

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
March 2, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, March 2, 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: Councilperson Gee

*Motion by Cizl/Second by Stark to accept the minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief Campo – Police Chief Campo reported our new car comes in Friday. They started building it on the 29th and they are delivering it Friday and that will be put on the road and 2 Officers are assigned to it. We are looking into going to digital on all our radios along with Avon and Avon Lake and are putting together a grant proposal to apply for it regionally. Sooner or later everybody is going to be on digital and we are going to need to do that to be able to talk to any other departments and also it will greatly improve communications. I will report back on that as that goes. I talked in the past about the Governor's committee for Ohio Collaborative regarding the Governor's rules on use of force policies and the other associated things that we have to meet. We have requested a peer person who is actually one of 6 Police Chief's that was on the committee to create this new set of rules and he is going to work with us to be able to meet these policies and get approved by the Governor's Office. He currently has all of our policies in his possession and is reviewing them and he has promised to make this as painless as possible for us. We are continuing new world training. We have had 911 in and New World themselves in doing some training and that is moving along. Other departments that are already actively using it are still having issues with it not working. So the departments are not using it yet are slowing down before we do go to it to wait until those bugs are worked out. So we are thinking

the end of April we will be completely on new world. I wanted to report and we have given this to the media and so has other departments, the scams that are going around are more than ever. People are getting phone calls and each and every time it is somebody with a heavy accent. People saying they are from the IRS, Treasury Department, computer repair people, social security, everything from you have won the lottery to we are sending you a new car to we are going to arrest you if you don't pay the IRS. We have actually had one elderly male in town who has sent so far as we can figure probably \$15,000.00 in numerous wire transfers to Jamaica to these scammers. We have got his family involved and we have got Adult Protective Services along with the banks involved and we are trying to stop this man from doing this. He is so intent on winning this lottery that he is opening accounts in different banks trying to sneak around us and his family to send more money. It is ashamed, everything that we have seen he is sending his money to Jamaica. So we want the public to know that no one is calling demanding money for the IRS or computer repair or anything like that. I know no one has approached me officially on this but I keep hearing about this about why aren't the Police doing anything on Community Road, I went back 15 years today and in 15 years there has been 0 injury accidents on Community Road and only 3 non-injury. I think probably if I look farther those 3 non-injury accidents were probably somebody backing out of a driveway and bumping a parked car. So just to kind of put that to rest or not.

Fire Chief's report – Fire Chief Card reported I don't have much, I will tell you about the training. I got Lieutenant Mariner who is going to be going to Fire Instructor's school in May and then when he finishes Fire Instructor school he is going to do a bridge class to become an EMS Instructor as well. So we will finally have an EMS Instructor on our department. Starcovic is going to start his dive training, so he is going to do basic dive which starts next week. Then in May, Starcovic and Bowman will be doing advanced dive. That is pretty much all the dive stuff I am going to do as far as sending people to schools this year. The classes aren't expensive, it is just the overtime that it costs to send them to the classes because they are pretty much gone all day long diving and training. Then next year we will have Starcovic and Bowman continue their dive training because there is like 6 different classes they have to take before they can actually dive for the Lorain County Dive Team. I will get Hollingshead started as well and like I said the classes aren't expensive but the overtime is to get them through all these classes but I think the investment is worth it since we live on the lake. We are members of the Lorain County Dive Team but we need to have divers here to

at least get started while the Dive Team is on their way in so that is what we are building on. Vasu came out today and they have finally connected our antenna at the voter and the simulcast is all hooked up. However it is not going to be operational until they get all of the other stuff hooked up in Avon Lake and Avon. So ours is hooked up and now we are just waiting for the other stuff. Our new world, we still aren't using it either. They told us at the Lorain County Fire Chief's meeting that it should be April-ish but they have been telling us that pretty much every month as every month passes. It keeps moving and we will see when it happens. Chairman Wtulich asked the Vasu communications, what is that for again? Fire Chief Card advised that new tower that we just put in, the county put a voter up there which boost our portable radio traffic because remember I told you we have been having lots of trouble with communications on fire grounds or going in and out of buildings. This is hopefully going to help with that. However as far as going in the buildings we may still need to use our mobile repeaters that we put in our trucks last year. So we are going to be testing all this as soon as it gets working. So the county paid for this stuff I was just talking about that is on the tower. It somehow, the voter picks up the signal and the simulcast puts it through that microwave that is up there and sends it dispatch and I guess it does it in reverse as well. Chairman Wtulich asked if we have an incident where we need to go in the water, we have Lorain County Dive Team that comes out then and does that? Fire Chief Card answered well we have a couple of divers too. Right now Dave Novak is the only one that has done the swim test and he trains with the Dive Team all the time, so we have 1 diver that is actually on the Team. We have other divers but they haven't been keeping up on that training. We can call Lorain County Dive Team and Avon Lake has divers and Avon had divers but we need to have our divers ready to go as well. It is going to take I am going to say about 2 years to get these guys up to the training because they have to get to their advance emergency diver class and they have to take a bunch of classes before that; dry suit diver, full face mask diving and it just takes a while to get it done. Like I said I can't blow my whole overtime budget on just them because it takes at least 2 or 3 days for each of them going for probably gone for 8 hours. Just got to manage it to get it done. Chairman Wtulich stated I guess my question is so right now if they need to go in the water for something would only 1 guy be certified to go in or how does that work? Fire Chief Card answered well I have Thad and Scott who have dove on things but if the Lorain County Dive Team is on the scene they won't be able to dive. But if they are on the scene then they would diving but if somebody was in the water those guys

