

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2021

The Safety Committee meeting was held on June 15, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Mike Vos, 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, Marty Toukonen; Other: John Nickell.

Mr. Vos moved to excuse Ms. Krejci from tonight's Safety Committee meeting, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 2; Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of April 20, 2021 and May 18, 2021 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. COVID-19 Local Response

Chief Robert Chegan spoke about the State Health Department and the lifting of restrictions on June 2nd. Since that time, the City policy was changed. He met with the Mayor, along with Administration, to ensure that we continue to observe what is going on in moving forward. The numbers are still staying low, in which Chief Chegan noted that there was a week with no Covid patients in UH (University Hospital) Parma; with no deaths since the beginning of June. Our policy mirrors that of the CDC recommendations, and the State and Governor.

Regarding first responders, the Police still have a good supply of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and utilize it as needed; under the guidance. Nothing has really changed on the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) side concerning patients. Dispatch still asks the appropriate questions and we are still tracking. Much of what we are doing has not changed our approach, including what is being worn as PPE; that has not changed. We do not plan on changes for a while, whereas, we are staying more on the cautious path. This is regional. In the past few years, we have a regional EMS protocol, which was a momentous task between three major hospital systems, UH, Cleveland Clinic and Metro Hospital. Our Medical Directors, regional Fire Chiefs, and our EMS Sub Committee actually put together the large document in reference, however, everyone is on the same page. The benefit now for this pandemic is that it was easy to put one procedure into place; one policy that protected all of the first responders. That worked out well in moving forward. We are hoping to continue to see the numbers as they are. Chief Chegan would continue to send updates if needed.

2. Police & Safety Report

Chief Tarase indicated that the May stats were emailed. See attached. He had received a number of requests from Council members regarding different situations. One was regarding parking on Tilby Road. That was taken on for a week with two citations issued the first night, and no violations following. There were ATV (all-terrain vehicle) complaints on Chesapeake Drive, whereas one of the possible riders was identified that resided on Albion Road. We spoke to them, with no further problems thus far. There were also some complaints pertaining to Boston Road, which included speeding. That was taken on for the past week, and we will continue to monitor the area for another week. Also brought to his attention, was speeding on Apollo Drive. Again, we have been there for one week with a couple of citations issued; will continue to monitor that area for another week.

Chief Tarase spoke on speed signs, in which there are two currently displayed. One sign is back for repair with hopes to return this week. There have been a number of requests to get those out. As soon as they come back, and the traffic officer returns from vacation, we will get those out.

Last week, we swore in a new female officer and she began work last Monday. There was a new hire in February that finished up his Police Academy; he took his state test and started on Sunday. We are continuing to look at new hires that are still in the process.

Mr. Marnecheck brought up an email that he received asking if this is the first female officer that has been hired for the City. Chief Tarase indicated that she is the fourth one. Mr. Marnecheck raised question regarding the house that came down on Royalwood Road and Julia Drive where safety forces had the opportunity to do some training. Chief Chegan explained that any time there is a house and an ability to have a location to train, they are anxious to take advantage of such an opportunity. The things that can be done in such locations are far greater than what can be done at the station. They worked on search and rescue drills, used smoke machines where one can black out the masks; with the ability to practice real life situations. They also, practiced ventilation tactics and Maday rescue training. A lot of great experience and knowledge was gained from that and Chief Chegan expressed his appreciation that the Mayor allowed the opportunity.

Chief Tarase indicated that, unfortunately due to their man power issues, they did not get a lot of training in the house. It had been scheduled to be used by the regional tactical team. Unfortunately, it was held at the same time as their state conference, therefore, they had to forego the training in the house. Chief Tarase appreciated the offer to use it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Traffic Lights Discussion

Mr. Vos had asked to add this item for discussion. This originated with a resident that lives in ward 6, that was involved in a car accident recently; a lot of damage was done to his truck. This occurred at the intersection of Akins and Ridge Road where there is a stop sign. From time to time, it appears that we do have accidents where people run that stop sign. This intersection has been looked at before. This is a state route, whereas Mr. Vos wanted to know if there was anything that we could do regarding this. Every other major intersection on that road has a traffic light, except for Akins. He asked what it would take in terms of doing a traffic study, or perhaps see if this is something that can be assessed.

Chief Tarase believed it has been looked at before, and the issue has been the traffic signal at the school, whereas ODOT (Ohio Department of Transportation) does not allow traffic signals to be that close together. They would have to look at this again. He thought that was why there is not a full signal at Akins Road. Mr. Vos brought up Royal View where there is a light; Bennett Road and Ridge Road is located pretty close to that. It was hard for him to understand why there would be a problem with the high school having a light. The intersection in reference is a four way stop.

