

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JANUARY 19, 2021**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on January 19, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Joanne Krejci, Jeremy Dietrich; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Vincent Weimer; Linda Barath; Jessica Fenos **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Ken Bilinovich, Finance Director Eric Dean **Other:** Dan Langshaw, John Nickell, Marty Toukonen, Jonah Pichette

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Ms. Krejci to **approve the minutes for the November 17, 2020 Safety Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. COVID -19 Local Response

Chief Chegan states 2020 gave us a lot of challenges and extra work per se. I want to take a moment again to, to recognize the people that worked throughout this whole past year in the City. We never lost service, we never lost any of our services and actually continued to do what every department was supposed to do whether it was police, fire, service, wastewater. We had people and department heads go out. The department heads did a really good job throughout all of this, and so did our employees. The policy and procedure of best practice and making sure that we keep it safe as possible, they did a wonderful job in 2020. I do have to recognize a couple of people. The Mayor has given us the leeway to make sure that the work and the products and the equipment to get everything done last year, we were prepared from day one, we had the PPE, we had the processes in place. We went through that first big surge unscathed. Then, came the financial downfall which Eric Dean, our Finance Director really stepped up to the plate with me and with the guidance of the Mayor, we started working on the funding part. With the CARES Act and the grants that we submitted, I think we came out of this really well on a financial standpoint. Eric deserves a lot of credit of what he has done and had to submit for the CARES Act. I just want to recognize all the hard work that they put in, and everyone. It goes down to the most junior employee we have. In 2021, the updated numbers of today are very similar. We are starting to see those numbers come down. A few weeks ago, we were up at 7,000 to 8,000 new cases a day, as of yesterday we are in 5's and 4's again. Does that mean that it is slowing down? It is hard to project, but we do see this, our hospitals are still somewhat full. We haven't seen a big slide either way, but in our local hospitals we are starting to see more beds available on a daily basis. We are in a pretty good spot now than where we were over the holidays. We were still seeing patients on ventilators, and sick people in the ICU. We are hoping those number continue to go down. We did have a slight increase in our area, but it is no different, it is not as extravagant as you might think, if you look at the numbers. We are little high in the County, but everyone has been high, it has been a roller coaster. We were actually down with the numbers for a really long time in the fall months, but those went up the last month. Our PPE is still in good supply. The Department Heads did a good job that they acquired it. The big thing that we started was the vaccinations, we did receive a lot of questions. I know Council President Marnecheck received a lot of questions regarding that. We are still working on the Ohio Phases 1A and 1B, who knows when we will get to 1C. Starting with the older residents in the community; today was starting with ages 80 and older for vaccinations. Next week it is 75 and older and those with severe congenital developmental and early onset of medical disorders. Then February 1 is 70 and older and then, the employees of the schools. February 8 is 65 and older. What you do not see is the other people of 1B's category including our police officers, our wastewater people, our critical infrastructure people, we still do not know those numbers and that comes directly from the State. I am still waiting for the Governor to say this is our schedule. The information I sent out is the locations and how they are going to do the 1B with the elderly. We have the two facilities in our City; Drug Mart and Giant Eagle Pharmacy, some of these in the County are not even set up to take registrations yet, a lot of this has to do with how much vaccinations are available. A lot of these may not have a lot of supply. The goal is at the County

level is to try to vaccinate the 1A group which is us, the First Responders and the Health Care people. Starting next week, those of us that received the first dose in December we are getting our second shots starting next week. We are still working on the 1A group and getting them in for the second round. Cleveland Clinic, Metro and UH are doing the same. Once we do that, the County can then refocus and open up some of the larger facilities that have been utilizing the Berea Fair Grounds for those vaccinations for the 1A Group. Then, we will open up the facilities to the 1B. As of today, we didn't know if we were going to have our vaccines for us for next week for the first group that went through. We were notified today that it did arrive, we set the date already, but we did not have the vaccines available. We are moving forward as fast as we can, some of the other counties are little bit ahead, not as highly populated and don't have the infrastructure of the Cleveland Clinic and UH. We did post the information yesterday through the Mayor's office, and put it on our Facebook page, and our web page. Continue looking at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for the phases, you can sign up for these locations, some of them did not have the signups available. If you go to the County website they will put you on the list. I got the Moderna vaccine. For the most part there weren't very many side effects on the members of our department that got it. We have not heard many issues with that, we had some people develop a fever, or aches for 7 to 10 hours. There was really nothing else after that. Any immunization, you put a foreign substance in your body, it is your bodies normal reaction to fend off what they think that something is bad. We need to get more people vaccinated, if we are looking at herd immunity and for this to work efficiently and effectively in the long run, we have to have 75%. I think we are at 60% of the EMS and Fire folks. We are approaching those numbers. Now that we saw that we are not going to grow horns out of our heads, I know that I got a lot more people interested in it. The process went very well the first week; the fairgrounds is going well too. We are short volunteers. We are hoping that the County will come up with some grant opportunities and possibly a backfill, we can't keep having our fire folks and all of our communities be responsible for going and volunteering. It is not our responsibility to pay these people. We believe that they are going to come up with some sort of plan, we would not be able to staff that appropriately. Unfortunately, it will come down to the number of vaccinations that are coming our way. There are a lot of unknowns, but the other part we have a lot of good people in place.

