

**Minutes of the Safety Committee  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
January 6, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, January 6, 2016. Chairman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

Attending: Council person Gee

\*Motion by Cizl/Second by Stark to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

***Reports from Safety Forces:***

***Police Chief Campo*** – Police Chief Campo reported I have 2 Dispatchers working on our annual report and that for sure should be done by next month's meeting. It is going to be a little different, it is not going to have all the colored cartoons and everything with it this year that the previous years have had. I told them not to worry about that, just the stats are the important part and that should be done here soon. We have Vasu who is going to replace our radio tower out back here that the Police and Fire and Service Departments will be using. That should be starting within the week I would imagine, they are waiting for the parts to come in. Our new world system, we still can't make connection because they tell me when the wind blew it blew that microwave receiver out of alignment with wherever it is sent from in Elyria and we lost signal. So that needs to get done. Just late today I got a call from the Avon Lake Chief and Avon Lake and Avon Police Departments want to go to a digital radio system and want us to go on board with them. We are going to meet Friday and I will get all the information on why and what they want to do but that would be an extensive undertaking and probably cost a lot of money. What they are saying though is if we don't go on board then they can't talk to us. Well we already can't talk to Avon since they went on their own channel, there is other off channels that you can go to to communicate on. I will have more to report on that at the next

meeting with what the other departments want to do. No word on our cruiser that is on order but the graphics company did call me and ask me what numbers we wanted on the car so evidently they have been contacted with a probable build date for the car. Councilperson Stark stated congratulations on yet another year of no homicides, we made the paper. Another good year in the city for that at least.

**Fire Chief's report** – Fire Chief Card reported I gave the only maintenance thing that we had last month. I didn't think I should print out an empty sheet so I just gave you the only one we had. S72 has got what I believe is a warranty issue, it has got the engine light on and we are sending it over here to Avon tomorrow to have them check it out. If it is something that requires a lift they can't do it so we are going to have to probably take it back out to Bedford if it needs to go on a lift. We will be finding that out tomorrow. Last year our calls were totaled at 978 calls and in the month of December we did have a house fire on December 17<sup>th</sup> on Pembridge on the west side. Our guys made a good stop, the kitchen so going pretty good and they got in there and got it knocked down pretty quick. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of this year we had a lady, we almost had a big water incident. She was at the Bed & Breakfast up there and she walked down on their dock or whatever they had behind their house with her coffee and apparently it was icy and she went right into the water. The waves that day were 4 or 5 footers and they kept dragging her out, she would get almost in and it would drag her back out. Before we got there her husband was lucky enough to tie some sheets together and get her out of the water but luckily that worked out. We did almost have a water incident. I am still working on the AFG grant and I should have my annual report done by February as well. Our list for hiring people, we had 2 on it and the one I wanted to hire I contacted and was talking to him then he got hired by Broadview Heights I believe. The one guy that is left on there, he is a good guy and I would like to get him but he is also on Avon's list and they are going through their hiring process right now. I don't know where that is going to play out so if they actually do hire him this month and we may have to put on another test to hire the one more person. Council person Stark stated so we could speed this process up to I don't know beat Avon to this guy, could we possibly? Fire Chief Card answered well the problem with that is if just say we did hire him and then he gets hired but he would probably go to Avon and then I would waste money on bunker gear and stuff like that. So I don't want to do that, I would rather wait and see if they hire him or not and then call him. I talked to their Chief and they are supposed to be doing their interview process this month so I should know by next meeting. Councilman Cizl asked the base salary in Avon higher than the base salary for