would go in until the Dive Team showed up. We would also be calling Avon Lake for their divers as well. But as far as somebody that is certified for the Dive Team, I only have 1 right now.

Mayor Bring stated just a couple of little things, we would probably be actively looking at adding a few more cameras specifically by Shoreway, the back side and some other places over there. So I will probably be bringing another TV inside the dispatch over there. The room over there where the Water Department is, we made a Conference Room but I am also going to use that room as a training room and we are probably going to put a flat screen TV in there and we will be able to do training for the Service and Water Department guys just to keep everybody up. That room can also be used for training on other parts of the city if somebody wanted to go in there. We are going to use that as a multi-use room. If you get a chance take a look over there and see what we did over there. We are almost completely finished but it is a lot nicer then it was. So that room will be used quite extensively. Police Chief Campo advised we are getting a free body camera with the new cruiser. The camera system in it they have a special going on right now where they are giving you a free body camera so I will assign that to an Officer and see how it works out and maybe talk about it in the future as getting some more of them. We will that here Friday with the car. Mayor Bring continued we are trying to, just like with the digital and everything else we need to comply with everybody else and we have to be careful with funding obviously but we don't want to be the last ones all the time to do everything and Tony has been working actively with Avon and Avon Lake with the new equipment and stuff. The last thing that I want is for any of our guys to not be able to hear each other or communicate with other cities. Basically that is a huge safety issue and Mr. Card and I talked about it and Tony and I have talked about it, we need to communicate and since we got away from narrowband it has been kind of a nightmare because every time we tried to do something we end with more equipment and more of this and more of that but I guess eventually we will figure this all out but it is just not us it is everybody that is trying to get used to this stuff. But we do want to keep our guys safe and that is the whole point of this, it is not just to buy equipment, it is not just to play around with new radios and do those things as it is all very important stuff and we have to keep these upgrades going. It seems like this is the direction everybody is going in and we also want to comply with this. The thing with the cameras is I think what we have done this past couple of years has helped us tremendously and it just stops a lot of the petty little nonsense. So I think for the amount of money that we spend on that I think

that is going to be a very useful product and I want to add a few more to that especially around the shopping center and stuff. Chairman Wtulich asked are we going to look to add another cruiser this year? Mayor Bring answered yes. Police Chief Campo added I wanted to clarify on the digital radio because the last 2 or 3 years we could switch on our car radios and talk to any department anywhere if their frequency so put in our radio's. We could talk to the Coast Guard and Lorain and Elyria and Avon and Sheffield Lake. Well slowly everybody is switching to digital because when you upgrade as things get old to the better equipment which is digital and when we narrow banded it cut down on your range of frequencies. Digital radio has fixed that problem so slowly everybody is going to digital and that is each time another department does we can't talk to them anymore. So if your in Lorain looking for a suspect and things go wrong you can't call for help. That is not really that good, we can't even talk to Sheffield Village anymore. We can talk to pretty much Avon Lake and that is it and they are going to go digital. Avon already has and we pay Vasu a monthly rent now for our repeater and once we go to digital with Avon and Avon Lake, Avon is offering to buy a repeater and put it on their water tower and let us use it at no cost. So that will save \$270.00 a month that we would have to pay forever and have been paying for probably 20 years. There may be an initial cost though if we don't get the grant and Pat is going to be involved and we are going to put that grant application together and do it as a regional thing, the 3 cities. Chairman Wtulich stated it is an absolute necessity, you have to be able to talk with the other cities around. Mayor Bring advised it is just like the new tower we put up which is 100% better than the other one. We didn't even realize how bad the other one was until we put this up, the wind blew the other day and I went out there as we had 35 or 40 mile an hour winds easily and I went up there standing out there looking and that tower was not even moving at all. Before that the other one moved all the time and then we keep adding equipment to this and that is a necessity but yes sometimes it is a price of doing business. Ultimately the fact is that we want to keep everybody in our Safety Forces safe and communicating and that is what it is all about. That body cam, we will take a look at that but that is something we may use and we may not use but if they are going to give that to us we will let one of the Officers use it and see how it works. It is just another tool for the Officers to use as it protects them. They do want to be protected especially when they approach somebody with everything that is going on all over the place right now. These guys can't take anything for granted, it doesn't matter if you are in a little town or Village or whatever there is a lot of bad things going on and the

