott asked is the bridge open in Lorain? Police Chief Shepherd answered no, it won't be open until the end of September. Fire Chief Conrad advised we received a \$2000.00 donation from the VFW the other day. Tammy has that and I believe the Law Director will be bringing some legislation to you for us to accept the donation. I requested and they donated it for rope rescue equipment and water dive rescue equipment. Also, St. John's West Shore is donating is like a modem card for our life pak 12's. Currently when we want to send an EKG to the hospital we have to hook a cable up to a cell phone, dial a number and wait for the connection and then send the EKG across to the hospital. They are going to give us a modem card where all we got to do is push a button and that will send a signal wirelessly that way. It is my understanding it is like a 30, 40 or 50 dollar a month fee normally on that plus the equipment but they are going to be donating that to us so the Law Director will probably have something like that also. Fire Chief Conrad advised on a personal note I just wanted to mention that 30 years ago today was my first day on duty at the Sheffield Lake Fire Department. I informed the Mayor today of my intentions to retire in 2009, January 8<sup>th</sup> of next year. Committee advised you have done a good job and to enjoy your retirement. Mayor Piskura advised the service department is getting close, I met with some auctioneers about auctioning off a bunch of stuff and we are aiming for the last Saturday in September and including that is, I think the Police Chief still has all that computer stuff that we passed that legislation on, we got police cars and I have asked everybody else to start going through their stuff. But the intention is to get rid of all that stuff and bring a list of that stuff to the last Council meeting for your approval. There was a brief discussion on requirements (value of \$100.00 or more) and a resolution.

**CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, Motion by Rosso to adjourn at 7:38 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*

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CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE  
*Dennis Bring*

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 September 3, 2008.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
*Edward R Podmanik*

*and/or*

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COUNCIL PRO TEM  
*Richard Rosso*