

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
December 3, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Chairperson Stark called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Absent: Law Director Graves (excused)

Attending: Concerned Citizens

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief Campo – Police Chief Campo reported not much again tonight. Pretty disappointed that our new cars aren't in yet that we thought would be here by the end of October. The last time I talked to the Ford Dealership, it will be January at the earliest and then they don't know once even when the vehicles are in as to when they will have space available to do the outfitting. So that is a disappointment. We may lose our newest part-timer who has been taking up a lot of shifts for me. He has got some full-time positions possibly in other cities in the Cleveland area so we may have to replace him soon. We have been quiet, no major crime.

Councilman Wtulich asked how many full-time Patrolmen do we have? Police Chief Campo answered with me – 7, so 6 that are working the road. Chairperson Stark asked have we looked into the body cam thing for any of our Police Officers? Mayor Bring answered, I briefly talked to Tony about that and we probably will look into getting maybe 2 of those. There is grant money that is out there and I don't know how much is going to be

available. We do have them for the cars and I will tell you that our guys are adamant about having the camera's which has saved their butts several times. We have had 2 recent incidents where one lady complained that our Officer was very rude to her and Chief Campo reviewed the tape and found out that the Officer was very polite and courteous to her. So that kind of incident instead of getting reprimanded – Tony just said there is no problem. We had another gentleman that contested a stop sign violation and he pleaded not guilty in court and went over to Lorain Muni but after it is all said and done basically he pleaded guilty to that too because the camera's don't lie and that is the best thing. If we do, we will probably get maybe 2 of them to try them out and share and see how it works. I don't know how much they cost and I even talked to Tim about it even with the Fire Fighters having them on their helmets. He said that there are camera's available for that too, but we will be looking a little more into that. I can't honestly say yes or no yet. Like I said, our guys are very adamant about having them in the cars because it protects them. Even the one time one of our Officers that stopped somebody on Lake Road and somebody came along and clipped his car and the camera caught that car and they found the gentleman that did that too. They are a very useful piece of equipment and we are getting 2 new cameras on our new cars that are coming in too. Police Chief Campo advised our monitors are installed now. I think at the last meeting I had said that they were installing them, but they are installed and working now. 99 times out of 100 what you need is audio, so I remind the guys over and over to carry little recorders in their pockets. Audio is the majority of complaints against Police, things that are said. The camera's in the cars are traffic offense basically – DUI's, they are worth their weight but it is mainly audio. Councilman Cizl stated that is what I was going to ask, are the camera's audio also? Police Chief Campo answered yes. Chairperson Stark stated we are looking out more for our guys than the general public, just to protect them. Mayor Bring advised in light of everything that has happened, it just makes the Policeman's job much harder. They are getting scrutinized for a job that is very difficult, they have to make split second decisions and things happen unfortunately. These guys deal with a lot of stuff every day and I will honestly tell you I couldn't do it because some of the things that they put up with is very frustrating and you got to have a strong person in that position to take

some of the things that are said to them and some of the things that have happened. Plus some of the things that they see every day, it is a difficult job and it is no different than the Firemen. They have to make split-second decisions whether they go into a house with a fire or if something is going on/all the chemicals and everything else. Those 2 jobs are tough jobs and people complain about these people, on the news they have been chastising them, but you know what who is the first person when they need somebody - Police. If there is a fire or car accident – Fire. I think this whole thing is being blown out of proportion and I am very dissatisfied with the way the media is handling it and a lot of our public officials. I think that it is unjustified.

Fire Chief's report – Fire Chief Card reported on the vehicle maintenance I did not get you a printout as I have been working on this grant which I am almost done with it. It has to be turned in on Friday and I will have an end of the year report for you in January so you will have all of that information included. Again, I am working on the AFG grant so I will turn that in on Friday and we will probably find out whether we will get it or not sometime around March. The utility truck is the same as Tony's vehicles. It has been built I believe, it is on a list that came to them. However, they have not received it at their facility yet. Once they do get it it will be about 2 weeks for them to do what they need to do to it before they can deliver it. But they do have all of the equipment there ready to install. Mayor Bring advised there is nothing that we can do about it and that is also why I would like to get the one ordered this year, so probably by the end of next year we will have one more vehicle. We did the best we could, we passed the levy and we ordered them and now we just wait. When they come – they come. Fire Chief Card advised the other vehicle that we ordered, he told me January but if they are telling him January and he ordered his at the same time I ordered the utility truck then March.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Revenue spending – **None.**

