

Minutes of the Safety Committee Meeting
Sheffield Lake, Ohio
December 7, 2011

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Chairman Bring called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Bring, Elliott

Attending: Law Director Graves, Police Chief Shepherd, Fire Chief Card, Councilwoman Stark, Councilman Elliott's son Tyler

Absent: Rosso (excused)

READING OF THE MINUTES:

*Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2011 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE: *Correspondence from Police Chief Shepherd –*

Chairman Bring read commendations for Police Officer Jason Melda and Sheffield Village Captain Huge for the November 4, 2011 incident of a fire at Tradewinds apartments.

Chairman Bring advised we are very fortunate that Police Officer Melda was in the area for that.

REPORTS FROM THE SAFETY FORCES:

Police – Police Chief Shepherd advised I have some training lined up for the month of January, I am going to send Sergeants Keenan and Goscewski and Detectives Corr and Campo to Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office – they are putting on a 2-month training session on recognizing evidence/processing crime scenes/reconstructing. It is an actual hands on, they are going to create crime scenes by their technicians and have our guys actually process the scenes and see if they find important things and it is all free other than covering the shifts to get them up there. Everything I have read about it seems like a pretty good school and we have got a pretty good relationship with Cuyahoga County Coroner's Office as they have invited us to quite a few free seminars they have put on. He continued Officers Schmidt and Green have both been out on sick leave since November and it is anticipated that they should both be back in service January 7, 2012. Chairman Bring asked both of them? Police Chief Shepherd answered Tom (Schmidt) may be a week earlier, I haven't actually heard from them. The first quarter of the new year we are going to have to do something with our radios so that we cannot hold up Avon and Avon Lake cities. Chairman Bring advised I mentioned that to Tammy the other day and it all has to do with the funding so we are going to have to see what we can come with. Councilman Elliott asked how many do you need Chief? Police Chief Shepherd answered I had the meeting with Vasu, the only thing that is in question we know for sure that the radio that is in the green car out here that the Detectives use has to be replaced as it is an old radio that can't be

upgraded. All our portables and radios in the other cruisers can be updated and the only other thing would be our base radio – he is not sure because that was bought in 1986. Chairman Bring advised that is about \$8000.00 to \$12000.00. Police Chief Shepherd answered right it could be and his recommendation is we get this P25 – I don't understand radios or anything like that but because the Sheriff's Department, Lorain and Elyria are going to digital systems and we are analog so we wouldn't be able to talk to them or hear them. That was the logic of us getting P25 so at least our station could hear if it is something that we need to know about. Councilman Elliott asked our hand-held's are updatable? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes. Councilman Elliott asked so we just need a couple? Police Chief Shepherd answered just a mobile radio. Councilman Elliott asked one for the car? Police Chief Shepherd answered yes and the base radio. Chairman Bring clarified all the cars. Police Chief Shepherd advised he will come out and it is a matter of reprogramming and stuff like that we think.

Grants:

a.) MDT's – None.

b.) 2011 Drug US Prevention Program Grant – None.

c.) SOS – Secure Our Schools Program Grant – None.

d.) Police Grants – None.

e.) Monitors/cameras for jail/lobby/dispatch – Chairman Bring advised we are still talking about all that, so we are going to see after the first of the year what we can acquire funds for that at.

Vehicles – Chairman Bring advised the vehicle maintenance reports are attached dated December 3, 2011. We just got a starter in one of the vehicles the other day and Shawn just got a PO for that and again Shawn has been doing a very good job at that.

Fire – Fire Chief Card reported I was going to start with that fire at the Tradewinds. Everything worked out well that day, we did have a 3-man shift but since I was there we responded with 4 on the engine. Our crew was able to quickly get a hose up to the apartment and started working on knocking the fire down and the Village arrived on scene about 4 minutes later and they quickly rescued the victim through the window. We had the victim rescued within 12 minutes from the time of the call and the fire was out within 15 minutes. Chairman Bring advised it looks like they are in there cleaning it up and getting it ready to go. I saw the tape is down and everything. Fire Chief Card advised I haven't talked to the Building Inspector but he wasn't going to allow anyone to occupy that building until it met his standards – building standards. Chairman Bring advised I know the girl that you rescued is doing fine and she turned herself in. Councilman Elliott advised she has been bound over for aggravated arson. Chairman Bring advised she is very fortunate that she didn't hurt and didn't hurt anybody else either. Fire Chief Card stated we have been lucky on these – when we rescued that one lady on Lake Breeze. He continued S71 I have ordered the tires as it needs new tires in the rear and E61 the battery was replaced yesterday. I didn't really have any updates for my vehicle maintenance for the month of October. Pump test back in September and recently ladder test done. Fire Chief Card continued in talking with Bill

