

**Minutes of the Safety Committee  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
September 4, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, September 4, 2013. Chairperson Stark called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Stark, Erdei, Cizl, Mayor Bring, Fire Chief Card, Police Chief Campo

Attending: Concerned Citizens

\*Motion by Erdei/Second by Cizl to accept the minutes of the June 5, 2013 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

***CORRESPONDENCE: None.***

***PRESENTATIONS: None.***

***Reports from Safety Forces:***

***Fire*** – Fire Chief Card reported when we last spoke we were still in the process of specking the new ambulance. Since then it is now in production which means they are cutting all the box out and building that and then put it on the chassis. He said the projected date for it possibly being here is November 8<sup>th</sup> but that was a couple of days ago and then he called me today and he said it may be about 2 weeks later than that. Over the summer my guys on B shift, they have been working on putting cabinets up in the station and making it look nice in there. If you guys are ever around stop in and take a look. Right now it is still under construction because they are still hanging cabinets but it will look a lot nicer than it used. Lt. Novak is finishing up his Fire Instructor class and then he is taking it and he is going to be running out training. Lt. Davis like I have you before when he started as a Lt. he was doing a good job and since then he has completely changed the way we manage our EMS reports. On August 6<sup>th</sup> Fire Fighter Monda came in and notified me that he will be retiring October 1<sup>st</sup>. He has done a good job his whole career and he will be missed. Once he does leave, that will leave a big hole in our department. It will drop us down to two 3 -man shifts which is going to create lots of overtime. Right now there are only

11 shifts scheduled, between October 1 and the end of the year – people can still schedule ATO time off and obviously people get sick or injured. I know we are working hard to get this issue passed to fix this problem but I just wanted to emphasize the importance of the manpower in the Fire Department. Over the summer the vehicles weren't too bad to us. If you look at the reports a few repairs. E61 and E63 will be going to get their annual service and ladder tests and that is going to cost about \$2300.00 as long as there is no other repairs needed. Chairperson Stark stated there has been a lot of chatter in the community about that maybe we don't need as many Police Officers or Service Department people or Fire Fighters or the general – maybe we don't need as many employees as we have. We have talked a lot about it that we have issues with people retiring, we have people in the Police Department who have been sick and have to take time off. I know safety wise we should have so many people at a fire – talk a little bit about that. Fire Chief Card advised NFPA – that is our standard that we follow as far as manpower, it states that you should 4-man engine companies. The engine arriving should be a 4-man engine company when you arrive on scene of the fire, every other engine should also have 4-man companies. We are mostly running 3 and the difference between showing up at a fire with 4 guys and 3 is a pretty big deal. You may think it is but 2 guys show up and now you got 3 that can start going into the house to put the fire out, with a 3-man crew; you have a Lt, 1 Fire Fighter and then you have a pump operator. So 1 guy is going to be on the pump, you have an Officer who is now going to be going in acting as a crew where he could be starting to take command or starting assisting those guys going in but he has got to actually be part of the crew. Depending on what is going on in the house, how bad the fire going there is also a role where you need to have 2 in and 2 out. So there can be 2 guys outside that if something happens to the 2 going in they can come in and rescue them. If you just have 3, we don't have two in and two out. Now when we respond we do respond with Sheffield Village, Avon Lake, Avon and the 2 townships; Elyria and Sheffield Township. Sheffield Village usually gets on scene within about 2 to 3 minutes of us so they are getting there pretty quick and then Avon is en-route right away and as soon as we know it is a working house fire we strike our first alarm which gets the other 3 departments coming. So we are getting manpower there but when you are the first

engine that shows up on a fire you don't have the manpower to start going to work it is kind of a big problem. We had that over here on Parkview, I mean that fire was going and they only had 3 guys and that was a big fire. There wasn't too much that they could do besides just start hitting from the outside and luckily there was no one in the house at that time. It is a safety issue as a 3-man crew you are going to have more injuries and now you got one guy dragging the hose or 2 guys where you could have 3; carrying ladders and ladders aren't light. The ladders are not like the ladder you buy from Home Depot, you are welcome to come pick one up if you want to and they are heavy. Mayor Bring advised I have been to quite a few of these since I became Mayor but you watch these guys where there is total chaos going on – if you don't know what you are doing. These guys are very professional and watch this going around – this fire over here was very intense and to watch how they handled that it is pretty amazing and then fires don't start when it is 78 degrees out, sunny and everything else. That day was very cold in the morning, you couldn't see as it was very foggy so there is a lot going – you have to get those people out of the house and get them taken care through Red Cross so they are not freezing to death. The one guy was standing out there I think most of the morning in no shoes, no nothing because he had to run out of the house like that. The other thing is when these guys go to an accident; usually when there is an accident it is not just 1 person there is several people that are hurt. You get multi cars and more victims so they are trying to take care of that too at the same time. It is not an easy job and to handle that professionally you need the help and I would challenge anybody out there that is saying that we don't need these people you know that we don't need these people. Just take one of your time just to watch even video's to see what goes on during accidents and what goes on during accidents and what goes on and if they think this an easy job they are full of beans and I am trying to be nice about it. It is a very difficult job and it is no different than I am sure Tony is going to say some stuff. The things that are being said is almost embarrassing and I would venture to say doing other things that they shouldn't be doing. I am just so frustrated that I can't even tell by the actions of what I have seen here lately on the internet and some of the other stuff. They have no clue, these guys go is just our Police Department, these guys out there every day with what is going on with the drug

