

**Minutes of the Safety Committee  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
February 6, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Chairperson Stark called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Stark, Elliott, Erdei, Mayor Bring, Fire Chief Card, Law Director Graves,  
Acting Police Chief Campo

\*Motion by Elliott/Second by Erdei to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2013 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

***Reports from Safety Forces:***

***Police*** – Acting Police Chief Campo stated I gave everybody or should have put enough copies up there on the annual report. If you will look at that pretty much the numbers of different activities are pretty much the same. One big drop is cases cleared by the Detective Bureau, over the past several years one year we were like in the low 90's and that was then there was 2 full time detectives. For 2012 we had sometimes a detective, so that is the big thing there. Back we had a 90% solvability rate we had kids selling nickel bags of marijuana but now we have heroin and we have shipments of meth we just found out coming from Las Vegas to a house in town. The things are more serious, now we have an unsolved home invasion that I was able to identify a suspect but haven't had opportunity to go out and look for him because of manpower issue. We need to be at the staffing levels we were when we had 2 detectives, I know that is out of the whelm of possibility with the way things are but it needs to be – the crime reflects on it. Our new Patrolman is probably going to leave soon, Patrolman Svigel, she is in the final stages of interviews with Beachwood and they have offered her a job and she is probably going to be gone by spring I would imagine so we have to look at hiring somebody again hopefully. The only issue we had recently, criminal activity has picked up. I think we have had 3 or 4 recent co-investigations with children's services regarding alleged child sex abuse victims. A couple of those are still open. The narrow banding of the radios resulted in our radios transmitting and receiving to be just terrible, you couldn't hear each other across town. We argued with Vasu's for weeks and they said everything was okay and they tried to bill us for work on our portables that didn't need to be done and I was refused it. I sent the bills back to them and they finally agreed not to charge us. They finally agreed to come out and found an antenna switching; some type of device

that was bad that we had an extra one at the station. So it is only going to result probably in labor to change that but our radios are much better now. Mayor Bring advised I was over there one time and it was terrible to hear them. Chairperson Stark stated I am assuming then we will go to Civil Service when she leaves and put in for a posting? Law Director Graves answered well that can go a couple of different ways, they could let Tri-C know that they would like to run another tests because we made that one time lifetime payment to be part of that program. So their list is good for 1 year, so if we do have to run another tests it is no big deal – the only thing we would have to pay for is the advertising which can be minimal with the website that could be a small ad that just directs them to see the website for additional information. Then we would take the top candidates overall. Councilman Erdei stated Lorain County has been having a lot of deaths on overdoses and the one doctor is trying to get something for our city. Fire Chief Card advised the Fire Department has narcan but the Coroner is pushing the county or the state one is trying to get so that the Police Officers can carry a narcan spray which will deliver the naloxone. Acting Police Chief Campo added I believe the holdup is it is a controlled substance so it is prescription so you can't just give it out but our County Coroner in the hands of every family that has a family member with a heroin problem and it would save life's. I mean people are dropping in front of family members and friends all the time and if you had it you could save life's. But I don't when it will happen. Law Director Graves stated I just saw in the paper that our State Senator Manning is supporting legislation at the state level to move that along. One of the other things that I do is I am Chairman of the Board of Director of LCADA, we actually had our Board meeting this morning and both LCADA and the statewide organization the Ohio Association of Recovery Provider strongly supports this and the ability of Police and First Responders to do this. We are facing an Opium epidemic in Ohio. I attended a legislative luncheon last week at the state house which was attended by all of our local representatives. Lorain County was represented very well but it is absolutely an epidemic out there and people are dropping dead of these overdoses in record numbers. That is both prescriptions and non-prescription opium. Councilman Erdei asked how is it around our city? Acting Police Chief Campo answered there is a lot of heroin took over because of oxycotin, a lot of people were legitimately prescribed it and a lot of people used it recreationally and a huge amount from both groups got addicted and found out heroin is easier to get and it is a lot cheaper. There is a whole new generation of heroin addicts. We have probably 6 or 7 males in their early 20's from Sheffield Lake die within a period of 2 years, some of them in this city and some of them in Lorain. There is a lot of heroin in Sheffield Lake, we have dealers coming and going and we have a lot of addicts. We see over and over people report burglaries and the only thing missing is their prescription medications and you know it is just to get a police report for a doctor to get more and it is on and on. It is a real bad problem, it is an epidemic it really is. Law Director Graves advised it is not limited to Lorain and

