

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

### **JULY 19, 2022**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on July 19, 2022 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Mike Wos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Dawn Carbone-McDonald; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Joanne Krejci, John Nickell; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Thomas Kelly; **Other:** Joel Spatz, Michael McDonald.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of June 21, 2022 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Wos, seconded by Ms. Carbone-McDonald. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0 **Motion carried.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Police & Safety Report**

See report.

Mr. Nickell inquired about the car thefts. He wanted to know if having the cameras to view license plates would have helped solve any of the thefts. Chief Tarase felt it was possible.

Chief Tarase shared that he e-mailed Council some information on the fireworks complaints that were handled in June and July. Included were the addresses and locations of the complaints, along with a map of where the complaints were. He had 49 firework complaints, in which 6 citations were given.

Mr. Wos asked for further details regarding the trucking violations. Chief Tarase indicated that trucks were driving on roads that they are not supposed to, dropping loads on the roadway and tracking mud. Others have had tail gates down while hauling loads.

Chief Tarase was pleased to report that we were awarded \$11,407.50 today to purchase Body Armor for officers as part of the Ohio Law Enforcement Body Armor Program. This would be reimbursement on money we spend on purchasing new vests.

Mr. Dietrich raised question whether there would be a need for another canine officer, if we were able to find another grant; he offered his assistance to search for grants. Chief Tarase indicated he is currently looking at a program to possibly add another canine to the department. However, it would not be a working drug dog, but along the lines of a Therapy Dog. Mr. Dietrich asked if Chief Tarase would need any help in that effort. He spoke about the last grant when he was not on Council, as to the money received through a foundation. Chief Tarase stated that they have it handled at this time. He is just waiting for the proposal to reach his desk.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired about the cost for a therapy dog. Chief Tarase explained that the dog itself would not cost anything, however, expenses are being put together as to what comes with the dog. Mr. Nickell questioned how it would be used in day-to-day operations. Ms. Carbone-McDonald felt it would be great in the schools. Chief Tarase noted that we are looking to partner with the schools in using it through our SRO (School Resource Officer). Mr. Dietrich asked if an officer would be assigned to that dog. Chief Tarase concurred.

Ms. Carbone-McDonald inquired about whether we could fundraise for this. Chief Tarase agreed. Ms. Krejci pointed out that the school PTA usually has money left at the end of the year.

Chief Tarase shared that Richmond Heights has a very successful Therapy Canine Program, which we are looking at. Our SRO has reached out to other agencies and she has done a lot of work on it. There are a

number of cities doing it, whereas Ohio is one of the premier training locations for these types of canines. Ms. Carbone-McDonald was grateful, along with Mr. Dietrich.

Mr. Nickell commented that cities can get things for free at times, however, then there is the ongoing cost. He was not against the idea. He asked what the dog would be doing when school is out. He was considering feedback from the community about the spendings on a therapy dog. He recalled there was a lot of push back in Brecksville for something similar for their middle school. He wanted to know if it is worthwhile and what we are using it for, as well as long term costs. Chief Tarase reiterated that it was an idea being worked on and that he would not know the exact details until he receives the proposal.

Mr. Dietrich loved the idea for the kids also. He suggested that we could use it at the Senior Center. Chief Tarase stated that it was not just for the community, but for the officers as well; for their stress and anxiety on the job.

## **2. Hydrant Painting and Maintenance**

Mayor Antoskiewicz received an e-mail from Chief Chegan indicating that they are in Ward 5 currently, for hydrant maintenance. Due to supply issues, the company painting the hydrants is still backed up; with no exact date when they would be doing so.

## **3. Safety Town**

Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that Chief Chegan would be meeting with the school board Superintendent within the next few weeks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*Mr. Dietrich moved to add the topic of deer hunting and allow for discussion. Seconded by Mr. Vos. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. Motion carried.*

Mr. Dietrich wanted to propose a potential change again to the deer hunting for this year. As originally set up, it required that you get two doe before you get a buck. He went on to say last year, the Chief was able to change it to getting one doe, before getting a buck. Mr. Dietrich would like to propose that we require no "doe" first this year, which would not need to be a permanent change. Mr. Dietrich commented that he paid his fees and saw nothing but bucks, with no opportunities in getting a deer; because he was not able to shoot a buck. At least six other residents shared with him the same exact issue. He brought up the four accidents relating to deer. At least for this year, he asked if Chief Tarase would consider having no restriction on how we hunt.

Marnecheck asked for clarification on what would change comparatively. Mr. Dietrich indicated it would allow of getting a buck first; with no restrictions. He noted that hunters are all experiencing the same thing. He agreed that the program is working and felt it would help balance things out. Chief Tarase indicated he would be willing to change that. He also heard the same from some hunters, whereas they only saw bucks when hunting; with no successful hunt. He agreed to do so for this season. Mr. Dietrich was appreciative.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Vos seconded by Mr. Dietrich **to adjourn the July 21, 2022 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.**

07-14-2022

June Stats

ACCIDENTS:

FATAL	0
DEER	4
HIT SKIP	1
INJURY	1
NON INJURY	15
PRIVATE PROPERTY	2
PHYSICAL ARRESTS:	62
SPEEDING TICKETS:	57
THEFT COMPLAINTS: (includes attempts)	21