

**Minutes of the Safety Committee  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
February 1, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, February 1, 2017. Chairman Wtulich called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

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

\*Motion by Cizl/Second by Stark to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2017 meeting with any corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE: None.**

**PRESENTATIONS: None.**

***Reports from Safety Forces:***

***Police Chief Campo*** – Police Chief Campo reported I believe everybody has the 2016 Annual report, the numbers pretty much stay the same or close to the same for the last three years. Our new Dispatcher, Cody Shinsky started his first shift yesterday evening and I am hoping 4 weeks of training and he will be on his own. We received our 2016 training reimbursement from the Attorney General's Office today for 2800 hours, I report to them how many hours of training our guys get each year and they reimburse us like \$220.00 per Officer if we meet their training requirements which of course we did. So, that check came in today. I have given our Patrolman Kory the assignment of code enforcement Officer and I have him on steady days looking for junk vehicles and vehicles on lawns and other property maintenance issues that he is to report to the Building Department and he is pretty busy with those issues; a lot of violations. We had 2 fatal overdoses in the city over the past weekend, 2 young men. We had 23 overdoses last year and we will probably double that this year. I myself didn't even realize how big this issue of heroin is, people are dropping like flies. We are making an effort to try to find drugs/paraphernalia at the scenes of these overdoses, recent tests are taking almost 3 months the crime lab is so busy, where you would get a test back in the past in a week or two as there are so many drugs being submitted there. We wait for the test results and 3 months later we charge somebody. Recent tests tested positive for fentanyl only, there was no heroin in it at all, just straight fentanyl. So, these people don't even know what they are buying.

***Fire Chief's report*** – Fire Chief Card reported in the month of January we had 123 calls, two of them were structure fires and as the Police Chief noted we had some overdoses. We have had 5 of them so far, this year and 2 of them were deaths. As he mentioned the fentanyl, they are mixing that stuff with fentanyl or carfentanil; fentanyl is 1000 times stronger than heroin and carfentanil is 10,000 times stronger. Carfentanil is actually a large animal drug that they put them under with when they are working on them. That just kills people, they will get their

normal dose that they think is heroin and take it and it kills them right there. In that AFG grant that we were awarded last year, I had \$9344.00 left over so I used that to purchase a new redpack and 2 hour bottles to go with that and another thermal imaging camera. We just started getting delivery of that stuff today. Engine 63, we had some problems with that over the weekend it wasn't holding air so it wouldn't release the brakes so we weren't able to move it and we were already on scene. We did get it back to the station and we had to have Williams come out and work on it at the station today. I don't have a price on it yet, but that is the only vehicle issue that we had in January so that is why I didn't have anything for you. They found that it was the governor on the air compressor that pumps up the air system and wasn't allowing the tanks to fill. If you read my annual report about Engine 63, I did get a quote for that which I just got through email before I came over and I am going to get some more quotes. The quote I got from Williams was \$84,285.00 to have it refurbished and that is the mechanical part of it. To have it painted, you are probably looking at another \$25,000.00. I also started getting quotes to replace S71 which is 9 years old now, we should start having a plan to replace it so we don't get in the same situation as we were with the other squads when they are 15 years old and putting thousands of dollars into it. I am just starting to get those and will be working with the Mayor on that and bring you guys up to date. ,I also got a billing report from last year from the billing company and it says last year we billed out \$273,249.00 and I haven't talked to Tammy yet because I just got these too before I came over here. So, I don't know how much we actually brought in but that is how much we billed out. Chairman Wtulich asked billed out for what? Fire Chief Card answered squads/ems calls. When we go on an ems call we bill their insurance, the resident's insurance – we do not bill the resident themselves, we bill they're insurance. If it is a non-resident then we bill their insurance and the person as well. Chairman Wtulich asked what do you guys use the thermal imaging camera for? Fire Chief Card answered that allows us to see through the smoke. If it is a black smoke filled room, we can look in the camera and can see all the furniture, see a person lying there and can also see where the fire is and where we need to go quicker. Mayor Bring stated trust me, it works because I went in for the training and they were talking to me about all this stuff and I had no clue what they were talking about because I couldn't see but they did, it is pretty amazing. Chairman Wtulich asked how many of those do we have, those two? Fire Chief Card answered we have two right now, one of those is a big one that they first came out with and is kind of cumbersome and heavy. Then I got a smaller one that fits on their gear and they can pull it out and look right through it and let go and it comes right back if you let go of it. So, we just ordered another one of those.

**Mayor Bring** stated both of these gentlemen have just talked to you about what is going on and if you look at these reports, everything that they are doing is costing the city more money. So, we have to try to address this problem, the heroin just like Chief Campo said it is totally out of hand. It is not just our city, it is everywhere, but it is taking more revenue out of our resources that we use for other things. This is taking a tremendous amount of time in the Police Department as well as the Fire Department. For the first time in the Fire Department this year they 1069 calls and I think when Mr. Card went back that is the first time we have ever gone over 1000. So, these related calls with drugs and other things have escalated, so

