

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 5, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, March 5, 2014. Chairperson Stark called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Absent: Law Director Graves (excused)

Attending: Demolition Board Chairperson Gee, Concerned Citizens

*Motion by Cizl/Second by Wtulich to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief Campo reported I have submitted an application for a new hire to the Mayor for part-time. Mayor Bring advised which I will be bringing to you during the next Council meeting.

Fire Chief's report – Fire Chief Card reported I didn't give you the maintenance reports because all we have is the oil changes and such which we are still working on. We can only do them on one shift, that is the 4-man shift. We are getting the SCBA fill station that was donated to us from Columbia Station last year. That is being serviced soon so we should be able to fill our own air bottles which will be nice. Our air packs are being bench tested this month and we are starting the hydro tests of all our bottles. This is the last time those bottles can be hydro tested and then they will have to be destroyed so those bottles – 30 of them and they costs about \$1000.00 a piece. I have been working with Tammy and how to get a schedule set-up so that we are not buying them all at the same time. If we could replace 6 a year then we would be on a schedule to replace them in

15 years – start replacing them over another 6 year period. But since we got them on a grant, we bought all 30 of them at once so now they are all going to be done at once. I working with Tammy on this so we will see where that goes after May. We are also replacing batteries for portable radios and I am also looking into a battery analyzer so we can check our batteries and see where they are at so we can just replace a couple at a time instead of using them until they are just dead and replacing them all. I have been working with Civil Service to get the entry exam on, we have a Civil Service meeting tomorrow. We are pretty far along so we might be able to get the test done shortly. I have a question from Kate Skin, she is head of a Boy Scout post. She is looking for some kind of a community project that her kids can do and I really didn't have anything in mind. I didn't know if you guys would have anything in mind – they are 7 years old so it obviously has to be age appropriate. I told her I would ask, they are trying to get their community service pin or something like that. Councilman Cizl stated maybe Service Department or Parks maybe. Mayor Bring answered I really can't put anybody in there. Maybe take them down to Apple's and maybe they could help out doing some bagging or something like that. It would have to be something minor, I don't know being that age you have to careful. Councilman Cizl stated parents would have to supervise the entire time at that age. Mayor Bring stated maybe go down to Civic Center for Meals on Wheels and help there and help those ladies down for a day or something like that. Fire Chief Card stated that is not a bad idea, I will mention that to her. I don't know if they actually need to do it right now. Chairperson Stark stated or planting, if we wanted to do any flowers or sprucing up. Mayor Bring stated yes we do want to do that. Chairperson Stark stated or come help clean out at the Fire Department or the Police Department, give them some mops and brooms and have them clean. Councilman Cizl stated you guys all talk about Civil Service and that is why I threw it out there, it is not an urgency – just whenever. Fire Chief Card explained if you read the rules, you are actually supposed to give a Civil Service test like every 2 years so that you can keep a list in case something happens; if somebody dies or something and you can replace them. In the Civil Service Board manages the rules or laws of our jobs. Mayor Bring advised in all of those meetings, you guys are all welcome to that and come in and sit down and get familiar with all that stuff. Fire

Chief Card advised we are having one tomorrow at 4:45 and if you want I will make you a copy of the Civil Service rules so you can read them. It explains how they hire and how we hire and the rules of it. Councilman Cizl stated from what I understand you give a Civil Service exam whenever you are going to hire a Policeman or Fireman, I take it and you do it every 2 years and you can't hire without them taking the tests. Mayor Bring advised we also do it for all promotions too. Councilman Cizl asked do you acquire a list or is it you kind of like you take a test and you just rank them? Fire Chief Card answered we are giving an entry exam depending on how many people actually come and take it there would be a list and they will be ranked according to their score. They also have to take a physical agility test which we are doing through Tri-C and they will get a certificate with their time on it and they have to do it in under 4 minutes and 30 seconds. We can use that as a ranking thing as well because if somebody does it in 2 minutes and 25 seconds and the other person does it in 4 minutes and 29 seconds that is something we can use there too. Mayor Bring stated the last Police Officer that we hired we did that through Tri-C which that is the program that we go through now. Then we interview about 7 people – not even that many. Police Chief Campo answered 4 or 5 I think. Mayor Bring stated we took the top people that we saw in there and we did an interview with that, it makes it easier for us instead of going through all the applications and doing all that and we have already got a list and we see what their scores are and it gives us an opportunity do a little better on the interview. Councilman Cizl stated so it is like a filtering. Fire Chief Card stated with the promotional, the Firemen get to take them and then we will have a list. Councilman Cizl stated I assume all the Civil Service exams are all different from Police and Fire and there is a book they need to study for and do all that. Lt. Davis stated when you take it to get on a Fire Department, I took like probably 10 or 20 of them when I was younger to get on a Fire Department throughout the area. You will take them against 200 people and they will take the top 10 to interview and like you said basically the agility test are done through Tri-C which we had to pay for – we saved the city money. That was a good thing for this city, you know how small city is. Before they used to put them on, I went through a couple of the cities and they would put them on and it would costs the city a lot of money. Then there is really no test books for those. Fire Chief Card