problems and everything that goes on, domestic violence and they show up they never know what is going to happen to them. I don't care when you go there, anything can happen. They are out there in the night time and most of these but most of the time we have 1 guy show up and then the one showing a little bit later but of the time we have 1 guy showing up at the scene and then he is backup. You know you go out there and stick your neck out and go to these people's houses and somebody opening the door, you don't if they have a gun. There could be 3 people standing or 8 people standing there or what is going on. Even if you have an accident, the Police have to show up the scene and they have to control what is going on, control the traffic – they have to do all their business. It is team work thing between these 2 Safety Forces and it is very, very challenging. Like I said these people these people who are saying this stuff they have no clue and they are living in a fantasy land. Fire Chief Card concurred like you said MVA's when we go to those we have to bring a fire truck and we have to bring an ambulance. If I have a 4-man shift then I sent 2 guys on the fire truck and 2 guys on the ambulance and if the third guy needs to go in the ambulance because it is a trauma then you are going to have 2 paramedics in the back working on the patient and if it is your relative or you you are going to have 2 paramedics in the back working on the patient and if it is your relative or you then you are going to want 2 paramedis working on you as opposed to 1. Also if it is a 3 man, I am not leaving a \$250,000 or \$348,000 fire truck sitting on the side of the road by itself. So 1 guy is going to stay at that fire truck and it is going to be a 2-man ambulance to the hospital. There is also full arrest, your heart stops beating and when we come there and we are going to do CPR and we start IV's and you have to stick a tube in your trachea and tube you up and then we have to push drugs. Well that is a 4-man call, you got to have 1 man driving and then you need about 3 guys in the back working on the patient while enroute to the hospital. Those are just things to think about why we need manpower. Yes we can put 1 person in the back of an ambulance and let somebody drive them and all they are going to get is CPR and none of the advanced life support stuff that we have the capabilities of but that is not what we want to do. Our level of care is higher than that. Mayor Bring advised our response time is extremely fast and they did a study for the heart attack and I think that our city was one of the ones that came back

high rated and recommend because of what they did. For the heart attacks that were around this area I think did extremely didn't we Tim? Fire Chief Card concurred and stated we have been having a pretty good success rate every since have gotten our 12 leads and we are able to diagnose that is an MI in the field and then we can pushing the drugs that they needs prior to arrival at the hospital so they can take him straight from the door to the cath lab. Mayor Bring advise as Mr. Campo just said he is a person who has had a heart attack and he can assure that it is not a fun thing and it is very important that he got the hospital because he is able to sit here and be what he is today. The fact that they did take of him. Police Chief Campo advised November 11, 2006 if I would had to wait for life care I probably wouldn't be sitting here right now and I sincerely mean that. Fire Chief Card stated as far as us with the Police, there are calls where we need the Police. It is nice to have them just show up and when they had to manpower that is usually what happens. We will be there taking care of the patient and when they had the manpower that is usually what happens. We will be there taking care of the patient and we will look up and an Officer will walk in the door and ask if we need any help questiring bags or assisting with the cot. But there is also calls like psyche calls or even a violent call like a domestic if the cops aren't there then they are filling ambulance but the cops aren't enrout for some reason or they busy for some reason but some guy is laid out on the ground. If it is violent scene and you will see my ambulance sitting at the end of the until a cop gets there. Then people are going to say why is the ambulance sitting down there and the answer is they are not coming down here until the cop says the scene is safe. There is nothing that anybody can do about that because the scene has to be safe and that is the first thing they teach in school. Is the scene safe, if you don't say that when you go to all of your training – that is the first thing and if you don't say when you are going through all of your training and if you don't say that then you failed. But that is what we do here. My guys don't need to get shot, stabbed or attacked when they show up a scene to help somebody so the cops have to be there to make sure the scene is safe for us. If we don't have Police Officers then you might see my ambulance sitting down at the end street waiting for Avon Lake or the Village or whoever else is coming. Mayor Bring stated some of the drugs that these people are doing now a days give them

