

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting  
Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
July 6, 2011

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, July 6, 2011. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Bring, Elliott, Rosso

Attending: Law Director Graves

**READING OF THE MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Rosso/Second by Elliott to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2011 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:**

*Police* – Chairman Bring advised Captain Komlosy has retired, his official date is August 27, 2011. I believe it has been almost a month that he has been gone from the force. I would like to thank him for his service. Again we are still short-handed but they are still working with the part-time and sometime in the near future we will have to look at possibly replacing somebody with full-time. I think that Mr. Graves had mentioned through Tri-C but I would still entertain the fact that we do have 1 part-time Officer that is looking to full-time – Jason Melda. He knows the system and would be worthwhile looking into as far as a replacement for 1 of our full-time. Councilman Rosso asked Law Director Graves how many are gone now? Law Director Graves answered a Captain and 2 Sergeants. Councilman Rosso asked so would we have to run a test to promote to a Sergeant to fill another patrolman? Law Director Graves answered unless there is a restructuring, we could talk about – as it stands right now we have we have 2 Sergeants and a Captain that are vacant. So just to fill those positions there would have to be promotional tests run from within the department to fill those. Now we could talk about a restructuring where rather than fill those promoted ranks, that there would just be more patrol Officers added. That would require either an internal appointment which we could make an interim appointment of a part-timer or you would have to run a test. Councilman Rosso asked an interim appointment doesn't have to go through Civil Service? Law Director Graves answered no. Chairman Bring stated we have done that in the past. Law Director Graves answered we have and they can make an interim appointment to fill a position and what the code says is if that person is in that position for more than 2 years and I am going to double check as this may not even be in the code any longer. What the Civil Service law used to say was if that person held that position for more than 2 years they automatically assume the full-time job. Councilman Rosso asked in the interim position are we allowed to give him benefits? Law Director Graves answered yes, he would basically be full-time. Chairman Bring stated that is something that we should probably look into. Councilman Rosso stated I just wanted to know how that worked with

basically by-passing Civil Service. Law Director Graves advised it has been done, in fact some of the people that are currently full-time here have achieved those positions in that very manner without testing. One other point that I would just like to make on the record is we do have right now a need an additional person to serve on the Civil Service Commission. As it stands right now, one member of that 3 person Commission has passed away and another member is dealing with some serious health concerns and because of that they have not really been able to meet with just the one remaining person. So if we are going to be testing or anything like that than we really need to look at finding someone else to serve on that Commission and if anybody knows of anybody or if there is anybody out there that wants to get involved and perhaps serve than they should send their information to the Mayor. Chairman Bring asked is he actively looking to have that filled? Law Director Graves answered I don't know. Chairman Bring continued we did have a complaint about Ford Motor with a loud humming noise that was going on for almost a week. We had several residents calling down at the Police Department complaining about it but it is in Avon Lake and we really couldn't send any Officers over there. The Officers did hear the noise and it is very annoying and apparently one of the dispatchers called Ford and spoke with security who explained they are cleaning out old paint, so they were actually using like a vac truck which is almost like an air compressor type thing running but was very loud. The dispatcher did advise them we have had several residents complaining about it on the east side of town. Ford Motor did call back apologizing to the residents and stated they would remedy the problem.

**Grants:**

a.) *MDT's* – leave on, will double check.

b.) *2011 Drug US Prevention Program Grant* – working on.

c.) *SOS – Secure Our Schools Program Grant* – working on.

**Monitors/cameras for jail/lobby/dispatch** – Chairman Bring advised the camera for the boat launch is back in order. We are still having some issues with the jail; the one camera is still blue.

**Vehicles** – maintenance report of June 17, 2011 is attached. Chairman Bring advised we still do have the one car down. We did get our 3 new police cruisers and they are operating, they are very nice vehicles. We have 5 computers and 6 cruisers, if one of the cruiser without the computer has to be used than they have to take the computer out of another one. Basically it is to unplug it and put it into the other car to be used. We will have to look at that in the future. That is one of the older cars but they still like that car. Possibly look into that and maybe get another computer sometime if we have any money on that. Actually with the new cars, a couple of the old ones the mileage is still pretty reasonable. One is close to 90,000 but I think the other 3 are about 70 some thousand. We should be in pretty good shape for quite some time. Councilman Rosso stated I think the new ones look nice. Chairman Bring concurred very nice and the guys seem to be very happy with that and that was actually their recommendations for the side striping and it does make a big difference.

**Fire** – Chairman Bring advised Tim sent over what was going on, they did the Dive Training and that was successful. We did have one of our ambulance again – we had a

safety issue with the frame, it had been deteriorating. It had about a 4-inch hole where the frame actually went into where the shock and that actually is part of the tire apparatus. That was welded and fixed and that was about \$1800.00. We had an alternator issue, that is on-going which they are going to take care of it and there is a few other small issues. At the last Council meeting we had the utility truck issue come up, that was pretty much voted down and also the Mayor stated that he was not going to go for that because of the lack of funds. We will keep an eye on that because obviously there is a need for that vehicle. We will continue to monitor that situation. Councilman Elliott stated I will say that I think this money that we are investing in these ambulances – the vehicles aren't worth the money we are sinking into them. Chairman Bring stated Mr. Gardner currently has an on-going grant in the works for the purchase of an ambulance. I don't when we are going to be notified yes or no but hopefully we do hear something with that and that is only a 5% match. We are still saving our money for the internet cafes and hopefully we get enough of that we can use that. Law Director Graves advised there is another entity that is interested in opening the one that is closed. Councilman Rosso asked the one at Gus's? Law Director Graves answered yes. Chairman Bring reiterated we do have some issues going on with the ambulances and safety is definitely a need for the citizens. You don't want to break down when someone is having a health issue going to the hospital, we do have to make sure that we keep an eye on all of it.