stated ours is going to be different this time because since our Civil Service Rules requires that anyone we hire to be a paramedic and a Fire Fighter already – we are going with the Ohio Fire Chief’s and their entrance exam is based on Fire and EMS. They will get to study from an actual book that we use in the Fire Academy and whatever Paramedic book they take the questions out of like Brady or whatever the other one is. It is a better situation, before it is like general knowledge it was nothing near the fire service really. David has more specifics on it. Chairperson Stark stated we have had some really good luck with some good candidates when we started doing the Civil Service. I know our last one which was Monica, she was really good and we pulled her from that list and she did a fabulous job for the city. Mayor Bring stated the only problem is when you get somebody that scores that high they are also wanted by other cities. She got hired in Beachwood. Councilman Cizl asked do all cities do Civil Service. Mayor Bring answered all the major cities, if they are Civil Service. Councilman Cizl asked are there other categories other than Police and Fire that they do Civil Service. Chairperson Stark stated I think some of the government jobs you have to do Civil Service for; postal have to do Civil Service. Fire Chief Card stated the only other I had is you remember all the mess in Vermilion last week or the week before with the flooding and all that. They called out the Tech Rescue Team for Lorain County and Lt. Novak is one the team and he went to that and he helped there with the team; setting up ropes and helping with the boats and stuff. One of our guys was there helping for the team. Chairperson Stark stated question about the Pinewood because I think that happened after our last Safety meeting. That has been officially ruled an arsenic I believe at Pinewood. Police Chief Campo confirmed that has been ruled an arsenic. Chairperson Stark stated that is out of our hands and taken over by the state? Police Chief Campo answered no, it is in our hands. As of a matter of fact tomorrow I have somebody from the Prosecutor’s Office and our Part-time Detective are going to work on that all day tomorrow and try to wrap it up. Chairperson Stark stated our Part-time Detective is working out really well for you? Police Chief Campo answered yes he is doing okay, he quipped he is handicapped by only 2 days a week, it is hard to keep up on stuff but he is doing it. Chairperson Stark stated would he willing say May 8th a possibility to bring him on

full-time? Would he be willing to do that or get more hours as a part-timer? Police Chief Campo answered he can't go to full-time because of the Civil Service rules. If I need him 3 days or 4 days then he works it but I am not scheduling him that much. It is better to do it the other way, instead of having him have down time schedule 2 days a week and then call him in for 3 or 4 days if it gets busy. Chairperson Stark stated just hoping a couple of months from now we have a better monetary situation for both departments where if you needed him more often we have the capability of both departments to do that. Mayor Bring stated since you brought that up actually Tony and I sat down the other day just kind of going over things but we have been discussing some of the equipment needs in the Police Station and it is pretty extensive. Obviously you guys know about the cars but we have antiquated computers and I think we are down to our last monitor – we have no extra monitors/our radios are outdated. There are a number of things and it is going to be pretty expensive to do it right now. We are using outdated equipment from other facilities that they donated to us. So this is going to turn into time of crisis here in the near future. So Tony in the next few months is going to start making lists of stuff and I know that Tim is starting to generate a list of what he needs and these are things that are to the point of where we do have to replace them. They are not just stuff like extras or anything, there are actual needs. So we have got computers with cases on them and there is no capability of quitting those unless we burn a disk on them as far as saving data. So we need more equipment on that. I know one of the computers in the Fire Department the other day wasn't working right, that is on-going but it is going to be critical here. There is just more then what everybody thinks that just because they see the manpower and they see police cars there is many other things that going quickly – down the tubes. So that is going to need to be addressed and then recently we have had a number of calls about obviously the lake has been frozen – 90% of the entire Great Lakes are frozen and I have got coyotes running up and down the lake and they are going into people's backyards. We have gotten a lot of phone calls about people wanting the Police Department to do something about it. Tony and I have talked about this and we are not going to go out there and start blasting these animals and having everybody and their cousins down here photographing this. I know there is a lot of people that are upset thinking

