

Minutes of the Safety Committee
City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio
Safety January 7, 2026

The regular meeting of the Safety Committee was held Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Chairman Kovach called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Present: Kovach, Gee, Petrucci, Chief Novak, Chief Kory.

Excused: Mayor Radeff.

Attending: Councilman Fogel.

MINUTES:

*Motion by Gee/Second by Petrucci to accept the minutes of the November 5, 2025 meeting with any noted corrections. Yeas All.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

Reports from Safety Forces:

Police Chief's report – Chief Kory reports in front of you, you guys have my annual report. It breaks down a little bit more than your typical information that we go over. I'll start with vehicle maintenance. Last year we drove a total of 130,000 miles throughout the fleet. We averaged about 10,000 miles per vehicle. The vehicle maintenance overall for last year was almost over double. I believe we were just around \$10,000 last year. I didn't finalize that number, but we didn't go over budget. We were budgeted \$10,000 in 2024. In 2025, we hit \$24,713. A lot of that was these higher mileage vehicles that are out of warranty, and so a lot of repair costs, several thousand dollars to keep them running. We tried to keep the mileage down on those vehicles, but cost is higher on that front due to expiring warranties and the wear and tear. Driving city miles all day for 130,000 miles and certain potholes and this and that, it does take its toll on our vehicles. Then the typical police work, high acceleration, rapid deceleration in certain events. Equipment, right now I didn't touch on that in the report too much, but everything is working. We've hit most of our goals in adding and replacing equipment since I've been chief under Mayor Bring and Mayor Radeff. No large expenditures planned for this year. We have some minor building repairs that were scheduled last year that we're going through now. We'll continue with those as well. Staffing, we have a part-timer, Tavener. He's still in training and I believe Helmick is out of probation now. The Detective Bureau, we had 103 cases last year. I think we confiscated, or held for evidence, a little over \$10,000 from some case work, confiscated 13 guns that are still pending dispositions and numerous drugs, including heroin, fentanyl, cocaine, and some other things. You guys can read this in more depth, I'm not going to bore you with all the details, community relations and the like. In 2024, we had 9,128 calls. 2025, we have

11,904. So, there's an increase there. You see I added our phone calls to this one. You can only go back three years for phone calls and this year for duration, but this year we had 29,447 phone calls to dispatch. Last year we had 17,875. If you were curious, we were on the phone for 20,043 minutes. Member Gee asks you said that there were no major expenses for 2026, but you're still counting on the fact that we're supposed to buy a new police car in 2026? Chief Kory replies I should say no major things for equipment or repair yet. That's already budgeted for out of the lease program. As you're aware, we paid two of the leases off already. Hopefully we'll be able to replace that and then take some of these high maintenance cost cars out of the rotation. Member Gee says I know originally in 2025, you were budgeted for a new vehicle then, but we never got one. Other than the one that replaced the one that was in the accident. Am I right? Chief Kory responds we lost a car in an accident July 4th weekend in 2023, I believe. At that time, I don't recall that we replaced cars or not. I don't believe we did. As for being budgeted in 2025, I know we paid off the two. Then we still had the same budget for 2025 of \$60,000, which was the cost to pay for the five lease vehicles. As for adding two or not adding two, I mean, ultimately that decision lies with the safety director. Member Gee asks have we sold any of them that we have already retired? I know they were supposed to go. Chief Kory replies the cars we've recently retired, usually we've given one to the building department to use. It had about 100,000 miles on it when we retired. There's another one in the back lot that's been sitting there a while. That was Tom Melbar's old car, and it's not really fit for anything. It still runs, but it's, again, a high mileage car, 130,000 miles in it. That and the Honda Civic that's sitting back there is slated. The Civic has a salvage title, so we had to go through the process of getting that retitled and some other things, but both of those cars can be disposed of. Member Gee asks any idea of when they will be disposed of? Chief Kory replies I've got to talk to the new law director on this, but Enterprise allows us to trade them in. They're not high-cost cars. Taking them on bid and all that stuff for \$1,500. So, I'm going to see if we can just trade them in because Enterprise has that—I forget what it's called off the top of my head, but they basically have an agreement with the state where they won the state bidding process for buying and stuff like that.