Sheffield Lake, this is in Rocky River, it is in Avon Lake, it is in Avon, it is in Bay Village – it is everywhere, there is really no demographic boundaries. The thing that is going on is the grade of heroin that is on the street today is 10 times more powerful, 10 times more pure than the grade of heroin that was on the streets in the 70's. What you found in the 70's where it was 6 to 8 percent pure, in order to really get an affect from it and get addicted to it you had to inject it and that automatically eliminated a lot of people that didn't want to experiment or didn't want to inject themselves. Today the grade that is on the street is anywhere from 60 to 80 percent pure. So kids are experimenting with heroin the way they used to experiment with pot so they can snort it, they can smoke it, sprinkle it on a regular cigarette and very quickly get addicted to it. Acting Police Chief Campo stated a lot people try to get off it using this level of stop for a while. Law Director Graves advised from what I understand crystal meth is probably the worst because it will actually where as other drugs will alter your brain chemistry – crystal meth will actually eat holes in your brain. So trying to break someone from that is really a challenge. Chairperson Stark stated as the economy gets worse and worse we will see this type of stuff go higher and higher of this. Mayor Bring advised it is not the economy, like Tony said it is kids experimenting on this and they try something and they don't realize how strong it is and it doesn't take long to get addicted. I have got a cousin's daughter that got on it and she flat out told them, she said Dad you smoke cigarettes and he said yes and she said you know how hard it is for you quit – multiple that by 10. These kids just can't get off of it and Tony said about oxycotin but there is a lot of these sports players were playing football and everything else and they get hurt and the doctor prescribing pain pills and they went from pain pills to heroin because it is a lot cheaper and they get hooked. Law Director Graves stated the one thing is we are getting a lot of support from the Governor and from the State Legislation – they are all kind of seeing the big picture that continuing funding for treatment and recovery, that it is far less than the costs of not treating it. Acting Police Chief Campo stated before heroin even came back the Lorain Narcotics guys weren't even seeing heroin on the streets yet, at one point I thought everybody had an oxycotin prescription – everybody. We were arresting people that had hose clamps in their pockets and people were carrying hose clamps when they get their oxycotin they would use the hose clamp to crush it up. I guess it worked real well for that; the slots in it. But everybody had an oxycotin prescription and the doctors would just give it to you if you said your foot hurt but then after you wore out your welcome we saw people actually hurting themselves to get oxycotin and Dave knows we prosecuted a young man who talked his girlfriend into letting him hit her arm with a sledge hammer and break it so she could go get to the hospital and get some pain meds. All of that they are now with heroin. Chairperson Stark stated I am going to take a moment and make a side note to say to Eric's wife who apparently made a call about the home invasion across the street from her that was getting robbed. Acting Police Chief Campo stated

if it wasn't for her calling it would probably be an open unsolved investigation so that is exactly why it was solved. Law Director Graves added or even worse, the homeowner may have come home. Acting Police Chief Campo advised she was on her way home. Mayor Bring advised earlier this year we had a similar situation where the neighborhood turned in the guys for dealing drugs and Tony went over there and they caught them and it all had to do with people stepping up to the plate. Acting Police Chief Campo added those were 2 heroin addicts by the way. Law Director Graves advised both those individuals had long, long criminal records of theft related and drug related offenses and they have both been bound over to the county grand jury. Councilman Erdei asked do we have the neighborhood watch meetings? Mayor Bring answered I think they were meeting at the Library but I don't think have in the last 3 or 4 months. Acting Police Chief Campo advised it is not really active any more.