Gardner we haven't seen anything on the grant for the ambulance yet. The other grant that we are in with Sheffield Township, Elyria Township for the MDT's and the station system – we haven't heard anything on that yet. On the manpower – I am down 1 so we have a 3-man shift and Steve Koch is off on injury/back injury and right now he is slated to come back on January 9, 2012 but his doctor has told him that he is probably going to need a back surgery to fuse his spine so I don't know if he is actually going to be coming back or not. So then I will be down 2. If he does have surgery and he is able to come back then it will be 6-months before he can come back. Also Andy Monda is thinking about retiring next year. Chairman Bring stated sometime after the 1st of the year obviously or did he think about earlier or sometime in the year or you don't know? Fire Chief Card answered I think around July if I had to throw a month out there but I could be wrong. I don't know if you have any plans for a promotional exam but I do need a Lieutenant. Also our radio, I just paid for our portion of the repeater that is shared between the 4 cities and that was \$132.00 to be upgraded to narrow banding. I am still waiting for Vasu to come out and reprogram our portables and our mobile radios. Chairman Bring asked those are the ones that we got through that grant? Fire Chief Card answered yes from the county and those are going to need reprogrammed either right after the first of the year or before. Chairman Bring asked how many of those radios do we have? Fire Chief Card answered we have 5 mobiles and 20 portables. Chairman Bring asked that is the same kind of radio that we have for the Police Department – portables? Police Chief Shepherd answered we didn't get any. Chairman Bring stated I know you didn't get any, is it the same frequency? Fire Chief Card answered no; our radio has their frequency on it. Councilwoman Stark asked did we do any mutual aid with that accident over on Abbe? Fire Chief Card answered yes our department responded with a pumper to assist with extrication and with the manpower – there was minimal manpower on scene there as well. The OIC sent our pumper back to Knollwood to set up the landing zone for helicopter. Chairman Bring stated they actually said the response time for everything was terrific over there and they were very fortunate as that lady was in very bad shape over there. Fire Chief Card advised she was in there pretty good, it took them 61 minutes to extricate her. I heard that they all expected to make it but were all still critical. Chairman Bring advised the Police Department did a real good job on that too.

NEW BUSINESS: Hoarding – Chairman Bring advised Tim you might want to take a look at this – I know you guys are the ones that had the one problem where you went into a house and couldn't through the place. Fire Chief Card answered I believe it was a squad call and I can't remember exactly what road it was on as I wasn't on the call. There are quite a few houses like that in this town. Chairman Bring advised Kay found some information on it and David is going to have to look into this legislation. As far as the Safety Committee we can bring this up but I think we are going to forward onto Worksession for Council as a whole can discuss it. We are going to have to sit down and really talk about this, I know you guys can't just walk into a house and say this is unsafe or whatever – you have to have just cause and I think that is where David is going to have to find out what gives us proper cause and what doesn't and how we are going to handle this. Law Director Graves advised one of the things that we were up against is with the

Ohio Building Code which we have adopted – we are very limited in what the Building Department can do on the interior for existing. We can cite for exterior violations but when it comes to interior code for existing structures there is hardly anything that we can do and one of the things that we could look at is adopting either the International Property Maintenance Code/portions of the International Property Maintenance Code or our own local housing code which would give the Building Department much more authority to issue citations and enforce interior property maintenance. Chairman Bring stated I think with the situation where if there was a fire in the house and if our guys are trying to get in there to get somebody out of the house or even if the Police Department shows up and tries to get them out of there than that is where it would become a safety issue. Again like David said we are kind of limited on what we can do, we are really going to have to look at that. I am not sold on the whole thing. Councilman Elliott stated something that was just brought up, I know that the Service Director was adamant that we do something about it and as far as I know the Fire Department is keeping track of these houses. Fire Chief Card answered as we come across them – we note them and we do pass it on to the Building Department. There is really not too much more that I can do about it. Chairman Bring stated but you don't know or until something happens and that is the problem. We can't go around door-to-door and say hey we need to get into your house – that is the issue that we are up against. Councilman Elliott stated it is something that we could look at I guess, there is some rights that they have as homeowners to privacy that has to be balanced obviously. Chairman Bring stated you know what is the cause of having too much stuff in your house; I mean what constitutes too much stuff. Law Director Graves concurred yes it is a subjective evaluation obviously, there is people that just have a lot of clutter and then when does that cross over into hoarding/when does it become a safety issue/when does it become a health issue. You can look at several things like access to plumbing, access to the furnace/hot water/gas/the mains – in some of these houses you can't get at any of that stuff but without a property maintenance code we really have no authority to cite anything. You know some of the things that you look at too and I haven't read the stuff that Kay has pulled up yet but treating this more of as a mental illness and so maybe there are some avenues to explore there. **REFER TO WORKSESSION**. Police Chief Shepherd stated we get into people's houses more often than the Fire Department ever does and all the experiences that we have had when we have gone into homes that are just nightmares we usually call adult protective services and the county health board and they send somebody over and I will be very frank with you they just say they want to live that way – oh well. Law Director Graves stated I know the one that we had about a year ago and I can't remember what street it was on either but the individual was addicted to like the home shopping club and it wasn't old junk – these were brand new items still in the boxes but they buy and they buy and they buy and when you go in it is unopened brand new boxes stacked floor to ceiling. Police Chief Shepherd stated she was a professional person too. Law Director Graves advised if you saw the house from the outside, it was very well kept – there were exterior violations but if you looked at the windows the draperies were pressed flat from the inside against the glass because it is just boxed from the inside. Chairman Bring advised you got collectors – there are all kinds of

