

Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
October 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday October 4, 2023. Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

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

Excused: Police Chief Kory.

Attending: Sergeant Schmidt, citizens.

MINUTES:

*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the September 6, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chairwoman Stark states we did receive something from the police chief yesterday that will be added into the minutes this evening.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Sergeant Schmidt has no report.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports for the month of September we did 107 calls. As of the end of September we are up to 993 runs. Last year we were at 933, we have run an additional 60 calls this year so far. Chief Novak gives break down of the calls. On Sept. 14th we had a fire at Portside Apartments and we called the state fire marshal in to investigate. The circumstances surrounding the fire didn't add up. Engine 61 was taken out to have the pump packing replaced and we got it back today. The cost of that was \$3,480. On Sept. 20th we went over to Forestlawn school and taught the staff CPR. We are planning on having one more community cpr class at the end of October or beginning of November at the community center. On Sept. 23rd we got the annual fire hose testing done. We are continuing to inspect the fire hydrants in the city. Oct. 18th there will be a solar eclipse meeting at 7pm at the Joyce Hanks Community Center. In January 2024, I'm probably going to have a meeting for all the residents and explain what is going to happen during the solar eclipse. I spoke to University Hospital about the first aid station we would like to have at the community center. They are going to do that and probably bring in some beds, IV fluids, etc. We are also going to have a landing zone for a helicopter. ISO will be doing an audit on the fire dept. on Nov. 17th. They come in and look at the hydrants, hoses, ladders, etc. and they use that to develop a score. That score determines what people pay for their house insurance. Lt. Davis removed the jet skis from the boat launch today. They are back at the station but still in use, just on the trailers. We pulled them out for the year because it's starting to get cold and the weather is so unpredictable. Chairwoman Stark says the ambulance, I know we put that on order because it was going to take awhile to get it, is that still out a little bit? Chief Novak replies best case scenario is the end of 24, maybe early 25. Chairwoman Stark asks I assume both police and fire will be out in force on the 31st? Chief Novak responds yes. Member Gee asks the only

reason the jet skis were taken out is because the seasons changing? Chief Novak replies yes. We didn't want anything to freeze on them or damage them.

Mayor's report- Mayor Bring reports the chief and I meet almost every morning and I have him doing a lot more reports so everyone can see what is going on. He gave me a proposal for lease for police cars and we think that's a good idea. Mayor Bring gives details about the car program with following key points. Right now, the only thing available to lease would be Durangos. I don't want to do that and think we should stick with Fords. The Interceptors like we have now are not available until after the 1st of the year. The program costs about \$8,000 more in the end then if we bought them outright, but we could get 2 cars to fill in for the 2 older cars. He says he averages about 30,000 miles on each car. Mayor Bring says each one of the police cars are now going to have a GPS on them. The same person who complained about the boat launch and numerous other things on the internet, made a comment again that was false about a levy. She said I had mentioned we were going to have to have a police levy and that is 100% false. I am having her investigated by the police and possible charges filed. I have had it. It is affecting our police and fire dept. She basically called Chief Novak a liar and I have had enough. Chairwoman Stark says to clarify, at the last meeting I said "If it got bad enough, is it something we would have to look at?" I brought that up. Steve and the mayor both said they didn't think it would pass. I brought it up because I thought it may be something we need to talk about as a last ditch resort if it was needed to fund the safety forces. The mayor in no way said he supported it or it was something he was asking the public to do. If anyone has any questions about it, I'm the person to talk to. At what point do certain things not get ticketed and they move up in the chain? Like someone is speeding and it's over so much, do we not write the ticket? Mayor Bring replies some of the drugs and stuff go to Lorain, so it may not be on this report. Sergeant Schmidt says some things can take years to investigate properly and sometimes there is already another agency investigating it and then you see who has the greater amount invested, can you work together, etc. As far as traffic tickets, there is officer discretion as to whether they write it or not. Some things go to mayor's court and some go to Lorain Municipal Court. Mayor Bring says and if they plead not guilty, that goes to Lorain court. The chief was upset that there were 150 calls on dog complaints. He has changed his stance on this and he did release that on the internet. That is his call, not mine, he runs the dept. Chairwoman Stark asks last meeting the was a report about working with MAHRS, have we heard anything else about that? Sergeant Schmidt replies he did get a call today from someone who is involved with the county's rehabilitation stuff and he is supposed to call back. Member Kovach says at this moment it appears one vehicle may need break work and I don't see any other major concerns. Sergeant Schmidt replies that is the only complaint I have received. Member Gee asks I sent he chief a link on getting a device he needs for the police dept.; do you know if he applied for that yet? Sergeant Schmidt responds I don't know. Member Gee says all over social media it is saying there was a bicycle at Ferndale Park that has been there for a while, did anybody call you guys to pick it up? Sergeant Schmidt replies I know an officer went up there, but I don't know if it fit in his car. If it didn't, there would be a call to service to pick it up tomorrow. Member Gee says I have gotten 2 complaints about speeding out of Treadway Ponds, if you can periodically look that way, I'm sure the residents would be grateful. Also, in the Treadway paperwork, it was supposed to be a one-way loop and the one-way sign

disappeared in the last 30-45 days. I don't know if the police dept. handles that or the road dept. Sergeant Schmidt replies I haven't received a complaint. Mayor Bring says I will have to find out from the building dept. what happened. Member Gee asks the people working at the elections this year at our locations, are starting to have concerns on their safety, is there going to be availability for you to check out the voting polls periodically on election day? Sergeant Schmidt responds the chief will be back by then and I will speak to him about it. Member Gee voices concern over a resident who is making other residents uncomfortable by yelling at them, etc.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairwoman Stark says we had talked about if there were any changes, we wanted to look at making to any of the ordinances for the dogs, if there is any suggestions, we can discuss that here.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Tammy Asire, 648 Maplewood Ave.* says if I'm not mistaken right now, the dog being off leash is an issue. I would appreciate it if people would look at the aspect of sometimes the dog is on a leash, but the person holding the leash is not controlling the dog. And to see if our ordinance handles that fact that if I have Fifi on a leash, but I don't control her and she bites Joe Bob, it still should be an issue.

Mayor Bring says if the dog is aggressive, etc. it is a possibility the ordinance committee should look at possibly having to put a muzzle on some of them.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Gee to adjourn at 7:29 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 Oct. 4, 2023.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso