

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 16, 2021

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 16, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 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 **Other:** John Nickell, Dan Langshaw

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich to **approve the minutes for the February 16, 2021 Safety Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Local Response

See attached report.

Chief Chegan stated as far as the vaccines, more and more people are getting vaccinated. We have now opened it through the State and that is run by the Fed's; different from Cuyahoga County. We are opening the mass clinic at the Wolstein Center, Cleveland State. Basically, what they are doing is going thru pods in different states to run those. You can still sign up through the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for the ones we run every Wednesday and there are also weekend days too. You are able to then see where the lists are for the partners like CVS, Walgreens and everyone else. You can then go on their site directly and register and now you have the option for the mass vaccination.

By the end of the month, the Governor said it will be opening up for a lot more people. Hopefully we will get more supply and obviously with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine coming out, there will be more available as we move forward.

As of today, we are about 20%; County and State. Vaccinations that are completed are at 11.35% for the County and 12.1% for the State. We still have a long way to go for the vaccinations.

Supply is still the issue, but with the mass vaccination they are coming with a lot of doses at that facility.

There have been changes in travel restrictions in the city employee policy and that information will be sent out next Friday.

Police and Fire have received their PPE since last time we met here; so, our stock is pretty good. The numbers are coming down; unfortunately, our run numbers are not going up. Our run numbers on the Fire side are about 12.7% increase from last year at this time already and we had record number runs last year. We are not seeing that many COVID related calls. I receive emails related to any patient that is COVID related that is transported to one of our local facilities, no matter which one it is. He stated he hasn't been getting all that many; maybe 1 in the last week. That doesn't mean we aren't transporting or they're not positive. Parma Hospital, which is our medical control, we got down to 3 people in house; which is a great sign. A lot of beds are now open, but that does fluctuate; today the numbers are up to 8%. For awhile we were at 3% for about 3 or 4 days, which is encouraging.... we still have a long way to go.

Ms. Krejci stated as far as the Police Department being vaccinated, has that just been on their own going to the open vaccinations or wherever they can get appointments or has there been special clinic held for the Police?

Chief Chegan asked Chief Bilinovich if something special was set up for the Police Department. Chief Bilinovich stated no, most of the guys went on their own.

Chief Chegan stated why I don't know. Hospital staff was set up at the 3 major hospitals for Fire and EMS. We had our day and if anyone wished to have it afterwards, then we just had them go the regular one at the County Fairgrounds. Since it is so wide open and there is plenty, they didn't have a problem getting any of their people in; police and corrections.

Chief Chegan stated we are in a year of this and it has been a roller coaster ride. Hopefully we are making the turn and the vaccinations are important; following the guidance is important; we still have a lot of non-believers. No matter what is out there, we still have to abide by the guidelines from the CDC and the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. We have always been up on the guidance; we will be up on the guidance and I think we have done a really good job with our employees. With Police and Fire, our responses to our residents that we are doing what we need to do to protect ourselves and to protect the public through this.

2. **Police & Safety Report**

See attached report.

Chief Bilinovich stated we are trying to rotate the speed signs to different streets every week to 10 days. Edgerton Road has been the highest amount of speed; it has been like that for years due to people avoiding Rte. 82 traffic. A lot of tickets are given there and a lot of radar run.

Speed signs seem to be working well. A lot of people definitely are slowing down in the areas.

Chief Bilinovich stated we are averaging 1 ½ arrests per day. That is going up and will continue when the weather gets warmer. Unfortunately, with the lock downs there has been a lot more domestic violence, domestic disputes, neighborhood problems. Until we get back to some normalcy, this will most likely continue.

A lot of the theft complaints have been with people leaving their cars unlocked and coming out in the morning and finding their wallet missing. As the weather warms up, you will have more on the move, walking around and take whatever they can.

Mr. Wos stated Congratulations to Chief Bilinovich on his retirement on April 2, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Hydrant Maintenance/Painting**

See attached report.

Chief Chegan stated back in 2014, Mayor Stefanik gave the Fire Department the opportunity to start painting hydrants after many years of not maintaining. What we did in the past, before 2014, we had part time city employees and some of the reserve firefighters take a wire brush to them and then paint them. We started the program back in 2014; Chief Chegan presented two options at the time. One was an inhouse program and the second was for a company to come out. At that point we opted for the inhouse program. The pros of that were that it was cheaper. He had 2 high school or college kids do the work. One of the cons is that it didn't last; rusted right away, we couldn't get it done the right way, the quality wasn't there. In 2014, the program started with the main roads (see attached map). After a year, they began to rust due to not being able to initially getting all of the oxidation off.

The following year, we finished the main roads of Abbey, York, Albion, Bunker, Akins and Edgerton; ending with a couple of developments. The hardest 2 streets are State Road and Edgerton Road.

We tried to make sure all the Wards were covered at some point so we didn't neglect any of our residents.

In 2017, in southern North Royalton and having newer hydrants, that area was reviewed but unnecessary to maintain at that time.

Only year we suspended the program was last year. We had 6 years running. Unfortunately, the process is using an angle grinder with wire brush cups, remove as much as possible, pressure wash them and then primer them.

Obviously in the winter time, we tell the residents to keep the hydrants clear. And during the summer months, make sure that shrubbery around the area is at bay.

