

**Minutes of the Safety Committee  
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio  
December 6, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday December 6, 2023. Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

Present: Stark, Gee, Kovach, Chief Kory.

Excused: Mayor Bring, Chief Novak.

Attending: Ward 4 councilman DeBottis, Citizens.

**MINUTES:**

\*Motion by Gee/Second by Kovach to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2023 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**PRESENTATIONS:** None.

***Reports from Safety Forces:***

***Police Chief's report*** – Chief Kory reports we have had 8,508 calls for service, 463 cases and 527 citations. The breakdown is in your packets for your review. Member Gee asks how is the vehicle maintenance doing? Chief Kory replies we are still in talks about possibly leasing 2-3 cars next year. We have a couple cars that are getting high on mileage. On 720, we had the transmission rebuilt, but there are other issues popping up on that car. All the others are regular maintenance at this point. Member Gee asks how many vehicles do we have road worthy right now? Chief Kory responds I think 6 right now. Member Gee asks and how many officers per shift are using them? Chief Kory replies 2-3. Member Gee says there have been a lot of issues about the basement. Last we knew, you guys weren't pleased with the basement and no one was going down there. Chief Kory says I've been talking to the service director and one of the reasons we can't use it as work space is there was a concern about air flow down there. There are no vents or circulation down there. He is looking to get some quotes to have some split units put in there and hopefully start utilizing that space. Member Gee asks weren't there issues about contamination down there? Chief Kory replies all the issues and concerns were cleaned up. Our evidence and older records are down there. We would like to renovate it some more. Member Gee asks the garage, you guys utilize it right? Chief Kory replies storage basically. Member gee says I'm hearing rumors about a dog kennel possibly going in there. Chief Kory replies there is one sitting there now. Member Kovach asks kennel or cage? Chief Kory replies cage. Our garage is a sallyport for our jail and has to remain that. That cage is on there as a half measure until other things come to fruition. We do have a lot of dogs at large and sometimes it is best to house them temporarily until the owners can come get them to help out our residents. Member Gee asks how many dog tickets have we been giving out? Chief Kory replies a lot of the ones recently we have found the owner in 10 min. and Kelsey has still been helping as she can. Member Gee says for this year it's been 8 of them, last year was 10. That's not that many. Chief Kory replies no. We were getting bogged down because there was a time period

where we were chasing dogs for hours and taking up too much of our time. When Kelsey helps, we get them faster. Member Gee asks was she able to help a lot this year? Chief Kory replies yeah, she has been invaluable. Member Gee asks what about evenings? Was she able to help with those? Chief Kory responds amazingly we don't have any, just during the day. Member Kovach asks do you have a lot of repeat offenders? Chief Kory replies not that much anymore. These are usually the people we cite. Member Kovach says I'm assuming in regard to the dog situation and possibly bringing Kelsey on, the dispatchers will receive the calls on that? Chief Kory replies yes. When we first developed this, she was issued a city cell phone for us to contact. Member Kovach says the question I have is we are going to contain these dogs, but we don't actually have a kennel, which is actually a requirement. Chief Kory says when we first had it many moons ago, we used the shed out back and there was a heater and hay and dog food and 2 cages. I know the city uses that to house the ATV now, so we would have to rehouse the ATV. I don't think there is much else in there. Member Kovach says I know we also need a transport vehicle because you don't want them in your police cars. Chief Kory responds I have 2 candidates ready for the scrapheap in my opinion. Member Kovach says as I recall, that was one of the original reasons for purchasing that pickup truck. Chief Kory replies that's another idea. The building inspector uses that truck now, but he isn't driving it all day. It has a lot of room in the back and you could put a cap on it and throw a cage in the back or even the back seat is big enough for a cage. My take home car now is a good solid car that could be used for that. Member Kovach asks during this past year that she has been helping, has there been a time where the owner didn't pick up a dog and we had to take it out to the kennel? Chief Kory replies maybe once or twice that I can recall. I know Avon Lake contracts with one of the shelters out there and they have a key and put the dogs in their selves. I talked to them and they said they are full and can't put us on a contract. I know there are some places in Lorain/dog shelters that might do that, but I haven't talked to them. Chairwoman Stark says to clarify, that position would just be an additional assignment to whoever gets assigned it. Before the last meeting you had given us a report on staffing and some other issues to go over. I wanted to say let's put that on for January to have a discussion. Chief Kory states the training budget for next year I think currently we are slated for \$15,000 and I have been running through the classes and things and to send the new supervisors to their training, etc., on my sheet, I hit the \$15,000 mark within in hour. If there is something we could do, like add \$20,000 to that and get some more training, I think it would go a long way. Chairwoman Stark asks can you get us a list of required training every year? Chief Kory replies yes, a lot of the mandatory training we do is online which meets the requirements of the state, but the guys don't get out and absorb as much. In person training in my opinions, is better and more valuable. Short discussion had on training. I.e.: length, travel, cost, etc. Member Kovach asks priority wise, where do you think getting these license plate readers would fall? Chief Kory replies low at this point. I would rather see a fleet of cars without 150,000 on them before we see that. There are a handful of things we need to buy next year like body armor, etc. Member Gee asks how many of our vehicles have 150,000+ miles? Chief Kory responds I think there are 3 over 100, 1 near 150, another 1 is going to be near 150 in the next year and I think 2-3 are over 75,000. Member Kovach says I'm just looking at a priority list. I would say officers first. Chief Kory says cars and people. Member Kovach says then probably body armor and

