

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**MAY 18, 2021**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on May 18, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Mike Wos, Vice Chair Joanne Krejci, Jeremy Dietrich; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Vincent Weimer, Linda Barath, Jessica Fenos; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Eric Dean; **Other:** John Nickell, Michael McDonald, Wayne Malz

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were none at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. COVID-19 Local Response**

See attached report.

Fire Chief Robert Chegan summarized that there are some anticipated updates pertaining to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) change in guidelines on the mask mandate. He felt that this caused more confusion than not, through the local and state governments; whereas they were not aware that these changes were being made. There will be no change until the official notice is received from the State on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He would be meeting with some of the department heads to review the changes and see what the future holds. On a positive note, the numbers of Covid are still decreasing, in which he included the numbers in his latest e-mail. He spoke positively on the ability to hold some of the larger events recently, including the CLE Market.

There are no changes for the Fire Department operations at this time. They are still going to maintain the proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) in moving forward, until the official word is given from the Department of Health. There will be a lot of changes anticipated in the next couple of weeks.

**2. Police & Safety Report**

Chief Tarase indicated that stats for the Safety Committee were emailed.

See attached report.

**3. Fire Engine Purchase**

Chief Chegan reported that paperwork was finally drawn up. He discussed the pre-paid discount, in which there could be additional savings. The last five trucks ordered were pretty accurate with figures, therefore, there should not be any anticipated changes. In short, the department will be replacing Station 2's engine as previously discussed.

Question was raised by Ms. Krejci as to the last time a new truck was purchased. Chief Chegan indicated that it was back in June of 2017, where Lateral 1 and Engine 1, out of Station 1, was replaced in Service. They were received a month prior; that process was started back in 2015. This takes time, although this process was somewhat easier; however, there was delay for one year due to Covid. This purchase was intended to be completed last year. The truck will not arrive until 2022, with approximately 11 ½ months out for the build date. There are a lot of increases expected, especially with this manufacturer and those that have pertain to metal. The prepaid discounts are dropping, in which this one would have dropped from 3% to 1.5%. We did not want to lose the 1.5% discount. He was uncertain as to the reason for the increases in metal.

Question was raised about the age of the truck that was being replaced. Chief Chegan indicated that the truck was bought in 2003, with plans to keep it as a reserve truck. The department has been looking for a reserve since 2009, and this would finally give the opportunity; it will need a little work. The truck will be stored at the York Road facility, which is temperature controlled. This truck should last the same amount of time; roughly 20 years. He considers this as an investment; however, the biggest investment are the people. He expressed the need to make sure people are placed in good equipment, which has been done over the years.

Discussion ensued about the final price of the truck, which is \$689,685.00. Legislation 21-89 would need amended. Question was raised about plans in keeping the reserve truck certified. The normal operating budget would go up, because it must be pump tested yearly, and have general maintenance by a certified company. If a truck were to break down, there would not be concern about being short a truck. There would be another purchase next month, which was planned last year for a pickup truck for Station 1. They replaced Station 2's 2019 truck; that truck is being kept as a utility vehicle also. The department will have the ability to use it as a work truck for plowing of lots, etc. Every Utility, Medic, and Engine would have a backup truck. We would be anticipating less than \$2000, unless it needed a repair.

Currently, work is still being done in Ward 1 for the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program. The main roads were completed and painted first; Royalton Road, State Road, and West 130<sup>th</sup> Street. Those will be done tentatively the week following Memorial Day.

Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that he would be swearing in two more Firemen on Friday at 10:30 a.m. A Lieutenant will be retiring after about 30 years, and a Fire Fighter Sergeant will be retiring. Those being sworn in will be on day shift for two months, with the normal training schedule of at least 8 weeks. Following that, they will be on shift attentively on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wos raised question about speed signs. Chief Tarase clarified that there were three, with two of them inoperative; therefore, they were sent back. Those were turned on and back within a week. However, we found that when we attempted to put one back up, it was missing some inside parts. He concluded that there are two operational ones out at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. New Police Chief**

Chief Keith Tarase introduced himself and he was glad to be here. He started here in 1997, with nine years as a Patrolman, and six years as a Sergeant. The last eight years consisted of being a Lieutenant. He has enjoyed his time here immensely. He shared his goals, which included evaluating the department, and getting feedback from officers and the community before making any major changes. He wants to improve the efficiency of operations by adjusting man power, improve technology, and review the department procedures; as to what is working and not working. He wants to improve communications within the department and with the residents, as well as, with Council and the Administration; boost work relationships. He wants to promote a positive image for the Police Department by soliciting some feedback from the community and upholding the department standards.

Mr. Weimer brought up that in the past, a couple of members asked to possibly attend a road call, but it never came to fruition. Chief Tarase saw no problem with that.

### **2. Deer Hunting Permit for Veterans**

Resident Wayne Malz, who lives at 5011 Corkwood Drive in Ward 2, came to share something. He brought a letter written by a local hunter, Jason Withrow, a young man away at college. Mr. Malz shared Mr. Withrow's letter, which talked about the large number of deer in the City. Mr. Withrow had proposed an idea to encourage more hunting by reducing fees, and also allowing veterans to hunt for free; many of which have I.D. cards.

Mr. Malz also brought a veteran guest with him, Mr. Raymond F. Kogler of 5001 Corkwood Drive. Mr. Kogler moved here in March of 1990. One reason he chose the location was because of the woods behind his home. He talked about how there are so many deer that one cannot plant flowers; much of the vegetation is getting eaten. Mr. Malz made suggestion to review what the Police Department has with regard to numbers of automobile collisions involving deer. He stated that with the number of hunters going up, those situations had decreased.

Mr. Wos suggested that Mr. Malz check other cities for similar legislation pertaining to this issue that perhaps he could share. Comment was made as to ideas in other cities being practiced such as, free fishing licenses for disabled veterans. Also, the State of Ohio offers veterans free hunting licenses and fishing licenses. Council appreciated the residents coming in.

See attached letter.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the May 18, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.  
**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.**

05/18/21

Exhibit  
Safety

I believe what Mr. Malz is proposing is a great idea for a few reasons. In my years of bow hunting all over the state of Virginia, Ohio, and Kansas I have never encountered more deer than I have in North Royalton. I think it is important to encourage as many hunters as safely possible to hunt North Royalton, not only to prevent run ins between humans and deer but also to create a healthy deer herd in the area. We all love deer and want to see them from time to time but I believe it is important to make sure we are making the best lives for them as well. With there being so many deer in this area starvation is a real issue. Anything that grows in the woods up to waist height has been eaten by the deer. I have never experienced anything like this anywhere else in the country. This past January during a late season hunt I saw 30 does and fawns all in a 5-acre block of woods and in early October it would be nothing to see nearly 40 deer on each hunt. These kind of numbers are not sustainable for these deer to live a healthy life. The truth is deer are dying of starvation more than we know because the habitat cannot sustain these numbers of deer. I have seen it with my own eyes watching the deer fight over the remaining food sources in the middle of winter. I think it is important to allow lower fee prices so people will be encouraged to come and hunt and continue to take care of the deer herd and improve not only the residents of North Royalton's lives but also the deer's lives.

Jason Whitlow  
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05-05-2021

April Stats

ACCIDENTS:

FATAL 0

DEER 0

HIT SKIP 4

INJURY 0

NON INJURY 33

PRIVATE PROPERTY 2

PHYSICAL ARRESTS: 52

SPEEDING TICKETS: 37

THEFT COMPLAINTS: 11  
(includes attempts)