guys need as much as they possibly can to make sure that they are safe. Councilman Cizl stated I read in the paper today about Dispatchers, that other cities are complaining about Dispatchers – not having them and that the county is taking Dispatchers and trying to control it. Are we looking at going that direction? Mayor Bring stated the Dispatchers that we have are a huge benefit to the city, it is no different than our Police Department. I call them customers because we have a lot of repeat customers in our Police Department and they get to know who these people are and our own Dispatchers know who they are so when they get a call and they know who this person is they kind of know the history and it makes it nice when the Officer who it is. If you have somebody on the outside, say if the county would be handling this they have no idea who this is in our city. It makes it at least a little bit more difficult for the Police Officer to go on a domestic or whatever if they don't know the full history of these people. Police Chief Campo added even more importantly is the fact that when you read in the paper that Lorain, Elyria or whoever is going to or talking about a regional Dispatch you have got to remember that they 2 Dispatchers on duty and they have a lady at the Record Room window and they have another person filing. Avon Lake has 2 Dispatchers on duty, one of them works the Records Room window and they have an Administrative Secretary in the back who just files reports. Avon has the same thing and then when they put somebody in their jail, they have somebody on station who is the monitor of the jail so they can eliminate. Their Dispatchers do nothing but answer the phone and dispatch cars, somebody else is answering the Record Room, watching the jail, filing reports – they are not getting rid of those civilian employees. They are only getting rid of the ones that answering the phone and dispatching the cars. Our Dispatchers do all of the above; file reports, watch the jail. If you put somebody in jail you have to have somebody in that building watching those cameras that is state law. They go to the window and they process reports at the window for people, they take complaints on station – we could not ever eliminate our Dispatch. Mayor Bring stated plus we would have to shut down the jail. Police Chief Campo added that is something else that you got to consider when you read that, they are just getting rid of the phone answerers, not the Record Room and the Secretaries and all that other stuff. Councilman Cizl stated I would think a lot of our calls are local calls, not county calls and I am thinking to keep the local control I am glad to hear that. Police Chief Campo concurred these departments want to get rid of their phone answerers and just have somebody at the county answering their phones but they are still going to have civilian employees at the Record Room

window and processing reports and Secretaries. Mayor Bring stated we went through the same thing with a bunch of cuts and everything else and now Lorain and Elyria are feeling the same effects, it took them a little bit longer. It is really unfortunate and they are looking to try to save money and that is one way of doing it. In our case it is something that we looked at too but ultimately I don't think would have worked. I think that we are much better off. They do a very good job over there and they have a lot of responsibilities. Fire Chief Card stated I was just going to say that I don't know how Lorain County 911 would be able to handle that much of a work load because they can't handle what they are doing right now. Mayor Bring stated that is true. Fire Chief Card stated all of the 5 full-time Fire Chief's in Lorain County besides the 2 bigger cities; North Ridgeville, Avon, Avon Lake, Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village – all of us are very dissatisfied with them. We are not getting the level of service that we were told we were going to get when we went to them. They mess up times all the time, they don't answer you, they dispatch the wrong call to the wrong city. It is almost as if nobody cares because they do get the complaints, pretty much as soon as the Fire Chief gets back to the station whether it is me or the other ones we are calling and talking to whoever is in charge there and trying to find out what is going on. We get a bunch of wind blown at us and then we never hear anything else about it. Our Police Dispatchers here do an excellent job and the only reason why we went that way is because we wanted to have that central dispatch for Fire because it does work really well when it is working because we are all under the same dispatch and we are communicating together but we are just not getting what we were told we were going to get from them. I don't see how they could take Elyria and Lorain on, they are having a hard enough time managing the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Departments they are dealing with. Now they are going to talk about taking on these cities that have how many thousands of calls in a year. I just don't see it happening unless they are planning on doing a mass hire which we can't even get them to hire 2 people to do fire dispatch.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee,

*Motion by Cizl/Second by Stark to adjourn at 7:23 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 March 2, 2016.

COUNCIL PRO TEM

Alan Smith