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

***Compressed Natural Gas*** – Chairman Bring stated I am still investigating all of that. I did find out as my original report was 85 cents and somebody did tell me it is about \$2.00. I still haven't heard back from a couple of people that I was talking so I will be continuing on that.

***Reclassifying the barking dog ordinance*** – Chairman Bring explained with the barking dog, one gentleman has had 5 violations and it is always a minor misdemeanor. Law Director Graves advised he gets cited and he comes into court but if you are willing to pay the \$100.00 or whatever it is and then have another one next month. The neighbors are upset, it is consistently going on. He explained with speeding tickets, you have 3 in one year now it is an M4 – there is an **escalation** and the discussion was we should have something possibly with barking dogs. Chairman Bring stated it is no different with the renters issue we just looked at – the continuous noise and everybody gets frustrated because nothing else is getting done. I have to agree with David on this that after a certain point, the \$100.00 does not deter whoever does this, something probably should be done. Councilman Elliott stated obviously he is doing nothing to correct it. Councilman Rosso stated I am sure that people have their opinion on what that number of offenses should be that steps up and what it steps up to, punishments and things like that. Chairman Bring advised even after a couple of times, you also have some neighbors who just get offended by 1 bark so we do have to watch so we don't get into that. Councilman Rosso stated yes but you have that the first time they get a ticket. Councilman Elliott asked doesn't the Officer have to hear the offense? Law Director Graves answered yes unless the neighbor wants to sign the complaint which we have had. Normally the Officer will pull up to see if he hears anything, if he doesn't than he will just knock and advise. If a neighbor says

the dog has been barking constantly and the minute they saw the police car turn on the street than they put the dog in the house. Sometimes the neighbor will sign the complaint. Councilman Rosso asked then what is it – it has been barking for 30 minutes or an hour, is there a limit before a neighbor can sign a complaint. Law Director Graves answered it is a subjective thing, just if it is unreasonable. A lot of times they will give them a couple of warnings. Councilman Elliott asked on an average how many barking dog complaints do we get like in a month's time? Law Director Graves answered not many but it seems that it is certain dog owners that are not able to control them that you see time and time and time again. Chairman Bring stated I don't have any problem with the escalating but we still have to really think about getting into that problem again because there will always be somebody out there trying to get away with it or get even. Councilman Elliott stated obviously with this guy when you give a ticket you want the guy to take some type of action to correct it and this guy isn't correcting it. Chairman Bring stated I have heard several complaints from not just 1 neighbor it has been just about every one of them. In that situation, that is an issue. **REFER TO WORKSESSION.**

*Revisiting the classification of the child/victim sex offenders* – Law Director Graves advised the way the current ordinance reads it provides the additional prohibition establishing residence of 1000 feet of any park or library, if you are a repeat sex offender or a child/victim offender and in using that language that we used – that is the Ohio Revised Code had previously provided. Now it is any sex offender cannot establish a residence within a 1000 feet of a school but the term child/victim offender has a very specific meaning and in researching and looking at it – child/victim offender of the Ohio Revised Code specifically defines that as someone convicted of several different offenses all of which have to do with kidnapping, abduction and those type of offenses. Councilman Elliott asked so in other words it is not pin-pointing it. Law Director Graves stated not nearly a sex crime perpetrated against a juvenile. So if you have a juvenile molestation that doesn't involve a kidnapping or an abduction or something like that they would not be classified as a child/victim offender. So if you have a child molestation that doesn't involve a kidnapping or an abduction or something like that they would not be classified as a child/victim offender. The question was should we go back and revisit that and perhaps characterize it as youth/victim or more clearly define that or simply leave it the way it is. We can leave it the way it is and say we are intending to target those would kidnap or abduct from a park and that seems to have some logical correlation or if you want to make it apply to any youth sex offense. Councilman Elliott asked how does it read again? Law Director Graves advised a repeat sexual offender or a child/victim offender. **You could say convicted of any sex crime involving a minor child.** Councilman Rosso stated that is what we were trying to do or thought we were doing. Law Director Graves advised we have one now actually in town where he was convicted of use of a minor in sexually oriented material that actually probably is within a 1000 feet of a park and I don't think we can make him relocate just based on that. He is registered with the Sheffield Lake Police and he obviously can't live within a 1000 feet of a school. Councilman Elliott advised but right now the way the ordinance reads he can be within a 1000 feet of a park. I think that we just change the wording of a child sex offense.

Chairman Bring stated I think when we did it in Ordinance we were all in agreement on this and I don't think anybody is going to oppose that. **REFER TO WORKSESSION.**

**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 July 6, 2011.

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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*