

**Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
February 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday February 7, 2024. Chairwoman Stark called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Stark, Kovach, Mayor Radeff, Chief Novak, Chief Kory.

Excused: Gee.

Attending: Ward 4 Councilman DeBottis.

MINUTES:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Chief Kory goes over the attached vehicle maintenance report. Chief Kory states with the equipment report, every thing is going good, but we might need to purchase a radio or two this year. We had three people accept job offers. Baker and Baez both work here and Nicholas Dobbins who is currently a Mercy police officer tentatively to be sworn in on the 13th. Also, we have a new dispatcher, Ms. Lopez, who can not start until March. With the budget, every thing is good right now. Member Kovach asks what might be your thoughts on us getting an auxiliary police force? Chief Kory replies I'm not opposed to one. We used to have one. My biggest thing is we are investing money into uniforms, etc. and I want to make sure if we are putting forward that kind of money, we are getting our best return on that investment. We can reach out to Lorain and see how they equip them, etc. It's a conversation worth having. Mayor Radeff says ideally, we might just be able to make an agreement with them (Lorain) to allow them to take some hours here. Chairwoman Stark says last meeting we talked about Captain's positions, I didn't know if there had been any further discussion. Chief Kory replies I think we have other things to focus with immediate hiring and other things, let's circle back in a few months.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports last year the fire dept. did 1,315 calls which is an increase of only 2%. Last month I paid the renewal of the technical rescue contract with Lorain County Emergency Management. That provides us resources if we have a large incident. Lt. Davis has finished the watch office and painting in there and it is very functional for us now. Last month one of our cots stopped working so they had to come out and look at it. While they were here, they did the annual service and it was pretty expensive because there was a mother board inside the trolley of the tram system that shorted out. We also had to get a few batteries. Firefighter Dalton injured his back lifting a 600lb. patient and was treated and is back to work. I am working on the SAFER grant and it would provide funding to hire firefighters for three years and after that the city would be responsible for keeping

them. I am also applying for the safety intervention grant through the Bureau of Workers Comp. It pays up to \$40,000. Civil Service has scheduled an entry level firefighter/paramedic test for March 23rd. The solar eclipse map has been posted on the city's website and it shows food, gas stations, etc. We are 61 days away from the solar eclipse and we are still planning on a large influx of people. The fire chiefs from the 5 cities of Sheffield Lake, Sheffield Village, Avon, Avon Lake and North Ridgeville have formed a task force and we are going to have a logistic center set up at the Avon Fire Dept. We are anticipating having 63 firefighter/paramedics on the day of the eclipse. I have completed a five-year capital operations plan and sent it to Mitchell and the mayor. Lastly, I am finishing up the annual report. Councilwoman Stark says at last meeting we talked about the insurance company having come out to do the rating and we talked about having more people on staff. So, we are putting the test out and then the grant would help pay for part of that then? Chief Novak replies it would fund the three firefighters I would like to get for three years. I haven't gotten the final report back from ISO yet, but that was one of their big hangups from the audit, the manpower.

Mayor's report- Mayor Radeff reports the basement has moved along pretty fast. Chief Kory says they painted today and drywall is up and every thing is ripped out. Mayor Radeff says we met with Enterprise and my goal is to get her to come to the next work session to do a presentation. It looks like if we wanted to do five cars, it would be around \$60,000 a year for five years. We looked at two other options; one being if we bought the same amount of cars but a three year lease, it would be around \$120,000. We also did the math on if we were to buy five separate cars. Chief Kory says the lowest quote I got for that was \$57,000, but that doesn't include the extra equipment. Mayor Radeff says we aren't locked into anything, so we could do these five cars and never switch out any cars again. The plan is to retire two cars, so we are really only adding three. We spoke with some contacts in Lorain and it looks like we should be able to get some grants for vests, we have a meeting tomorrow. The fire dept. was looking for two vests as well, so we were thinking maybe we could put those two vests in there as well. We are working with our IT company and we have to do some upgrades. If we do them, it would cover the whole city. Right now, we have four servers from 2008. Basically, what they would do is come in and update the servers and put us back on two servers and it would give us three modes of backup. We have some AARPA money leftover that has to get appropriated this year and spent by 26. IT falls under it. I think last year we got billed like \$90,000 from the IT people, we've never had an official agreement with them. Included in this, we would make an agreement with them. Chief Kory says I reached out to them as well. If we suffer a ransomware attack or something, part of their guarantee is that they will get us back up and running and files recovered. Mayor Radeff says we got three officers that are going to go full time and we will put them forward on Tuesday. We still have one more full-time open position we are working on.

NEW BUSINESS: Councilwoman Stark says previously our charter has said they wanted the safety director and the mayor to be one position. Because that was done through charter commission, we can not change those rules. The mayor has to be the safety director. There has been some discussion to put some distance between the mayor and the dept. and let's be honest, the mayor has a lot of stuff on his plate. The talk is possibly putting a deputy in to

serve as a liaison that could be here and dedicated to both depts. They could be a buffer. We would have to talk about budgeting, etc., but I wanted to throw it out there to have a discussion in the future. Mayor Radeff says in our administrative meetings we have talked about a deputy safety director. Partly to make sure there is a mediator and also have someone that can put all their time into helping both depts. I'm not sure why they are combined. I would think it should be someone like an ex-fireman or ex police officer. I think it would be beneficial to have on the books. Councilwoman Stark says I would like to discuss it further and maybe get a job description, etc. to take to council.

OLD BUSINESS: Lengthy discussion on solar eclipse with the following questions/points. Member Kovach says I got a call Monday from the owners of the shopping center wanting to know if my organization wanted to rent the shopping center for the eclipse. I said I might have some interest in helping control that, but I was going to turn that over to the mayor to see if he had interest in doing it. We have a meeting set up for tomorrow. I think it would be a useful tool for us to have control of that parking lot. Mayor Radeff says there is an opportunity to make a good amount of money depending on what we want to do there. We thought we could use some of the money for fireworks, community days, etc. We have to make sure it's feasible and beneficial for the city. Chief Kory says we have a meeting tomorrow about the traffic in the area as well. Member Kovach says not only will you have cars, but motor homes, trucks, etc. Chief Novak says we will have guys posted at the community center, we will have an engine at the fire station and an engine, squad and command vehicle over at FSI.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY:

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Kovach/Second by Stark to adjourn at 7:41 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 Feb. 7, 2024.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL
Rick Rosso