Fire Chief's report – Chief Novak reports in December the department did 105 runs. We ended up with a total of 1,413 runs for 2025, and that was 47 over our total for 2024, which was 1,366. The guys are really busy. They're seeing a lot of flu cases this time of year. The vehicles, Engine 61 and Engine 63, had the annual preventive maintenance done, and that included oil changes and they had a couple belts replaced, the pumps were serviced, and the filters were replaced. In January, we're going to send out Unit 66 to get some new tires, brakes, and an oil change. On 73, we're going to do the same thing, but it's going to get new tires and an oil change. I've also been talking with the mayor and the law director about this new pumper we'd like to buy, and we're starting to move forward on that a little bit, getting some of the pricing down and what it's going to cost. I've been working with the finance director on that. Hopefully you'll see that pretty soon come across at your desk. We're also working to add one more to B shift. So, we'll have two five-man shifts and one four-man shift. So that's what we're working on this year. On December 28th, we got a report of a canine in distress up on the lake in the 4700 block of Lake Rd. The guys got there, and the dog was like 30 feet over a cliff, and there was no way that it was going to be able to get

back out. I think it jumped down there, but it wasn't going to be able to get back up. So, they decided to launch one of the jet skis, and Ferror wore a nice rescue suit and rode the jet ski from the boat launch over to the scene. He got there and the dog was pretty tired, wet, and cold, so he didn't give him much trouble. He got him and brought him back to the boat launch. The dog was surrendered by the people that owned it, surrendered it, so it went to the dog pound in Elyria. I guess it was adopted yesterday, and I guess there were a lot of people interested in it. Member Petrucci says I noticed that you talked about needing new batteries for Engine 61 and 63. Were you able to get those replaced? Chief Novak replies yes, we did. Member Petrucci asks how long do they typically last? Chief Novak responds well, the one truck has six batteries in it, and the other one has four batteries in it. We needed to get that done because the last thing you want to do is go out and jump into the truck and it's got a dead battery. Member Gee asks when you said about bringing in another man to give you the two five-man shifts, that was already included in the budget that we got, right? Chief Novak replies yes, it was.

Mayor's report- Excused.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

CITIZENS COMMENTARY: *Aden Fogel, 4351 Brockley Ave.* says I did have an incident. My blood pressure went to like 229 over 130/140, real scary. I drove up to the fire station. The guys were beyond excellent, professional. I had a friend on the phone with me and she overheard the whole deal. She told me they were all excellent, but Lt. Mariner was above and beyond. I know Roger Watkins came out from the police dept. He kind of calmed me down a little bit, so I just wanted to say thank you to both of them and their guys. The jet skis, I know there were some complaints originally when they got the jet skis. I think that they probably were worth their while, you know, saving the dog. There was a lot of interest in the dog, so it's a great thing that the dog was able to be saved. Is it normal for the safety director to not be at the safety committee meetings? Member Gee replies no, he is normally here. So, I'd like to suggest to the safety committee that they consider reviewing the city charter regarding the role of safety director. Currently, the mayor serves in that role, but many cities have moved away from concentrating executive and public safety authority in one office. Public safety today is complex and benefits from professional independence and continuity. I think it's worth studying whether the safety director should be hired and, if necessary, removed by council instead. My proposing action tonight says that this committee evaluate the issue and determine whether a charter amendment should be recommended. Chairman Kovach replies just in conversation there, during Dennis' term, at that time, the two positions were separate, but they were consolidated more or less as a cost-saving measure. Mr. Fogel replies I think the safety director; the mayor still gets the same amount of pay as the safety director got before they were merged together, right? Chairman Kovach responds no, the salaries, I believe, were combined. Mr. Fogel says right, they're combined, but they're the same as if they were separate. So, there's no cost savings there. Chairman Kovach says

during Dennis' term, that was consolidated. Member Gee says because we thought about giving Dennis a raise and that way; by consolidating the two, we never gave the mayor a raise. See, I wasn't on council yet when that happened, because I stood up from the audience and suggested that the charter done when it was changed, I suggested that it be done saying and/or, because we didn't know how that was going to work and there was a lot of concern. It would depend on the mayor and what the mayor's daytime job was as to how much time they could devote. There was also no specific as to exactly what the safety director's job description really was. Chairman Kovach says I guess that can be brought up for discussion. Member Gee says the mayor was going to look into an ordinance about the e-bikes and e-scooters. Any news, Chief, on whether he started that, because he wanted to get it done quick. Chief Kory replies my only recommendation, I said just mirror state law. Mirroring state law is easy. It's already done. And we need to fine-tune stuff here and there, set designated paths for the kids. At the end of the day, I just don't want to see anyone get hurt. It's a good conversation for the ordinance committee, I think, especially for all the council members here and stuff like that. You guys can kind of bend the ear of your citizens and see what they kind of want for each ward. We could develop a plan that fits the whole city. I think that would probably be fine-tuned that. We could look at the state laws, and then we can fine-tune from there and see if any one thing doesn't exactly fit Sheffield Lake based on the opinions of the parents and stuff like that, and obviously police and fire's input on safety and stuff like that.

MEETING ADJOURNED: With no further business before this committee, *Motion by Petrucci/Second by Gee to adjourn at 6:49 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

CHAIRMAN

Steve Kovach

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 January 7, 2026.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

Rick Rosso