Mr. Marnecheck states Chief are you comfortable with the supplies you have and comfortable with the current structure of how things are going? You are not concerned or worried?

Chief Chegan states no. When you plan for a pandemic and pods. We had a pod in the City, so we had equipment preset. We had N95s, actually through the County we had them strategically placed, we have an MCI trailer for those mask casualty incidences. I think that is what the fire service does when people really don't understand what we do. In the background we plan and we prepare. Any major storms that we have had we have been here quite a while; we have been through a lot of storms. Unfortunately, flooding back in the day, we all handle them, everyone came in and did their job based on the plans that we have. There are plans and processes that are in place. When we had this and we knew, we had a good supply of PPE, knowing that was a 6-, 9- and 12-month supply that we had. As of January 19, 2021, I still have a 9-12-month supply because we don't know if this is going to go away, we don't know if there is going to be another outbreak of something else. That has also been our plan of preparation.

Mr. Marnecheck states you are comfortable with the coordination between the County and North Royalton?

Chief Chegan states if you would have asked me about that five or seven years ago, I probably would not have given you this answer. They have some really good people there that they have put in there over the last 5-7 years that worked really well with the County Fire Chiefs. We want to make sure that the plans are in place, we work really hard with the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Commission) regarding Hazmat and dealing with a lot of the hazardous materials in the facilities throughout. Every facility is either marked as hazardous or not hazardous. If there is a spill; we had one in Berea, last month, our CERT team and I responded to, they always do follow-ups on that to make sure that the environment is good. We had great coordination; it has been great in the last 5-7 years. It is all based on the people that they brought in. The processes of the PPE and the facility that they have on Harvard Avenue in Newburgh where they put everything together, it works out great. Any distributions whether it was for the nursing home or the jurisdictions, they drive right up, here is your sheet, you pick it up and you are gone. A lot of the processes that we have in place were good. As far as

internally in the City, we have been making sure that whatever we couldn't get through the grants or through distribution chains that our Department Heads were making those purchases within their department. To make sure they had the proper cleaning supplies, we all have different vendors. I have a vendor for N95s, I won't tell you who that is. We have worked really hard to make sure we kept those chains up, in case we need extra ones. We are still planned out for a good while. There is a lot of PPE. There are surgical masks, there is the N95 masks, there are gowns, the eye protection, the cleaning supplies.

Mr. Marnecheck states did you see the one that looks like a space helmet. It cost about \$300; I saw it on YouTube.

Chief Chegan states there is a lot of crazy stuff out there. There is some stuff that we have acquired from the County that has been junk. I get it. They are doing their best to give us the best stuff. Some of the time they get it from the State. We just get what is trickled down. There is some stuff that we got that we will never use. There was some stuff that was donated by Kids in the Brecksville Schools in their shop class that was just outstanding in effort and work by kids. Out of all that negativity about Covid, there has been some good things that have happened. Having these people donate, we did see some good people and doing some good things in the past year. We are looking forward to this year trying to get the vaccinations done, and planning on keeping our community as safe as possible, but our employees. We are making whatever changes we need to do, if something changes, I will make the change on the policy and put it out that day. I think we are rolling pretty well moving forward, we are good to go.

2. **Police & Safety Report**

Chief Bilinovich states we have three more weeks in deer hunting season.

See handouts.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the January 19, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

01-14-2021

November Statistics

December Statistics

ACCIDENTS:		
FATAL	0	0
DEER	13	4
HIT SKIP	5	4
INJURY	0	0
NON INJURY	14	50
PRIVATE PROPERTY	7	10
PHYSICAL ARRESTS:	38	33
SPEEDING TICKETS:	19	32
THEFT COMPLAINTS: (includes attempts)	25	26

2020-21 Deer Hunting Report

Ward	Deer Harvested (Deer Damage Permit)	Deer Harvested (Hunting Permit)	Deer Harvested (Total)	Number of Permits Issued
1	3	68	71	
2	0	15	15	
3	0	11	11	
4	0	10	10	
5	0	17	17	
6	0	28	28	
	3	149	152	96