that these coyotes are going to attack children or their pets or whatever. They even mentioned to him that they were going to shoot the animal themselves and it is a 4th degree misdemeanor I think if you do that. So you can't do that, you can't even take a bow and arrow and if take a bow and arrow and shoot it in your own yard but if it goes beyond your own yard then that is a violation. So people have got to understand that. I know that they are really upset about that but I would imagine once the ice melts and the water comes that these animals are going to move inland but I know right now everybody is having a misconception. Some of the stuff that gets printed about these animals but we can't go around every time somebody sees an animal in a yard or a deer eating a tomato bush that we are going to shoot that. If an eagle comes down and takes somebody's dog that we are going to shoot the eagle, we can't do that all the time. Our guys are not going to go out and do that and if that shot an animal and it laid out on the ice our guys aren't going to go out on that ice and go get it. We are not going to have the Fire Department go get it and we can't leave it lay there because then everybody is going to photograph that. So it is kind of a catch 22 and I know that people are upset but in the best interest of everything I think that common sense has to prevail here. There are professional trappers which is another thing we talked about, you can't bring a hold trap or something like that because if you catch a pet or an animal of somebody else's – again you don't want to do that. You don't know if they have some kind of a have a heart type strap or whatever. I have to say that would have to be somebody professional that would have to do that. We can't have people just willy-nilly going out there and blasting these animals and having it ricochet off and hit somebody or do something else. I want to bring that up because we have had a number of phone calls. Councilman Cizl stated first off being on Lake Erie we are not unique so I would interested in hearing what all the other cities say in that situation. How they are handling that situation especially on the lake with the deer issue. Mayor Bring advised I don't know that but I know for a fact I have lived on the lake since 1976 and throughout the years with the ice I have seen coyotes out there before, they may be a little bit more at ease right now because there is probably a few more of them and there is a lot more water fall along the shore right now so they have got basically free food and that is why they coming out – they are going for a food source.

They are doing quite well running down there and picking up rodents and such, there are tons of ducks and geese. The ducks and geese sleep out on the ice and I am sure they are having a free dinner every night but I would imagine there is other people that are doing it. I haven't heard anything from anybody else but I know that there is a number of people down here that there is 6 of them at a time that has been coming up in backyards. I have 2 in my backyard at the same time. Again they are not after me but they are after something else. People get very excited about this but we are damned if we do and damned if we don't. If it was rabbit and it was in distress then that is a different story. Councilman Cizl asked what does the Ohio Department of Natural Resources say? Mayor Bring answered they did contact them but again I guess you are allowed to go out on the ice but I don't know if there are any special permits. You can't stand on the shore and shoot out there because that is illegal too. There is no season on coyotes or doing anything like that but if they are out there on the ice and the thing runs sideways, you can't shoot against people's properties. I don't know how far you would have to be out there legally. Fire Chief Card stated I don't want anybody out on the ice because then we have to go get them. Mayor Bring stated there is a lot more to this, like I said it has been frustrating because when you tell people and they get all frustrated and think they are not doing anything but when we sit and discuss this we try to use a little common sense. I think Tony's approach; he said I can't have my guys go out and start blasting things and we shouldn't. You can't shoot every animal that comes around, it is a part of mother nature and we have to live with it. But it seems like any time something happens anymore the animals are always at fault. I pray that nothing happens to somebody's pet. Chairperson Stark stated common sense if you see a coyote you leave pet indoors. Councilman Cizl stated or you walk them out. Mayor Bring stated that is what Tony said because one lady said she was going to go out and shoot the animal which was on the ice if it came after her. She said she was going to run in the house and call 911 and Tony said just close the door. Police Chief Campo stated now that coyotes; shooting coyotes is such a popular pastime anymore – gun companies are putting out coyote rifles. Ammunition companies are marketing coyote rounds and the Game Warden will tell you yes you can kill a coyote, it is a nuisance animal but they are taking into account you can't discharge a gun in the municipality