extraordinary strength. We have had actually a couple of our Officers grabbed and I know one the gentleman down here at Erie Shore Landings and three of Officers dragged him and got on top of him but this guy was fighting all of them. So you got 3 Officers on 1 person and you wonder why you can't have 1 going into a scene like that. It is the same thing with these, if they got somebody that is having that type of issue, they can't treat that person until they take care and if that person has a knife or doing some harm to anybody they have to control that and they can't get to it until that is under control. Fire Chief Card stated I will say this at my department we have a waiver forms that people can sign and they can ride with us so they can observe what we do. Hopefully we get a day that is busy and they can go on a call. There are days where you might sit there 8 hours and not go on a call but after 4 o'clock boom calls all night long. A brief discussion on ride-a-longs. Mayor Bring advised it is interesting to see what they do and how much work there is involved there. Councilman Erdei asked how many Fire Fighters do we actually have right now full-time? Fire Chief Card answered 11; 3 Lieutenants and 8 Firemen. Once Andy retires then we are going to have 7 Fire Firemen. Once Andy retires then we are going to have 7 Firemen. The way the department operates the best is with 12 Firemen so we would have 3 – 4-man shifts and that does allow 1 person to be off on vacation without creating overtime situations. We normally in the past when everything was good we do have part-time Firemen that fill in the 4<sup>th</sup> position so that we can keep the 4-man and hopefully we can get to that. Right now I just want to concentrate on getting my full-time guys back up. Chairperson Stark clarified and the payroll does come out of general fund. Councilman Cizl stated from the levy committee meeting and reading the article in the paper today about you know what would happen if the levy doesn't pass or whatever else. Does this create a public relations concern that the city is getting another ambulance? Fire Chief Card advised I hope not because I wrote the grant for that ambulance and just luckily we got it. You don't just get grants every year, I could write a grant for one this year or write a grant for some other equipment and they will just no. It is going to be a lot competitive because they reduced the funds in the grant fund for the AFG (assistance to fire fights) so it is going to be a lot harder from them now. You know we got lucky and they liked the way I wrote it. A lot had to do with the age of

ambulances that I think were 18 and 14 years old. Then the average of all our equipment was like almost 12. Mayor Bring advised tell them how many hours on that grant. Fire Chief Card answered 4 weeks, it is a lot of research. Now I got to do reports every 3 to 6 months to keep it going. But that helps because now the city is paying just under \$11,000.00 for a \$213,000.00 ambulance. Then we were lucky to get the 2008 ambulance for \$62,000.00. I hope that doesn't affect people's decisions. Ambulances just shouldn't get past 10 years ago, they just shouldn't. They get old, they get tired, they break down and it breaks down the patient in the back and that is unacceptable. Mayor Bring advised we were averaging over \$20,000.00 a year in repairs to those 2 ambulance the last few years. So you start putting \$20,000.00 a year into that. Fire Chief Card stated if you think about it who actually has a car personally that is 10 years old unless it is in the garage and protected. He reviewed vehicle maintenance report and advised we have the money to fix things with and right now we don't have in my budget for just operating my station I have less than \$1000.00 and I have \$3 thousand something dollars left in my vehicle repair line and \$2300.00 of that is going to the fire trucks next week so now I got \$1000.00. I have to have money to repair my vehicles and run my station. We also have to buy other equipment; our CO detectors which are very important, you CO detector goes off in your house and you want us to come and check it out we can't just walk in there and sniff it, we have to have our detector to what is going on there. Councilman Cizl advised getting that information out is going to be our task. Councilman Erdei asked on these grants I wasn't sure, our these from the State of Ohio or these the Federal Government? Fire Chief Card stated it is the Citizens to Fire Fighters grant from FEMA. Councilman Erdei stated I really didn't know where. Fire Chief Card advised there are lots of other grants, I do get a grant every year from Ohio for EMS supplies which is usually about \$2500.00 bucks and we are able to replace from our EMS supplies with that. I get a grant from Walmart from \$500.00 to \$1000.00 just buying stuff for the kids for Fire Prevention Week and buying smoke detectors and there is another grant I just found but I don't know if we are going to have the money and it is a BWC grant that is a 3 to 1; they pay \$3.00 to every \$1.00. So I was looking into that because that is something where I could get power cot and another power loading system for the 2008 squad.

Mayor Bring advised the power cot along is like \$40,000 for the whole system.