When we do our maintenance, we are making sure they have good operation and if anything seems wrong, we submit that to Cleveland Water for their repair. We will be starting that in the Fire Department some time in the spring. It is taking us over 3 months to get them done. We do have a program in our vehicles that maps where the calls are and we GO coated every hydrant. So that map shows where the hydrants are. For example, we did not know there was a yard hydrant off of Abbey Road behind the masonry building that caught fire.

Chief Chegan stated we did it as cheap as \$31/hydrant and another year as much as \$60/hydrant. That all encompasses the vehicle, maintenance on the vehicle, the fuel, PPE for the workers; including tie back suits, the angle grinder, brush cups, painter sprayers, primer, paint, salary and all other expenses.

The most recent proposal to the Administration and the Mayor was shared with Council. Chief Chegan stated there are new hydrants (orange and silver) that have been put in by Cleveland Water in the past 7 years. The problem with these new hydrants is the bond with the new paint and it's very hard for primer and paint to stick to these. The other problem is the salt splash on the main roads.

The hydrants in the developments hold up very well; the ones on the main roads do not.

The cost of this program was anywhere from \$9k to \$12k. Chief Chegan stated this year he has \$11k in the Fire Department budget in part time wages. The new option the city has is to hire GIANT Maintenance and Restoration, Inc. This will last much longer than the process the City has been doing in the past. Strongsville and Twinsburg both utilize their services. Historically, we have used yellow hydrants for visibility, but this also shows quick fading and rust. Other cities are using red hydrants.

Mayor stated with this new company, we will be able to do 100 hydrants for what has been budgeted this year. He felt having 2 part time young men on the main roads was unsafe. Mayor stated he and the Chief are both in favor of the red hydrants; they not only look better, but hold up better. The problem with switching to red is that we are going to have to do this in sections, due to it needing to be consistent in color. We would start in sections and also on some of the main roads.

Council asked how many total hydrants in the city. Chief Chegan stated 2400.

Mayor asked Council for their feedback about changing over to red. Discussion ensued regarding the colors other cities are using and how many hydrants can be done each year and where to start.

2. Fire Engine Purchase

Chief Chegan stated this item is not in the 2021 Budget that Council passed, due to the unpredictability of the actual cost of these types of vehicles. Fire was not ready to put a number down due to COVID. The last purchase was in 2017; out of the Capital Fund. The ladder truck was \$904,000.00 and engine was close to \$600,000.00. We paid upfront the engine cost and then the Finance Director financed the ladder truck for 10 years, which will come off the books in 2025. During the energy project, Fire was not expecting the roof to

come out of Capital; it did instead of the bond. That expense was not a part of long-term goal for the Capital Fund.

Chief Chegan stated this new purchase will most likely need to be financed. Mr. Dean will explain further. Due to a couple 3% increases to the manufacturers, we are looking at about \$700k to \$720k for this truck. This vehicle would replace Station 2's engine and we would keep the one that is serving there now. It would be relocated to the old Rec building on York Road, which we took over for Public Safety. We do not have a spare engine and the busier we get; we are in need of one. We have been asking for a spare since 2009. It will most likely come thru State bid, but we are looking at apples and oranges. Fire has been using Peirce Manufacturing for the last several apparatuses and they are located in Wisconsin. In the third truck, we would like to stay consistent for maintenance issues and purchase another with a Detroit Diesel engine. These engines will be unavailable after June or July of this year.

Mr. Dietrich asked how long the 2003 engine will be able to be used as a back up due to its age.

Chief Chegan stated it will be maintained properly and unfortunately the costs with this will go up. We will most likely be able to push it past the NFPA guideline of 25, but do a lot to it; but better than having nothing available.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the March 16, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

03-03-2021

February Stats

ACCIDENTS:

FATAL	0
DEER	3
HIT SKIP	2
INJURY	0
NON INJURY	18
PRIVATE PROPERTY	11
PHYSICAL ARRESTS:	47
SPEEDING TICKETS:	43
THEFT COMPLAINTS: (includes attempts)	21

Hydrant Painting Program

- Started back up in 2014
- Presented options to the administration
- Opted for in house program
- Pros: Cheaper
- Cons: Didn't last, hazards to employees
- Process: angle grinder with wire brush cups, remove as much as possible, pressure wash, primer then paint
- PPE
- Cost:
- 2014 / 31.21 / 391
- 2015 / 24.19 / 496
- 2016 / 44.87 / 204
- 2017 / 44.87 / 123
- 2019 / 60.50 / 168
- Included: vehicle, fuel, PPE, angle grinder, brush cups, paint sprayer, primer, paint, salary, other
- Adopt a hydrant – Who's going to run it.
- Hydrant Map
- Why hydrants rust
- Hydrant Photo Presentation
- New option
- Pro: quality/longer lasting results; liability;
- Cons: upfront cost
- Giant Maint. You Tube Video
- Color Change
- Giant Maint. Photo

1. 12345 West 130th
2. 11261 West 130th
3. 12670 Patricia
4. 12706 Patricia
5. West 130th and Patricia ('78 Kennedy)
6. 12670 Clearbrook Oval
7. Pinebrook & Abbey
8. 9540 Cedarwood
9. 9920 Applewood
10. Gabriella & York
11. 9290 York
12. 9493 Chesapeak
13. 9475 Chesapeak
14. 9457 Chesapeak
15. Wallings E of Ridge (splash side, clean side)