

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on October 19, 2021, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Joanne Krejci; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Linda Barath, Vincent Weimer, Jessica Fenos; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Eric Dean, Law Director Thomas Kelly; **Other:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of September 21, 2021 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Ms. Krejci. Vote: Yeas; 2 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. COVID-19 Local Response**

Chief Chegan reported that the numbers were decreasing. There has not been any change since the last meeting; they still adhere to guidelines and policies. The 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination shot would start opening up in clinics shortly within the City, whereas the elderly population has begun receiving them. Mr. Vos asked about decrease in numbers. Chief Chegan explained that the run volume is still many, in which he is not certain what are Covid related. He has not been receiving data from UH (University Hospitals) as much as before. They are still seeing their cases. Ms. Krejci asked about the high run rates, whether he believed it could be other illnesses that have taken over. Chief Chegan indicated perhaps, although we are not getting rid of Covid right now.

**2. Police & Safety Report**

Chief Tarase summarized that last month after having discussed deer issues, there were three deer accidents. For the month of September, there was a total of five deer accidents, one hit skip, 24 non-injury, and 8 on private property. Also, there were 63 physical arrests, 70 speeding tickets, and 15 death complaints. Since deer hunting began, 50 deer have been harvested; 44 were doe. Mr. Vos noted that he gets many complaints of speeding on Cady Road. Chief Tarase indicated that the volume of traffic was high once State Road closed. Mr. Vos wanted to know if there was anything that could be done with signage, to perhaps improve things. Discussion ensued between the Chief and Mr. Vos about a semi-trailer that had tried going uphill. The gentleman was sited and had to back all the way down. There are weight limits on the road; which people are ignoring.

Mr. Marnecheck asked if we still have mobile scales. Chief Tarase indicated that we do. Unfortunately, the officer that was certified on the scales is no longer with us. He would see if the scales still work; they have not been charged. Traffic officers are being certified in using those. Mr. Marnecheck inquired how long ago we bought them, perhaps four or five years ago. Chief Tarase agreed.

**3. Traffic Lights Discussion**

- **Strongsville/North Royalton border – W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mr. Vos advised that Councilman Mr. Kaminsky of Strongsville has brought to our attention a few problem areas. The area of West 130<sup>th</sup> Street; that traffic light. He has been receiving e-mails from Strongsville residents about Albion Road and West 130<sup>th</sup> Street, Drake Road and 130<sup>th</sup>, as well as Whitney Road. The main complaint has been the one on Albion, southbound, making a left into North Royalton; in which West 130<sup>th</sup> is getting backed up. That Councilman had suggested something being done jointly that Strongsville and North

Royalton could discuss. This would need to be some kind of collaboration. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that he would speak to him. Mr. Weimer, requested that he be included since it is in his ward. He commented that he did not really take action on the e-mail that was sent out, because it is Strongsville residents that are bringing this up. He has not heard a single word from ward 5 about those intersections. He wants to be cooperative with them, however, he felt that we are already looking at a number of traffic issues in North Royalton.

Ms. Fenos mentioned that it is actually in ward 1 and people do bring it up. As discussion ensued, Mayor Antoskiewicz mentioned the possibility in doing something. When people pull out, they cannot see if something is coming south; that is one issue. It is the same issue on Whitney. He noted that he can bring up the other ones to Mr. Kaminsky. That is their side of the road in Strongsville, however, it is our lights. Ms. Fenos pointed out that temporarily, Sprague Road is going to be closed in at least one direction at a time, whereas it is already backed up. She added that all traffic that goes into Strongsville could potentially get worse over time. She would not have an issue with joining Strongsville for discussion. The Mayor noted that he would approach Mr. Kaminsky.

Ms. Krejci questioned where the biggest issue was. Mr. Vos stated Albion and 130<sup>th</sup> was the worst area; to his knowledge. The other one was by GetGo with Maria Gardens on the other side. Mayor Antoskiewicz mentioned it gets backed up southbound. Mr. Weimer brought up that this is the third intersection on 130<sup>th</sup> that Strongsville has brought to our attention. Although we cannot fix all of West 130<sup>th</sup>; there is a lot of traffic, and bad intersections. He felt that people may say you fixed one and not others, therefore we need to be careful in what we decide to fix.

Mr. Marnecheck asked Mayor Antoskiewicz if there are any County grants that we would be able to score higher if it was just a North Royalton intersection; given that it involves two municipalities. The Mayor was uncertain. He thought that one would probably have to go through the same process of a traffic count. He reiterated that he would have to see if Mayor Perciak is even willing to work on that. The cost to fix the light is a lot cheaper than the other side of the road. Mr. Vos talked about the challenge on Albion and made mention of a potential arrow. Chief Tarase thought that the last thing discussed was doing a traffic survey. Mayor Antoskiewicz was in agreeance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Proposed Ordinance: 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment – Dispatch Services**

Mayor Antoskiewicz briefed that this means it is 7<sup>th</sup> year. The cost to do business pertaining to dispatch has increased. Our contract with Strongsville alone has gone up by 6 %.