Police and Fire I would assume? Fire Chief Card answered yes. Councilperson Stark asked so how far off are we on our base pay considered to some of the other cities? Fire Chief Card answered I would have to look I couldn't answer that question without looking. Councilperson Stark asked is it quite a bit, like not even a competitive field? Mayor Bring answered we are competitive. Fire Chief Card concurred we are competitive but they are higher as far as base pay goes. Councilperson Stark stated I didn't know if it was something we should look at down the road. Fire Chief Card advised our guys have to work a lot of overtime to make what other cities make without working so much overtime but then the overtime is not available in those other cities because they have more manpower. **Mayor Bring** stated as Mr. Campo was talking about the radios, we had gone from analytical to narrowband which was recently as it was a governmental mandate so we had to buy all new radios for that. On this digital, I don't know if these new radios accept that or not. So it is definitely a factor in this and considering we just did this, I think it is less than a year now. So we are not going to jump into anything else for that. Avon is doing very well as far as income and what they are doing over there and we definitely can't compete against them and Avon Lake has always done very well too but we are not going to spend money needlessly just because they want to do this stuff. So we have to be very careful in how we proceed with that. Just like you were talking about being fair as far as the entry level but Sheffield attracts people and there is other communities around here that are very similar to what we are so there is no sense in like if the people in Avon are going to hire them then let them go to Avon and then we will find somebody else. We have 2 – 4 man crews and we are in 1 – 3 man crew so we would like to fill that other position out to have all 4 man crews and I think that has cut down on our overtime pretty well hasn't it? Fire Chief Card answered yes. Mayor Bring continued so in the long run it would save money. It is actually better for vacations and then when the guys go out on T66 usually goes with a 4 man crew but they can't do it with a 3 man crew and it makes things a little bit safer too. We will be looking to fill that position. I know when we go to new world we may lose 1 or 2 part-timers over there in the Police Department but we don't know yet so we may end up getting a couple of people over there and so how that all works out. That new world computer system is pretty stuff and there is a couple of the guys that don't seem to be too favorable about that. We will see how it goes and play it by ear. Just a couple of other things, we have been going out in the Police Department for parking on the tree lawns and yards. It is basically a safety issue but it is through the Police Department, so if you guys get

any phone calls about us. All we are doing is warning people right now but the parking on lawns was in effect 3-14-95 so this is nothing new. Police Chief Campo advised they estimated today that there was probably going to be 100 violations. The guys made up a copy of warning notices with the ordinance on it and we were putting them on cars all today. Mayor Bring advised so if anyone calls. The other ordinance that we had passed about the “no parking” in morning hours was passed on 9-26-2013 so that is coming up on 3 years so people have had plenty of time but we are still warning them but the warnings will go away here shortly and we will start ticketing people. The problem is that we let it go for a while and then we got new people moving in possibly renters or whatever and they are coming from the Lorain side and they do that all the time over there and they are doing the same process here and we are not going to allow it. Nobody else around here allows that either. He continued I don’t really usually respond to this but there has been some stuff on one of the community forums about Community Road about high speed and things of that sort. I will flat out tell you that the reason that was opened up is that when I became Mayor one of the Policeman to me and asked me if I could open that up because they had had numerous times when the Police are over there chasing someone they knew they could run down that road and get away because it was blocked off and the Police had to go all the way around. I also asked Fire Chief Card about that and he said honestly if there is an emergency we have to drive all the way around. Then I went to the Service Department and they told in the winter time for plowing they would have to back their truck all the way up in order to plow so that access is truly not a road and yes it was not designed to be a road but it is an access and that is all it is and it is going to remain open whether they like it or not. We have had 0 accidents down there despite from everything they have said. We can’t even figure out if there has ever been anything down there. We are not going to change the way it is and that is just the end of it right there. I will doing a state of the city and I will be addressing some other things that we are trying to do to make the city safer and everything else. I think the Police and Fire Departments right now are doing some really, really good jobs and I just want to commend them for everything they are doing. I think that some of the cameras that we set up have helped out, the new cars have worked out very well. I just saw the ambulance go by with T66 and those are working out well, we don’t have to worry about getting broke down now. Things are getting much better and we want to keep it that way. We appreciate the support of Council for being a part of this. Chairman Wtulich asked on the new world, you said we may lose a couple