this shows what our Safety Forces are doing. We are going to have to deal with that, but like I said this is costing more revenue. I would hope that the State of Ohio is starting to realize what is going on and would start looking at programs or what they can do to help cities, counties and municipalities to help address this because something has to happen, something needs to be done. This is almost a weekly basis that we are doing it and not only going to overdoses but they are chasing guys down, they know are drug dealers that are breaking into cars because they need to get their fix. I just want to bring that up because it is very prevalent and we did just catch somebody recently over the weekend, breaking into cars for the purpose of that too. Our guys are doing such a good job, but like I said it is almost full-time chasing these people around right now. Chairman Wtulich asked do you think if we have like a town hall meeting or something like that? Mayor Bring answered it probably wouldn't be a bad idea. I talked to David Graves about that, about bringing LCADA in. I am actually going to one of their facilities on Friday at 10 o'clock and talk to them and see if it we can't get something together here and maybe do something like that. Maybe bring a few people in and maybe get the residents in and see what their thoughts are too, but it would nice if we could get some people to talk about this and be aware of it. You know with what happened over the weekend, the one gentleman was his second time and the family knows this and the unfortunate thing is as a family member you get very close to a person and you almost turn a blind eye to it because you don't really think that kind of thing can happen to a child or even your best friend. These kids are seeing this and still doing it, I just don't get it, but they are watching their friends die and yet they still do this. It is just tragic that they continue doing it, we talk about it all the time and I just don't know. That probably isn't a bad idea and I would like to do something like that. Maybe we can see if we can get some people in here. Chairman Wtulich advised anything I can do to help with that, I would be interested too. I lost one of my best friend's recently to it. Mayor Bring advised I had somebody that worked with me for almost 15 years, went into 56 days and came out and three days later he was dead. He had a 4-year degree in economics, an intelligent person and I talked to him about it and he still did it so I don't know. I don't know what the answer is but it is taking over a lot of these young life's. It is destroying a lot of people, it is very unfortunate. Councilperson Stark asked do we have a joint task force that we are working with any of our cities with this whole issue with the heroin in the schools, are we working with the other departments? Police Chief Campo advised we work mainly with the County's Drug Task Force, they are in Sheffield Lake a lot. They were here Monday, we have leads on the source of one of the heroin dealers of one of the deaths. They get search warrants and we confiscate all the phones that we can at these scenes. They have countywide jurisdiction and it is not really ever that the dealer is in this city. So, we bring them in and they get search warrants and they go through the phones, they try to do what they can. There has only been a couple dealers that have been charged with the deaths and I think those were in Elyria. Elyria has a large narcotic unit, they have that luxury where they can just 6 or 8 guys follow up on drug stuff all day. Councilperson Stark stated could we, is there any way we could take in the future, possibly about putting some money aside or maybe budgeting so maybe we could start doing undercover Officers in this city. I know we have Detectives. Police Chief Campo answered it

wouldn't really be productive in our city. Councilperson Stark stated so we are having more coming from the west side. Police Chief Campo explained they are going to Lorain or the dealers are meeting a lot of times, the addicted person in our city and that is hard. You can watch all the parking lots and never see it and see it happen. Mayor Bring advised like we have always talked about, we don't have a lot of dealers, we have a lot of users which is the case in a lot of cities. Police Chief Campo advised the drug unit could spend all day long, the County Drug Unit at county jail interviewing people who are in there on F5/heroin possession charges and they will all rat somebody out to stay out of jail. They can make buys off these dealers all day long and it is still not going to curtail the problem. You take out 5 and there is 10 more that take their place. I think the federal government and it may sound silly, but they need to stop this stuff at the borders, poppy fields are some countries main crop supply. That is where it is at and it has to start there. Mayor Bring stated it seems like it is so simple for these people, it is not even kids anymore, we have had older adults, all ages, but it just seems like it is so easy for them to get. It is like going to buy a 12-pack of beer and like the Chief said it is just not heroin, it is fentanyl and they are finding all kinds of stuff. I don't understand it. Police Chief Campo advised the local police can bust people all they want with small amounts but when you have tons coming in, you are not going to make a dent. Councilperson Stark stated would it hurt to look at and I don't know, I think it is an economic issue, a lot of it is economics, but maybe and I know that with the kids I know that if we keep them in sports and stuff sometimes that helps keep them out of trouble. If there was something that we could maybe do for the adults, I don't know just throwing it out there. If we had some type of community, if they had something, maybe if they felt they were volunteering and being productive then maybe keep them out of trouble. Police Chief Campo stated, all of the departments in the county right now are participating in a program, if somebody walks into your lobby and says I am a heroin addict and I need help. They have a network of rehab centers that they will find this person a bed and we can call them 24/7. Nobody is walking in any lobbies asking for help. Mayor Bring advised when you talk about sports, a lot of these athletes if they injure their leg or tear an ankle, whatever and they go to the hospital or doctor and they prescribe medication for them and a lot of that is why it happens to these people. That is another unfortunate thing is that the doctors are doing their job of trying to help and keep the pain down, but some of these kids are very addicted to anything, they take the pills and the next you know that is what they are thriving on and they try to get more of that stuff. That is what creates a lot of the problem.

**NEW BUSINESS: None./OLD BUSINESS: None./CITIZENS COMMENTARY: None.**  
**MEETING ADJOURNED:** With no further business before this committee, \*Motion by Cizl/Second by Wtulich to adjourn at 7:18 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

*Bill Wtulich, Jr*

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*

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 February 1, 2017.