Mr. Weimer wanted to add that we added blinking stop signs at that intersection a couple of years ago. If someone ran the stop sign, he would perhaps be questioning the drivers' abilities. Sometimes traffic coming from Hinckley is a little faster, and he has seen some people almost get clipped; because they think they can cross. He wondered if one of the options could be to look at adding a type of warning sign on Ridge Road coming out of Hinckley, that could warn people 'traffic is crossing at the upcoming intersection'; since the traffic light may not be an option.

Ms. Fenos mentioned we will have a third school, the new Elementary School, and everyone will be heading in that direction; there is going to be more traffic and people using that intersection. Mr. Vos reiterated that perhaps this is something that we can investigate. He would like to see a light implemented there. Chief Tarase indicated he would have someone in traffic look at it. Mayor Antoskiewicz commented that the only caution he would put onto having a blinking light, is that it would confuse people. He recalled when it was blinking light when something was taking place with the school. Then when the school became functional again, it changed. Mr. Vos mentioned the visibility issue when you're turning off of Akins Road. Mayor

Antoskiewicz felt that it has had slight improvement or lower accidents since we put the flashing stop signs in, however, he was uncertain.

Mr. Marnecheck inquired about the light at the High School, whether it is still functioning while school is out. Chief Tarase indicated that the traffic signal would still be functioning as normal and believed it is looped; only changes with traffic coming from the other direction. Chief Tarese was not certain if it was readjusted after school was let out.

A resident, Mr. John Nickell of 10092 Hawley Drive, spoke about having had a light there at that location for a while, in which people were perturbed that it was taken away. He stated that when coming up that hill, especially in the winter, is a terrible intersection. He believed there is a way to look into this further. Mr. Wos planned to leave this on the agenda.

2. **1610.17 Storage Limits for Flammable Materials – Proposed Amendment**

Chief Chegan reported that one of the things he wants to start doing more of, is looking at the code for the fire portion. We would like to amend this ordinance to help better enforce the code, to allow the owners to upgrade and replace non-compliant tanks with equal or larger size equipment; that is compliant with the current codes. He did send out some information that they use in fire prevention, regarding the above ground storage requirements for flammable and combustible liquids; that being class 1 and class 2's. Most of these do not have this tank restriction in their codified ordinances or any other fire codes.

The state capacity in the state code is 12,000 gallons, with a 48,000 per occupancy. Those numbers are rather large. He was unable to verify the reasoning we have limited it to only 300; in his thirty years within the department. Some of the homes that are heated with propane, those tanks are either 100- or 500-gallon tanks; based on smaller to medium sized homes having 100-gallon tanks. The larger homes would have up to a 500-gallon tank. It is a big restriction on businesses that may want to have storage; they will have storage issues. Our commercial properties, we estimated up to 1500 gallons; because we felt that this amount would be a safe amount to regulate; allowing more opportunities for storage or products for our businesses. This would still go through Planning Commission, Building Department and Fire Department if needed. Some variances could still be set.

Chief Chegan reiterated that the ordinance would enable the users to put in new compliance tanks without worrying about the restrictive code; that restricted them to only 300 gallons. The tanks that the Fire Inspector and Assistant Fire Chief have when they go and inspect, are mostly non-compliant. The Building Commissioner advised this as well. They cannot upgrade a lot of the other tanks without getting new ones, and they cannot get new ones because they are restricted; to the 300 gallons. This will encourage compliance by getting the tanks that fit the needs of the businesses as well; it will help them. He has no concerns over the safety. There have never been issues with above ground tanks. These are regulated by the State Fire Marshal's office, in which they are really strict on installation of these.

The information that Chief Chegan sent also includes what the department will be doing. When we go out and do our inspections per year, we cannot get to all of our occupancies. He commented that the documents that have been put together by his colleague have been outstanding. Any tanks out there, we will be ensuring they are compliant; also giving them the opportunity to better their business. The key is aggressive enforcement and education, which is our goal when we go out. Chief Chegan would make sure the codes are followed. He did find a lot of issues with the old tanks. He concluded that this is going to ensure more safety and compliance in the future regarding capacity.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the June 15, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

06-08-2021

May Stats

ACCIDENTS:

FATAL	0
DEER	1
HIT SKIP	4
INJURY	1
NON INJURY	25
PRIVATE PROPERTY	5
PHYSICAL ARRESTS:	61
SPEEDING TICKETS:	37
THEFT COMPLAINTS: (includes attempts)	17