Mr. Weimer indicated that officers also share some of his concerns with our Southwest dispatch. It is hard to communicate at times and with slow responses. He wanted to know if the Chief had thoughts on the renewal of this agreement and if he has considered the need to perhaps look at bringing dispatch back to the City. Chief Tarase commented that it has been a challenge over the years with the way it is set up there. The way we do business entails the individual who answers the phone call is not the same person that dispatches the call for service; therefore, you have a delay. There are instances where officers are asking the dispatcher a question that the first dispatcher did not cover with the caller. Having listened to calls into the dispatch center himself, residents are confused as to whom they are calling. Half the time they are ready to hang up until the dispatcher asks what city are they calling from. He would like to see improvement.

Mr. Vos wanted to know if there have been any attempts to resolve or identify the problems, and whether there is something that we can recommend or work with them to collaborate; to nudge them to do something differently to fix those issues. Chief Tarase stated that North Royalton has probably been their biggest problem as far as cities complaining. From the start, he has had a good working relationship with the supervisor, who he has addressed a lot of the complaints to. It has gotten even more challenging and different since they allowed more cities. It is a bouncing act; they try to consolidate things. Some officers do not like that, however, for the most part they have been receptive in working out our differences.

Ms. Krejci questioned the seven years prior, if we had our own dispatch in North Royalton. Chief Chegan indicated that we did. He explained that everyone wants their own dispatch center, however, the State mandated counties to reduce the number of PSAP's (Public Safety Answering Prints) in the counties; Cuyahoga County has 15 jurisdictions. The State mandated that Cuyahoga County get the number down to 4, and they would only fund the first three. The first one was already established at the time of this announcement, and the State Legislator. As discussion ensued regarding the process of funding, Chief Chegan explained that we are still nowhere near 4 PSAP's in the county; that goes back to leadership issues etc. If you look at the County, you would probably have one in each area, but then there is the City of Cleveland also. It has not gone anywhere. Bringing dispatch back to a City would cost us a lot more, although it would be great; basically, it is cost prohibitive. The infrastructure becomes very costly. Everything that we have at the center is a high cost. Currently, our annual rate of increase has been approximately 6 %, since the last time this was done. Middleburg did join Southwest Dispatch Center; therefore, we did have another city that is employed there since the last agreement.

Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that he goes to meetings, along with the Chief, and no one is shy about voicing any concerns. Chief Chegan commented that although our expectations are different, we are on the same page and if there is an issue, we address it. We meet monthly at the advisory meeting and everything is addressed there or after the meeting; if it pertains to the City.

Mr. Weimer asked if Strongsville makes any profit off of the dispatch center. Mayor Antoskiewicz clarified that they do not. They put a little more into it, it is their building, however, no one is making money on the dispatch side; it is not a profit. Mr. Marnecheck stated that it sounded similar to the Municipal Court District, in which he believed Parma loses money on it, because they have to house it with the building. Multiple municipalities go into that; was his thinking process.

Ms. Barath shared that although we would love to see our dispatch center come back, the technology alone would be difficult to manage the cost. Chief Chegan advised that furthermore, we are looking at a new 911 system. That is not just for Strongsville, but for all dispatch centers, therefore they are collaborating between that and another project. Mayor Antoskiewicz mentioned things are constantly evolving and agreed about the high costs.

Mr. Wos made mention that Fire and EMS also have dispatch needs. Chief Chegan reiterated that we have an advisory meeting once a month and we bring up all of our issues at that time. There are other dispatch centers that are being just as involved. He stated that everyone has their own challenges in every center and we will keep doing our diligence. If there is something that works better for the residents, we will pursue that; if not, we will continue to do what we are doing.

Ms. Barath shared that a resident talked to her about the idea of considering an amendment to the bow hunting, to include discounts to our veterans. She inquired about the interest level, as well as from the Chief. Mr. Wos mentioned that we have discussed this before with the veterans, in which he did not see a problem with that; but to keep it restricted to people that are North Royalton residents. Mr. Weimer recapped that there is a cost to the City. If we are going to give a discount, the discount comes at the cost of the tax payers, because there is a cost to the Chief in sending out officers to look at that tree stand; making sure that it is covered. We were not certain about this during the last discussion. He is not sure if he is for a discount. If you want to hunt, there is a cost to hunt, and that will be the cost. Chief Tarase commented that there is a cost to his department to send officers out and inspect the property and make sure they are set up properly. There is also cost to do all of the paperwork. As a veteran, he does not ask for discounts, although speaking positive about our veterans in the City, he did not see how this would help the City. Ms. Barath would pass this information along to the resident.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Wos seconded by Ms. Krejci **to adjourn the October 19, 2021 meeting.** Yeas: 2 Nays: 0.  
**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.**

10-07-2021

September Stats

ACCIDENTS:

FATAL	0
DEER	5
HIT SKIP	1
INJURY	0
NON INJURY	24
PRIVATE PROPERTY	8
PHYSICAL ARRESTS:	63
SPEEDING TICKETS:	70
THEFT COMPLAINTS: (includes attempts)	15