computer upgrades and that. Chief Kory says right now we are just trying to get quotes on cars, etc. Chairwoman Stark says I know the mayor had talked about the leasing on the cars, I didn't know if that was being talked about. Chief Kory replies we are still talking about it. Member Gee says you have \$60,000 in your budget for 2024 for new vehicle/lease. Chief Kory replies for the leases, right now the pricing for 3 vehicles is just shy of \$70,000. If we do a slight increase in that line, we can get 3 cars instead of 2. Member Kovach asks is that for Ford and Dodge? Chief Kory responds that's available just for Dodge, Ford can't get the Explorers in the next year. Member Gee says if \$70,000 would do 3, then 2 is under \$60,000, right? Chief Kory replies correct. Member gee says I'm not familiar with finance, but does that mean you could request for the over amount on the lease be put where you need it for the vests? Chief Kory replies right now, we are budgeted to cover pretty much all that stuff in equipment and repairs. When I asked for 3 cars, we lost 726 to an OVI accident and it didn't get replaced, we lost the truck. Last year we were on a rotation to replace 2 cars this year which we converted the charger to a car. Next year, would be a 1 car year because we did 2, 1, 2, 1, etc. Realistically that would put us next year, down 5 cars. We put about 30,000 miles on a car per year and we actually cut down on patrol because we are running out of low mileage cars. We are patrolling the city less right now, which I don't like that, but we have to be mindful of what we have. Chief Kory gives his concerns on high mileage cars. Committee discusses previous cars in the fleet and mileage. Chairwoman Stark asks can we have an actual training plan? So, we hire a full-time officer, from the day they start what is the training plan? If we could have something written down so we could engage numbers, etc. Chief Kory says it is 3-6 months of on the job training depending on experience level. Chairwoman Stark says staffing is definitely an issue we need to jump on. Chief Kory states we have a couple applicants and can hopefully bring them on in January. Chairwoman Stark says starting in January could we have some of the guys come to some of the meetings so we could see and talk to them. Chief Kory replies it would have to be on duty guys, the off duty ones would put in for overtime.

***Fire Chief's report*** – Excused.

***Mayor's report***- Excused.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Solar eclipse. Chief Kory says our plans our contingent on what the shopping center ends up doing. We have our basic strategies. Chairwoman Stark says at one point there was talk of doing a public meeting to address businesses and citizens if they had questions. Member Gee says they have had two already. Chief Kory says the fire chief has been staffing those and running them. We will do the best we can. We plan on running ten days of two man cars.

**CITIZENS COMMENTARY:** None.

**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.

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CLERK OF COUNCIL

*Brandy Randolph*

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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 Dec. 6, 2023.

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PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

*Rick Rosso*