of Sheffield Lake or most other cities. They don't take that into consideration; if you lived in Sheffield Village I guess you can shoot them all you want on your own property. Mayor Bring stated but again, a bb gun/an air gun/bow and arrow – you can shoot but it has to stay in your own yard. But any kind of fire arm you can't discharge that in the city limits. Like I said that is a misdemeanor fine. I guarantee you somebody is going to go out there and if you are not very good at what you are doing and they shoot something and it ricochets off and hits somebody it would be devastating. Chairperson Stark stated we have always had coyotes, deer, we have turkeys – we have everything. Mayor Bring stated this year is because the ice is so frozen and it is a cold winter so the animals are hungry. Most of the time coyotes don't want to be around you because they are kind of skittish, they just want to have some food but right now they are being forced to come out a little bit more in the day time for wherever their food is. Once it warms up here I am sure you are not going to see much of them. There was further discussion on subject of wild animals in the city. Councilman Stark stated question for both of the Chief's actually and this has just come up recently with the malls and stuff due to the lovely shooting we had at the Home Depot over at Great Northern, do you guys know of places that do self-defense classes or is it possible maybe as a community service that we could do some type of it. It used to be if you had somebody aggressive come into your store just to try to talk them but with the heroin and everything, is there resources that people can go to to learn to protect themselves. What signs should you be looking for if somebody comes into their store or something like that. Police Chief Campo stated are you talking about like physical self-defense classes because unless you take it for years you are just going to learn enough to get hurt. Then if you are talking about CCW; weapons classes, yes those exist. If you are talking about how to tell somebody in a store, they are taught that. Some stores use die-packs in their cash and some refuse to do it. They all have different ways and what they tell their employees what to do. There is really nothing that I know of that you could go to and an organization that would teach store safety or anything like that. I don't know what happened in North Olmsted I didn't read it, I don't know if that was a robbery or what. There was a brief discussion on incident and store's having their own policy and procedures for safety.

Fire Lt. Brian Davis stated this is an update on the committee; Safer Sheffield Lake. We have Barb Miller as our Treasurer now and Scott is the Co-Treasurer, we are heading to the Endowment Fund on the 8th so we encouraging everyone to support the community and the school is doing that. We are going to go up there and help do some stuff there and just generally communicate with people up there. I know on the 12th at 7 pm at Amber Oaks we are going to have a meeting open to the public and it is going to have some general information on Issue 23 which is the issue for the ½% income tax. We are going to have some information there; pamphlets and there is going to be some food there – just a small amount and we are just basically trying to get people that want to help in the community. The email list that we have already we are hopefully going to invite those people and hopefully they will come and sign up for different functions. Some of the functions coming up that we are doing personally is have been doing some blood pressures at the churches already on Sundays. We are going to be helping out with some of the fish fry's there also on the Fridays. I am pretty sure this date is good on the 29th of this month we are going to walking around the community and handing some literature out and it will be printed on by then and we are going to talk about that at the community meeting. So that is going to be one of the days that I know for sure, it is a Saturday and I think they are going to do another day to be April 26th which is also a Saturday and there is going to be some days in between there too but those 2 dates are happening for a fact. We were talking with the Fire Chief about an open house too and that is probably going to happen and that date is going to be May 3rd. Fire Chief Card added that would be weather permitting, I have Life Flight possibly bringing a helicopter. Lt. Davis continued we are going to do like a community cookout type of thing. Open House in the Fire Department, you can come and take pictures of the kids in the fire truck or ask questions about how it works and all that. Those are some of the dates that are coming up in the future here but the main one is the 12th here to come and start signing up for things that you could help with. We encourage everyone here actually to come, it is going to be at 7 o'clock and it shouldn't take too long and basically you can talk to your Fire Department that will be there and there will be some Police who aren't members there and I believe there will be some Service Department members there. I

