

Minutes of the Safety Committee

City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio

June 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday June 7, 2023. Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Stark, Gee, Kovach, Mayor Bring, Fire Chief Novak, Police Chief Kory.

Excused: None.

Attending: None.

MINUTES:

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Chief Kory reports for the month of May we had 765 calls logged.

We have 22 open cases right now. I included a schedule because I spoke last month about my concerns on the budget. We have written 190 traffic tickets YTD. Member gee asks I noticed there were 23 animal complaints, is that mainly loose dogs? Chief Kory replies yes. We had one today that took myself, the fire dept., Kelsey and an Avon Lake vet to get out from under a shed. It had a small laceration and had to be taken to the vet. It was the homeowner's dog. We have been working with Mrs. Leftwich and in lieu of citations, we are having them fix their dogs. It is one of the driving factors of them escaping. Member Gee says that is a great idea. Chief Kory says there are a handful that aren't on board and they get citations.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports in May we did 120 calls. To date we have 532 runs total. The new ambulance was delivered on May 10th. The mayor asked our members participate in a driver's maneuverability course because of the size of the new ambulance. The radio was installed today. On May 18th Michigan Rescue Concepts came down and taught the personal watercraft class. We put the jet skis in service on May 29th, but we experienced some problems with the lifting davits. We should get those back in 2-3 weeks. On May 22nd Lieutenant Bowman was invited to take part in basic firefighters training. I asked him to take our new guys. On May 18th we had a structure fire on Richelieu and they did a great job and kept the fire to the room of origin. The next county solar eclipse meeting will be June 22nd and we are going to invite Service Director Hastings to attend. Member Kovach asks when they did the water training on the jet skis, were any of the police officers involved in that? Chief Novak replies Chief Kory participated. Chief Kory states with vacations, etc. I am trying to sparingly use overtime. I am available in an emergency. We can do more down the road. Chief Novak says I called American Fireworks today and let them know about the change at the boat launch with the jet ski cage and they are going to call me back. Chief Kory says OSP just sent a flyer and they are adding an aviation unit in our area

and they offered services for thermal. It would be helpful in an escape and water emergency, etc.

Mayor's report- Mayor Bring reports a few weeks ago we had a dispatcher turn in a complaint to workman's comp. stating the wiring in the dispatch area could cause shock or other harm. She also stated the ceiling tile and ventilation system could collapse and crush somebody. The ventilation system is made out of foam and the ceiling tile is what you see in here. The ceiling tile grid was redone 3-4 months ago. In that case, I told the chief we are going to have worker's comp and a certified electrician go in and if we find any violations, the dispatch area will be shut down immediately. The dispatchers will have to work out of the county until it's rectified. If it is too extensive, they may be working out of there permanently. I was telling the chief how the county is also trying to maybe take over the whole 911 system for all the police depts. I didn't want to do that, but in light of what is going on, I may just do that and let the county handle our 911 system. I believe the same person also called the board of health on another dispatcher saying she was smoking in front of city hall between 4:30-8:30 in the evening and smoke was blowing into city hall. They came from the health dept. and we told them city hall is closed at that time and we have a camera and no one was standing in front of the door. He did a report and that was basically nullified. We have that big parking lot outside and we have a city car out there and one of the officers decided to park about 10in. from the door to get in. He has done it twice and Mr. Hastings had to go in through the passenger side to get in. I told the chief if it happens again, I'm towing the car. That was definitely malicious and I took pictures. The cost so far from what I can determine for the time that we've had the K9, is between \$75,000-100,000. I will get you the exact number and the ongoing cost of overtime to the city for that. We have an officer that was injured almost a year ago and he is coming back June 25th full time no restrictions. The dog park has been vandalized now and the story book trail has been vandalized several times. The chief is doing an investigation now. Last night in ordinance, the committee brought up looking into bringing back parking on the street and golf carts. I've talked to the service dept. and he will write a letter as to why he thinks this is a terrible idea. I have talked to both chiefs and they are writing letters about their concerns and why they don't think that should happen. We had Mr. Shaw, Ward 4 councilman state that there have been no accidents with golf carts in Lorain County and he drives all over and doesn't see the problem. I went to Vermilion because they do allow it and I didn't see one golf cart on the street. I am going to stop at the police station and have them do a report for me to see if there have been any cases. You may not have any golf cart accidents right now, but we have had two people get killed on bicycles in Avon Lake, a number of pedestrians get hit and if these golf carts are allowed down the bike paths, etc. you know there will be problems. Allowing parking on the street will just bring back an absolute disaster. I will do a report on that. I think it is a terrible idea. Member Gee says If I remember right, the reason we did the parking ban at night was because the safety forces needed it. Chief Novak says from a public safety point of view, the parking ban really does work. We have better maneuverability down the street, we aren't passing cars so close so it reduces accidents, we have better apparatus placement if we have a fire and can get closer. People shouldn't park in front of hydrants, but they do. I am for the parking ban. Member Kovach says and with the service dept. it is for snow plowing. Mayor Bring says we did a little study and it saves about a third of the time