***Police Chief Campo*** stated you start with the numbers to try to do a schedule with less people, how do put Policemen on the street if you don't enough of them to put on the street. I think that in itself is why that is a silly thing to ask – lets have less Policemen. This city is changing and the dealers are in town now, the heroin is in town and heroin dealers are in town. When we had the crack epidemic the crack dealers were all in Lorain and our people who were on crack went to Lorain and got it. The dealers are in town and had an alleged strong arm robbery last night that I know was drug related where a person was jumped and beat unconscious and robbed. I know for a fact that was drug. Last week we had a stabbing that was a drug rip-off and the person was stabbed in the back and myself and our part-time detective had to go Westlake to track people down. We found the victim in an apartment in Westlake with a big hole in his back. We put him in my Police car and took him to St John West Shore and interviewed for about 2 hours in the hospital and how do you do that you don't have people that can go do that, if you 1 Policeman on the road – where does he go to Westlake and then what. I have had Officers on 4 to 12 shifts working by themselves for over 2 hours at time. We have a warrant pickup in Parma and that Officer is by himself on 4 to 12 and if he gets a domestic; he has to go to them, he can't say I don't want to go to it. We have a part-time Detective, a very experienced retired from Lorain who was the sex crime detective for years and he has been here for 3 weeks and I think he has had 3 sex crimes here already involving children victims. The people that say hey let's have less cops, are they interested in knowing what we do really or they want to know how sex crimes we work, do they want to about the stabbings or did they just see the cruiser drive up and down Lake Road and think well that's what they do. They don't really want to know what we are doing. We had a girl who came forward and said she did this stabbing the other night to protect a boyfriend from Cleveland and it was all about heroin and we are going to have to arrest her for lying. We have identified the stabbers through photos and we still don't know his real name. It takes days to work a case like that. I could go on and on. Our 1 unmarked car; it sticks out like a sore thumb and we are not going to sit on drug houses in it and it is rusting through the roof. It



will be a sun roof pretty soon via rust. It is now sitting in Great Lake's Auto with a transmission noise and if the transmission goes out in that car we don't have money to fix that car. It's just on and on, it is just sad it really is. This city we should have 2 full-time Detectives, we have had 3 burglaries in the last month or 2 months where probably a total of 8 guns were stolen and these people don't lock up their guns, they don't know their serial numbers, we can't put them in LEADS, these guns are out there now and one of them we suspect a prostitute from Lorain with coming over here and meeting up with guys and breaking into their houses and the second one we think is teenagers and the third one we don't know but there is probably 8 to 10 guns out on the street now in the hands of people that shouldn't have guns. That is just in the last couple of months. You can't do what we are doing with the people we have now and do it to the extent that this stuff should be worked on. We sure couldn't do it with less people. Our part-time Detective right now is a road Officer who handles calls, he is an errand boy; he runs papers to the county Prosecutors Office, he does prisoner transports, he goes to the Advocacy Center interviews child/victims. He does everything, we should have 2 full-time Detectives working 40 hours a week like we have in years past and actually we were able to work on things to the extent that they should be. You can't do any of that now, you can't do of it. I don't know what else to say. Mayor Bring advised the thing of it is Mr. Campo is telling you some of this stuff now and the last thing that we want to do is start putting a ton of stuff in the paper and saying all this stuff. That doesn't count the DUI's, Domestic Violence's and all the other stuff that they take here. You go in there and sit there sometimes that phone rings constantly and those guys are out and that is all they do and they think because people are saying oh, they go to alarms, they go do this and they don't do that or they check peoples houses. They do all that too but all the rest of the stuff that I don't tell you guys about because I shouldn't have to tell you about everything because I want people to feel in this community because overall we are very fortunate that we don't have the crime that is going everywhere else. My wife went out yesterday to eat and we were driving towards Lorain and they had 3 Police cars pass us going 85 mph because they had a thing going on. The other night we went out and we were coming back that way 3 Police cars came around flying, they have got some serious stuff going