don't know if Mayor Bring is going to be there? Mayor Bring stated if you tell me to be there I will be there. Lt. Davis stated I know the Chief is going to be there so there will be plenty of people there to answer your questions about it. Like I said Scott has been working hard on this, he has got some color co-ordinations going on for the signs and some ideas. We have been working with that organizations that made a presentation to you and they have been giving some good ideas and some of these dates were brought up by them as good touch points for what they have figured. So hopefully this passes, we are going to work hard to make it pass because we need to keep the city safe and like Mayor Bring said there is a lot of issues that this is going to address other than just Fire Fighter personnel. Obviously it is very important to get the people there and Police Department personnel but there is a lot of stuff that goes on in between that you guys in city hall and Tony's department like stuff in the Detective Bureau's which he helps with the arson and it all works together. We got them when they need us and then they need us at first and then they more with that stuff. It is a lot of stuff to pay for so that is why we definitely need the money. That is all I got right now. Chairperson Stark asked do we have a way that we can get some of the younger generation to help out? Lt. Davis stated they can come on the 12th, they can walk probably better then we can. They are younger and they can talk to their friends. The younger generation they do a lot of social media, if they would just tell their friends and tell their parents and just come to the meetings to see why they need this in the future. They may not think about it now as being young but when they get older in the community and they start driving around. There is car accidents and as they get older they may need some of the services but they may not think they need now. Just communication that would help great because they do communicate well. I know that. Councilman Cizl stated you mentioned an endowment this Saturday and maybe you are already doing this but one of the huge PR things that would be very noticeable to the community would be to put together some type of basket. Like all the Officers put together some type of basket and auction it off – write up a PR thing on it because they do a Chinese auction there. All of that would be huge as far as a community. Lt. Davis stated that is a good idea, like an Issue 23 basket. Councilman Cizl stated yes you could do a basket or just “support the Fire Fighters and Police”. They do all kinds of

things, each of the grades in school used to do that. They would do all kinds of things. But it get your name out there and people would just bid on it. When they introduce it people that attend there will place that out there – hey this is about the Safety Forces. Those are a big thing. Lt. Davis stated that is a great idea, maybe we could put some safety stuff in there like a CO detector and stuff like that. There was a brief discussion. Lt. Davis advised if you have any questions you can always call Scott and Rosa or me. Actually Rosa and Joe have been taking some pictures around the community and then posting them and helping out with some flyers and stuff already. We are going to try to put out a mailer I think, depending on funds. If you want to donate at the event too, they already have the account set up for that. One of the pictures that Rosa and Joe took I think they are going to use for the mailers if it is a nice picture of the truck with some gear hanging on it. It is actually a nice picture. They have been helping a lot with that and she is always a great help with these things. Very dedicated community. Councilman Cizl stated something else you mentioned – pictures, I have another idea; this is a rare time right now with all the snow that we have. I am sure that Joe has taken some pictures but when May comes around – people are going to forget all the work that the Service Department has done with all the fight of going through all the snow. That would be nice to somehow remember what all that snow was like. Mrs. Gee advised he took some at the Service Department the other day and he has still got to catch the Police Station. Councilman Cizl stated the huge mounds of snow we had, people forget that. The streets, the parks – people forget what it was like. Mrs. Gee advised we got a series of the salt bin full and empty and a little bit more back in it now. Lt. Davis stated yes those guys have been coming in a lot the first part of this year but they have done a good job on the roads. Maybe we can use those Scouts for some of their time at that Open House meeting to help; trash, passing out hot dogs, etc. Fire Chief Card stated I will ask her. Councilman Cizl stated I am assuming it is going to pass, that money is not coming into the city until next January. Mayor Bring answered correct. Councilman Cizl stated so that is another planning issue. Mayor Bring stated yes but at least you know funds are coming in and that will make things a lot easier. Chairperson Stark stated at least we can start applying for grants that might not hit until next year but at least they can start working on it.

Law Director – None.

OLD BUSINESS: *None.*/NEW BUSINESS: *None.*

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *None.*

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Wtulich/Second by Cizl to adjourn at 7:42 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.

CLERK OF COUNCIL

Kay Fantauzzi

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Leanna Stark

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso

and/or

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Alan Smith

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 March 5, 2014.