**Fire** – Fire Chief Card reported I checked the grants today and so far still nothing. However I did get an email from FEMA, basically advising to upgrade from CCR (Central Contractor Registry) to SAM (System for Awards Management). When I wrote the grants there was a long thing to read about how they were switching from CCR to SAM but they said CCR would be good for the grants that I am writing now. The email should have explained that awardees of grants are not going to be awarded unless they upgrade now so this is a change. So tomorrow I will be spending the better part of the day upgrading SAM. There was a brief discussion between Fire Chief Card and Law Director Graves on this portion of applications for grants. Fire Chief Card continued the SCBA compressor, the electricians have been out and started running the conduit to pull the wire and get it hooked up. So I am hoping that will get hooked in the near future. We can filling our own SCBA bottles. The 911 equipment, the Ztrone system is pretty much hooked up now and they were in there doing some tests today and getting it ready to be switched over to 911 dispatch. Still waiting for MDT's to come in which are the computers for the vehicles. Mayor Bring advised they hooked everything up and didn't put speakers in where they sleep. Fire Chief Card advised yes they told me there is a red light that comes on slow when they give us a call and there was no speaker. It is not going to do any good to turn on a light if you are not going to have some noise to wake them. So that was all fixed today. So as soon as we get that stuff we will start working on getting switched over. Tomorrow we are going to start the training on the EMA charts which is electronic EMS reports that we are going to be doing. Brian Davis was approved by Civil Service to our new Lieutenant and I have already moved him to the shift that he is going to be in charge of. He has already started doing his job, he will be in charge of EMS. I am very happy because he is already getting everything organized and setting up a system to manage the training and keep track of everyone's training which is something that we haven't really had in the past. He will be tracking everyone's training over there for 3 year period that they had to recertify and letting them know

where they are. So if he notices that someone is not keeping up then he will let them know to step up their training. Hopefully he will be approved on the 12<sup>th</sup>, he will be on vacation so unfortunately he won't be able to be sworn in his next duty day so the Mayor will swear him in. The ambulance was advertised in the Chronicle for a 2-week period and I didn't get any bids from anyone, so we should be able to move on that ambulance from Pennsylvania. There was a brief discussion on a leasing system to only keep them so long and also costs for new ambulance/additives to fuel, etc., today. Fire Chief Card advised speaking with salesman that stated they should be making delivery the middle of March. Chairperson Stark asked Mayor Bring you were going to get us more information about the alternative fuel? Mayor Bring answered I talked to Mrs. Fenderbosch today again and they are probably going to do an appropriation over there in Avon Lake. They are going to put it on there and vote on that, we don't have to go along with that but they are going to get it on there. I am going to sit down and seriously look at this. There is numerous things that have to be worked out, they are going to go forward and we will be part of it. There is some other in how to fuel it up. Fuel costs continue to rise. Councilman Erdei stated I was looking over the blueprints for the new Speedway and they didn't have any kind of sprinkler system and I know you guys were kind of hoping they had something? Fire Chief Card answered that is something that is only required on unmanned gas stations like the one at Sam's Club. Those are the only ones that are required.

**Mayor** – Mayor Bring reported I just want to thank both departments, we have always been under-staffed here for the last few years and they have all stepped up to the plate and I just want to thank them both for the job they have done. I think our safety forces do an excellent job. When you go around town and everybody has complimented on what has been going on. I have absolutely not heard a negative thing.

**Law Director – None.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Revenue spending.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Erdei/Second by Elliott to adjourn at 7:40 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 Offices.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Kay Fantauzzi*

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

*Leanna Stark*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*

*and/or*

I, Kay Fantauzzi, duly appointed Clerk of Committee  
Of Sheffield Lake DO HEREBY CERTIFY that this is  
A true and exact copy of the Minutes of the Safety  
Committee of February 6, 2013.

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COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Eric S Elliott*