on but it is coming this way real quick. The problem is we need the manpower to stop it and if we don't have the manpower to stop it, it will take over the city like locusts. They will take advantage of it. There is a lot of things going on. We have a gentleman who retired from Cleveland who has done a lot of stuff, he has seen everything. He has a video of him in a crossfire getting shot in the chest by another Officer and knocking him to the ground. Do you know what he said to me the other day, he said you have got some crazy people in this town. So you look at that guy and he is like looking at this town going holy cow and he has seen just about everything you could possibly see. So it is not that easy out there and the big thing that we got to deal with right now is what you see on the news about the heroin epidemic and it is here and it is getting worse. We are carrying Narcan in our police cars now and these guys have Narcan and that is the drug that brings them back. But what is happening now is these guys are taking heroin and they feel safe if they OD because they feel that these guys are going to show up and bring them back to life so they don't care. The thing of it is for him to catch these it is not that easy, it really isn't. They are not stupid people that are doing this stuff, it is extremely frustrating. You know Mr. Cizl has come to some of our court stuff and he sees some of these people walking in here, you got people that are 20 some years old waiting for their social security check to pay for their fine. We had a guy in here yesterday who was driving without a license, he got picked up and he had an accident and was asked why is he driving and he answered because my girlfriends license was suspended. This kid hasn't had a license for the last 10 years and he goes to pay his fine and said well I worked yesterday and I made \$80.00 yesterday doing a side job. He has no job, he has nothing and you see that time and time again. If you come in and sit through some of this court stuff, it is like a reality show and this is our little town – it is pretty scary. Police Chief Campo stated we had an Officer stop a male last night on a bicycle in the middle of the night around 3 in the morning and we check people at night to see what they are doing. This person was on a bicycle with no light, he was riding to his place of employment in Avon and the Officer asked him if he would like a ride and he said sure. Long story short, he ended up having a loaded revolver in his front pocket and who wants to encounter that guy in the middle of the night. Maybe he is riding to work but still he has got a loaded gun in his

pocket. Who wants to encounter him at 3 in the morning by yourself – I don't. Mayor Bring advised and he didn't have proper credentials for carrying a gun. Police Chief Campo added no he was arrested, he was illegally carrying a loaded gun. Councilman Erdei asked I know at one time we had like a neighborhood watch group, is that still in existence or did that fizzle out? Police Chief Campo answered I don't it ever really did anything. Mayor Bring advised they never really did anything, they came and talked out stuff and what they could do and a couple of our Officers came in and talked about lock boxes and stuff like that but nobody really went out and actually did any patrols but it was more for awareness for people calling in if they see something happen and I will tell you and that is the best thing that anybody could do is that if a neighbor sees something or if you see something suspicious call in because that has solved break-ins and a lot of crimes because as soon as they see one of these guys driving down the street they stop doing anything. But if a neighbor calls, that solves a lot of problems. But that is what that was all about, they talked about some safety things if somebody came up to you and did that stuff but they really didn't have anybody out doing stuff. It was more for people being aware of what is going on for situations in the neighborhoods. If you see somebody, you live in your neighborhood and you know all your neighbors. If you live for any time you know their cars and you know what is going and you pay attention and if you see somebody during the day time riding a bicycle and going up and checking houses and looking in windows you know they are not supposed to be there then you need to call the police. That is what is going now, they are not breaking in at night time – they are breaking in in broad day light. Chairperson Stark stated I know Chief Campo also writes a lot of grants and does a lot of work for the Police Department as well. Police Chief Campo advised you know grants available for Police Departments, there is no grants for cars and the grants that are available are matching grants. Mayor Bring advised that is the other problem we don't enough money for any matching grants. Mayor Bring reiterated again with what is going on with the both of these departments also even with the manpower in the Service Department. People are saying well we got 3 guys checking the water meters, you have to have 3 guys checking the water meters because it is needed. It is not a safety issue, it is just the fact that that is what has to be done. The other

thing they don't see these guys in the middle of the night in the winter time basically when most of the pipes breaks. They will break at 3 or 4 in the morning when the ground is frozen and they got to go out and dig a hole with a backhoe, those guys are down in that hole. You have to have somebody with lights so that these guys are safe. If you only got one guy down in the hole and if this guy isn't paying attention and something happens – everything becomes a safety issue if you don't have the proper equipment or you don't have the proper manpower and it doesn't matter what department it is. Again most of the stuff that happens people don't see it – they wake up in the morning and they see cones sticking out. It is the same thing with both the safety departments – things don't happen all the time when it is real nice out and they are freezing their butts off out there. Ice, snow, sleet or hail – it doesn't matter, they are out there. The worst storm we had was Sandy and Tim and I were driving around that day with all the trees down and everything else and these guys are out checking power lines. When they are out doing that stuff and something comes down they have to protect everybody. I could go on and on and on but the whole thing is is that this levy is badly needed and the manpower is badly needed and we are wearing our guys out. Chairperson Stark advised I would suggest to the public that either they take advantage of what Chief Card said and ride along with the guys or stop over and talk to their Council people or come to a meeting and discuss what is going on and ask questions before just going out and saying stuff.

***Law Director – None.***

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Revenue spending – covered above.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Erdei/Second by Cizl to adjourn at approximately 8:18 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 September 4, 2013.

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**COUNCIL PRO TEM**

*Eric S Elliott*