Councilman Cizl advised I think you got a copy of an email with a resident on Warwick complaining about parking in the yard again. Mayor Bring answered, I sent Sergeant Mariner over there last night and he did warn the person because there was a car parked there. They said they were unaware

of that ordinance and they moved the car. I saw where it said at 5:30 am or something where they said there was another car there and I didn't tell Mr. Campo about that. I asked tonight before I left here before I saw the other email but I will have them go back and check it again. Well, he gets off at midnight, so he would not be the Officer looking at that during the night. I will have to get a hold of one of the other guys to check it. Chief Campo stated he can pass that along at shift change. Mayor Bring stated, we did have some complaints of people going a little faster than normal on Ferndale and we have had some Officers sitting there monitoring that. Fortunately, you have 25 mph speed limit and people see that coming down the road and people think that they are going excessively fast and they find out they are probably going 30 mph. A lot of times they really aren't speeding too fast, it is hard to judge how fast somebody is coming especially in residential. But they do monitor those and they have been sitting on some of those side streets. We haven't really picked anybody up have we? Chief Campo answered 1 or 2. Mayor Bring stated basically what we are doing right now is warning and letting go for right now unless it is excessive.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

Bob Ebenschweller, 362 Cove Beach stated I got two things and one of them, I probably know the answer to. The other one is a little bit shaky, so might want to talk in private. He continued Thursdays and Fridays my wife works part-time and I prepare dinner and I sit in my front room working on the computer. At 3:30 until after 4:35 the cars fly down the street easily going 20 and perhaps 30 miles over the speed limit because they are shifting gears all the way past my house and I am surprised that Dennis hasn't had some unwanted visitors down his driveway. I get angry and I take it personally, it is 25 mph and the street is a quarter mile and it is pretty well open now because nobody parks there. I understand the problem with Miller Road and they come off the freeway or wherever or out of Ford, you go down Miller and it is kind of tough to get out on Lake Road. You can't use Gayle or Lynne because it is all bumpy and everything. They don't want to go Abbe because they don't want to hit the light. So Cove Beach is the best outlet for some of these people they have discovered. I am wondering if we couldn't from time to time put a car half

way down the street to try nab some guys and maybe the word will get out. Mayor Bring advised I will tell you because I live on Lake Road and I live across the street and I see a police car sitting there a lot. Mr. Ebenschweller stated by the repair shop? Mayor Bring answered exactly and if you put them on the street, they will see them and they aren't going to do it so it doesn't make any difference. But they sit there on a regular basis and monitor the traffic all the time. Mr. Ebenschweller asked is there any indication of how many tickets we give out on that over there. Are they being caught or do they slow down before they get there. Radar doesn't reach all the way down the street does it? Police Chief Campo clarified are you asking for speeding violations on Cove Beach itself? Mr. Ebenschweller answered yes. Police Chief Campo answered probably none, with 2 men on a shift there is really not enough traffic on Cove Beach to justify stationary radar. They do it on Walker Road and probably get a ticket per their 8 hour shift. The people know there is a lot of traffic radar being run over in that area so there is not a lot of people speeding. Mr. Ebenschweller stated it is obvious that they know about the park so they go slow through there, but they turn the corner and they are gone. Police Chief Campo stated I will mention it to the guys to keep a little more of an eye on that street. Mr. Ebenschweller stated you know I have a little woodshop and I could build a little replica of a speed cam and put a light in it and put it on my tree lawn and push a button on it and have the lights flash on and when these guys come down there it would scare the bejesus out of them. But then I might get in trouble for doing that. Mayor Bring stated most likely. Police Chief Campo stated I don't think you are allowed to erect traffic control signs that aren't for real. Mr. Ebenschweller stated the other thing that I had was I have some serious concerns about my new neighbor, I got a notification in the mail and I would imagine you did too. Unfortunately, it came when a whole lot of these circular's came through the mail and it got thrown away. So I went out to the Sheriff's Department and asked about it and the Deputy that was behind the counter went over and got it and came out with a felony warrant. I asked can I get a copy of that and the Deputy answered you can go on the Cleveland Court of Appeals or whatever, so I went over there and it is not nearly as clear or easy to read as our own here. All I got was a whole bunch of charges; drug sales and all this other stuff too. So the question I guess is I know he has to