part-timers that can't grasp the computer programming. Mayor Bring advised it is difficult and a couple of them right now have a little bit of a hard time doing the computer system now and the new world is definitely a challenge. They have retired before so we will see what they want now. Some people talk about a lot of things and then they change their minds when they find out it is as bad as they think it is. It is like anything you do, once you do it a few times it becomes easier and easier and I would hope that is the case. I know my son was in the Village over there when he first did it he said it was extremely frustrating, we had several phone calls from Elyria Police Department and Lorain Police Department and the Dispatcher said it was a pain in the butt but I think everything has calmed down now. You know once they start using it but hopefully we will see. Councilman Cizl stated you said that we may lose some Policemen. Mayor Bring advised part-timers. Councilman Cizl stated if they can't handle the technology, are they saying I'm fed up I'm going out or as a city are we saying you can't handle it, your out of here? Mayor Bring stated oh no, I am just saying them saying they don't want to deal with it. Councilman Cizl stated that is just frustration, teachers say that all the time. Mayor Bring stated as we get a little older Mark we don't tend take things in and just get frustrated. They are doing this because they enjoy doing something part-time, it is like they need to do the job. It has nothing to do with us. They have to sit there and do it over and over again and they get frustrated. Just recently they have those new commissions out there in Cleveland, when something happens they have a Board of Commissions now that oversees everything into that stuff. Well Mr. Campo just got an email last week or was it this week. Police Chief Campo advised the training and the requirements in Ohio are going to be for 2016 – 10 times the hours they are now. New Officers will have to go through an internship on your department. Review boards that you are going to have to have in place, so your policies will have to be accepted by the State Review Board and it is just a ridiculous amount of things that they want to pass and probably will pass that Police Departments are going to have to do. All uses of any resisting arrest, use of force – all have to be reviewed by the State and reported to the State. It is really getting ridiculous kind of. Councilman Cizl stated and I am sure the State is going to pay us for all that too. Mayor Bring stated that is the problem though again they keep making all these mandates and the people in our community and a lot of other communities can't afford to keep dunning out money. They are tapped out and the State and the government has to start realizing this and it is very frustrating. Every time there is an incident you have to have a Board of Commissions, who is going to be on these Board of

Commissions? Is the State just going to end up taking over all the Police Departments, is that what they are shooting for? It is frustrating. Councilperson Stark asked don't this all come from the DOJ that they enforcing this because of what went on in Cleveland? Now the DOJ is pretty much involved telling the State this is what you have to do? But I thought that was mostly to be just Cleveland and the big cities, I didn't think it would they would go after the small ones. Police Chief Campo advised Cleveland's was specific from the DOJ. This is from the State Attorney General, all the revisions for the State of Ohio across the state for all Police Departments. Mayor Bring advised tremendous amount more paperwork and more time, it is just like we just talked about ok now you got to do a police report and if you don't do it detailed are they going to come back on these guys and then you are going to end up losing good Policemen because they are going to get frustrated and they are not going to do it. It is tough enough as it is, going out and doing and making decisions and doing what you have to do. If you just saw the other day in Oberlin there is 3 teens, I think they were 13, 14 and 15 and they had 5 separate guns and they were all fake guns but you couldn't tell if those were real or not. Fortunately they handled that situation but again that could have got real ugly. It is not the fault of the Police Department that these kids are running around with these guns and taking the orange stickers off of them. Parents have got to step up to the plate and start watching their kids and realizing what goes on and it is not the Police Departments fault – it is parenting, whether it be one person that is parenting or both persons that are parenting. These kids can't go out and do this stuff.

**NEW BUSINESS: None.**

**OLD BUSINESS: None.**

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee,  
\*Motion by Stark/Second by Cizl to adjourn at 7:19 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  
*Bill Wtulich, Jr*

---

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 January 6, 2016.

---

COUNCIL PRO TEM

*Alan Smith*