people that do things – it is a fine line. Councilman Elliott stated that is not going to be a quick subject, it is something that we are going to be talking about for quite some time but I have seen the TV show and actually when I first watched it I was quite shocked because I knew that some people were just messy by nature but to collect things like they did. I can see from a safety standpoint from the Police and Fire, especially Fire where you are going into a building that is on fire and you are rushing in and all of a sudden you find yourself in a living room and you are already trapped. Chairman Bring stated in a commercial building I don't think there is any problem with us doing that and saying that they have to do this because that is a whole different ballgame but when you go into a private residence I think that is where we run into an issue. Councilman Elliott asked how many cases really locally do we have? Fire Chief Card answered I don't have a number for you. Chairman Bring advised I think it has been 4 or 5 just lately. Councilman Elliott stated so it is re-occurring more and more. Chairman Bring stated I think it is everywhere; I don't think it is just here. Chairman Bring stated I walked about 2500 houses here just lately and you looked at 90% of the garages you couldn't get into the garage but that doesn't mean that it is bad, it just means that they have too much stuff. Councilwoman Stark asked what do we do for the fire or police if they have to get into a house, what is our operating procedure in that – can we refuse to go in if you can't see where you are going if it is that bad. Fire Chief Card answered if it is on fire you probably can't see where you are going anyways. If there is too much stuff and you can't have crews operating in there safely than it will be a defensive fire – we will put it out from the outside. If somebody is trapped in there and we can't get to them because of all this stuff, we are not just going to kill firemen but we are going to make an effort if somebody is trapped in there to save them but if we can't get to them. That is a big mode – the fire is going to spread rapidly and it is going to get very hot in there very quickly. Chairman Bring stated especially when you don't know what they have in there – if they have canisters or they have propane, you just don't know. Fire Chief Card stated that is a call that has to be made while you are on scene. Councilwoman Stark stated I am just looking from a legal standpoint on how do we protect the city, if we had one of these people and their house did burn down how do we protect our guys from that on our end. Fire Chief Card advised as long as we stay on the side of safety we will be okay. Councilman Elliott stated which you guys have always done; the one thing I have learned from this committee is that is one of the farthest things from your mind. I mean we went into a house one time where an oxygen tank exploded – there are a lot of different things that you guys have to worry about. We are just trying to balance it out and help you on our end as much as we can.

Law Director Graves advised the Civil Service Commission is moving forward with a contract with Tri-C and the Mayor signed it today and that is for them to conduct an entry level Police exam. So when that is concluded we will have a current eligibility list for the time when we are prepared to hire some new Officers. The nice thing about the Tri-C and as of now they only offer it for Police but I am hoping that one day expand to the Fire as well. But it is a one time, lifetime payment and then in the future they will run exams for

the city, all we have to do is pay for the advertising and the advertising costs are becoming less and less with the ability to put most of the information on the website so that all we would have to do is run a small ad in the paper directing them to see the website for most of the details. The other nice thing about it is once they run a test we have access to their entire pool, not just the candidates that took our test but all of the candidates – they compile a master eligibility list, so it is a much broader list that we could use to choose to interview off of. So Civil Service is moving forward with that. The other thing that I wanted to point out is that I did file a lawsuit seeking preliminary, permanent injunction against a sexual offender in the city that is living within a 1000 feet of Forestlawn School. I filed a motion for a default judgment and we had a hearing in Judge Burges court room a couple of weeks ago and we were successful in that and the Judge did grant our injunction. We have to wait 30 days and give that person an opportunity to appeal that decision and the next step would be for me to file a motion to show cause if the individual still refuses to move basically a contempt of court motion at this point for not complying with the injunction. So we will continue to stay on top of that one and go from there.

OLD BUSINESS:

Compressed Natural Gas - Chairman Bring stated into the new year I will be looking into this but also into propane gas for 3 of the vehicles. There is a shop in North Ridgeville that actually does this but it is basically propane but you can use both tanks. You can use the regular gas and you can use propane/both can be in your vehicles. Propane is a little bit cheaper than our regular gas and all it is is a switch so that you can run both. The compressed natural gas is going to take quite some time but I will be working on that quite a bit.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, Motion by Elliott/Second by Bring to adjourn at 7:39 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

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 December 7, 2011.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Edward R Podmanik

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM
Richard Rosso