register but are they interviewed in any way when they come in by Law Enforcement? Police Chief Campo answered not by this Police Department – no. That is not one of the things that we are empowered to do is question them. You know they are restored to all their civil rights except for registration. There is really no reason to question somebody like that and it is not in the law that you should or have a reason to. That specific person you are talking about his conviction is prior to any statutes or ordinances that prohibit him. Mr. Ebenschweller stated I spoke to David about it and there is some loophole in it and that is too bad. Police Chief Campo explained it is not really a loophole – it is just that the conviction is prior to the enactment of living by parks, schools and all that kind of stuff. I know Mr. Graves is still looking into it just to be totally for sure, but that is probably the situation there. Mr. Ebenschweller asked don't we have some rights as far as home rule in law enforcement; we control the speed limits. Or is this something only the state? Police Chief Campo advised it has been tested in the courts and they are court decisions, case laws. People have beat the court actions that the cities have filed to make them move if their conviction is prior to the law and they will win. Mr. Ebenschweller stated I am just a little nervous about this. Police Chief Campo advised I have been here for twenty seven years and I have not seen a sex offender do anything across the street from his house. They come from Grafton to Sheffield Lake and expose themselves or they go from Sheffield Lake to Cleveland and grab an unsuspecting female. They don't walk right across the street. I know that doesn't mean much – he is still in your neighborhood, but it is a fact and he could live 1001 feet from the park and does that really make a lot of sense – no it does not. Mayor Bring advised everybody thinks that we don't know what is going on, we all get notified, the Chief got notified, the Law Director got notified and I knew what was going on. We all look into it, but again we can only do what we are allowed to do. Mr. Ebenschweller stated see you are on the inside and I don't know what we can do and we can't do. Mayor Bring stated you get notified right away, we have had the letters and sent out to certain people and they have had to move. David is the Prosecutor and he has taken care of several of those which a lot of people don't know about that too. But there are ones that there is nothing that we can do about it and this just happens to be one of them. Mr. Ebenschweller stated I can see the

point of not beating somebody to death over it for a mistake, but then when you look and it is mistake after mistake after mistake and you say well does this ever stop. Mayor Bring stated it is like drunk driving, speeding down the road and running through red lights, it is everything else. You see people that are repeat offenders and if they do again, then they get caught. We can't arrest someone for running through 16 red lights and yes, this is a completely different thing and I know none of us are happy about it and we have had numerous discussions about it because Leanne was sitting up there when we had it. We spent a ton of time on this and nobody is happy about this stuff, but when they throw them back into society they have their rights too. That is just the way the law reads. Mr. Ebenschweller stated restore all civil rights. Mayor Bring stated we just saw where a gentleman shot a pizza delivery guy who had been in prison 4 times and he is back out and he did something but he was allowed to come back out. Chairperson Stark stated this is sort of something with what Bob is talking about. I know the state forbids us because they are grandfathered in but can we sort of make an ordinance somehow in the city of controlling it more from like the person who rented that house to him is not even in this city. Right, it is an out of city or even out of state person? Mayor Bring answered, I don't know, I have heard that, but I am not sure. Chairperson Stark continued could we back-door it and go through an ordinance to say "we will not allow you to rent to – you know since we have that nuisance law". Is there a way to sort of do that? Mayor Bring answered, I don't know, if the guy is not doing anything wrong and not committing a crime, then you are putting pressure on a landlord that is renting for a person that came out of rehabilitation and is now put back in society you are going to get sued. Mr. Ebenschweller stated I looked that up and (unable to translate – voice fading in and out). Chairperson Stark stated the house is beautiful, they fixed it up and it is a gorgeous house and anybody would want to move into that place. It is a beautiful place and it is right there in a nice location. I just didn't know if we could? Mayor Bring stated the gentleman lived in Sheffield Lake for years and years and he moved to Florida about 4 or 5 years ago and that is where he resides when he comes up here and he does the maintenance on his property. He was just up here 2 weeks ago because I saw him in Lowe's, I just know who the guy is. Chairperson Stark stated it was just a thought and we can't really do

anything when the state ties our hands, but is there another way that we can go at the problem to look at it. Police Chief Campo stated that is a Law Director question.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Cizl/Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 7:21 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

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 December 3, 2014.

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Alan Smith