plowing the streets. That saves fuel and overtime. Chief Kory says the guys know there is a parking ban 2am-6am and when they glance down a street and see a car, they check it out. We have had instances where that car happened to be a car breaking into a house or business. It does help us focus our patrol activities at night. Chairwoman Stark says if I remember correctly, we have a parking ban, Avon Lake has a parking ban, North Ridgeville and Sheffield Village have one, most of all the cities around us have the same parking ban. It's not just Sheffield Lake. Mayor Bring says the only one around us that doesn't is Lorain and it's a disaster. They recently had issues with the garbage pickup, etc. Member Kovach says that leaves a possibility of leaving an abandoned car, it can be parked there for 24 hours+. Mayor Bring says we had a company that had a towing/repo business and they kept their cars all over the street. They had to find a building to put them in. Chief Kory says you do have a possibility to create a snowball effect and avalanche of problems. With the ban at least we know if it sits there long term. Chairwoman Stark asks is there a possibility we could put cameras on the story book trail? Mayor Bring responds we have them. Chief Kory says we are trying to fix one directly on there. Chairwoman Stark asks do we have a curfew in the city? Mayor Bring replies yes. Chairwoman Stark asks have we citing people for that? Chief Kory replies we haven't had too many problems at night. We are going to start engaging the kids more and hopefully they see us out and about and we can recognize them. We have over 50 cameras in the city. Chairwoman Stark asks to clarify, it's the same dispatcher that complained about the dispatcher room and their coworker? Mayor Bring replies yeah.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Kory says with the solar eclipse coming up, we are expecting over 900,000 people in Lorain County that day. The best point in the world is Avon Lake so everyone is going to flock to the lakefront. The chief and I have a plan of all hands-on deck. I would like to see if you guys have something we could try to setup with the communities. I talked to several community leaders and told them what we expect. I'm trying to see if they will setup locally any type of events, even just gathering points for people. If we don't have set points, I fear we might run into a problem where it is just people everywhere, mass chaos. Member Kovach says I suggest closing the boat launch to cars and allowing only people in there. Member Gee says the community center. Chief Kory says I haven't talked to Shoreway Shopping Center yet, but I think that's the best spot to set something up. My other concern would be porta potties, extra bathrooms. Mayor Bring says and the streets have to remain open and we have to control that. Chief Kory says historically the concern has been the mass exodus. My concern is say there is a squad call and they need to get down Lake to Mercy or down 90 to St. John's, it's not going to happen in a timely matter. Member Gee says with porta potties, if they aren't already booked, I don't know if there are any left for that time frame. Chief Kory says everything is being booked up quick. Chairwoman Stark asks have we spoke to the schools about for safety purposes closing that day? Chief Novak responds there was talk about that, I believe they will. Chairwoman Stark asks have we reached out to the gentleman that bought the bowling alley with the boats, if we could do something with him and take people out on the lake and see? Mayor Bring replies that is something the chiefs will have to discuss. Chief Kory says I did talk to him and I'm sure they will do something for it. Member Gee asks have you reached out to 103rd OVI? Chief Kory says I have not. Chairwoman Stark says this is another reason to keep the parking ban because if people come

the day before, they won't be parking overnight on the street. Chief Kory says that is a good point.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:38 PM. Yeas All.

CLERK OF COMMITTEE AFFIRMATION: This meeting of the City Committee of 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

Brandy Randolph

CHAIRWOMAN

Leanna Stark

I, Brandy Randolph, 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 June 7, 2023.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso