

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES OCTOBER 17, 2023

The Safety Committee meeting was held on October 17, 2023 at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Mike Vos, Vice Chair Jeremy Dietrich, Heidi Webber; **Council:** Paul Marnecheck, Joanne Krejci, Linda Barath, John Nickell; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Keith Tarase, Finance Director Jenny Esarey, Law Director Tom Kelly; **Other:** James Kulikowski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of September 19, 2023 Safety Committee minutes. Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich. Vote: Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Police & Safety Report

See report.

Ms. Barath asked about the therapy dog deployment information on the report. Chief Tarase indicated that represented how many times the dog was used at the schools.

Chief Tarase provided an update on the vehicles that were ordered from Ford. He had contacted the dealer this past week, in which they have been assigned VIN numbers and build dates the second week of November; dependent upon their strikes. They would be built and we will receive them at some point.

Regarding speed signs, we are in the process of putting them away for the winter. The batteries do not work well over the winter time; therefore, we try not to have them out. The Chief brought up the West 130th closure coming up next year, which we are preparing for that. We will probably have to do some timing changes to traffic signals throughout the City. We will likely see an increase in traffic on Edgerton and Bennett Road. It will be closed just south of Valley Parkway and West 130th Street; they are replacing that bridge.

Chief Tarase spoke of us being, that of Southwest Dispatch and Motorola. Tomorrow they are planning to provide us with what the increase is for 2024, in which he is expecting a minimum increase of 6%. When we began with Southwest Dispatch in 2014, our annual amount was \$480,000. If we get the 6% increase, it would bring us up to \$713,490 per year. At some point, we need to look at our spendings and explore having our own dispatch. Mr. Vos questioned the dispatch equipment; all Motorola. He wanted to know if they go out to bid to different companies and if there is a bid process. Chief Tarase was not certain. He noted Southwest Dispatch is basically Strongsville Dispatch. Earlier this year, Council had approved a contract with Chagrin Valley for Motorola's Dispatch System. They are having a lot of problems with it. We are supposed to go live with-it next Tuesday. Originally, it was supposed to be an 18 month roll out, whereas currently, we are at one year. We have had trouble getting the system to work at North Royalton. We recently got an operating system for our computers in our cars last week. We really have not had a chance to test the system yet; they locked it down yesterday. Luckily, the Chief was able to get personnel trained on what we did have, compared to the other cities in Southwest Dispatch. He noted that we were the furthest ahead, including Strongsville, who came to see how we were doing the training. All of this is being done by Chagrin Valley, which is all set to go forth next Tuesday. Basically, they are more worried about the dispatch side of things and not records management; as long as their dispatch centers are working. Chief Tarase was more concerned about the records side of things, such as writing reports and being able to look up information. He is not pleased with how it is working.

Mr. Nickell asked about Chagrin Valley, where they have three different centers, and roughly 30 different cities that they dispatch for. Chief Tarase explained that Chagrin Valley is a Council of governments,

therefore those agencies have some say in how they operate. He mentioned each of them has their own problems. As discussion ensued, Chief Tarase indicated that a problem he has had with them is residents calling and not knowing where they are calling. He went on to say they think they are calling the wrong place. It takes time to get clarification on the city they are calling from. That is a problem. Mr. Nickell asked if they identify as Southwest Dispatch, whereas people are expecting to hear North Royalton. The Chief felt the technology is out there for people to know which city they are calling however; Southwest informs him it is not possible. They are dispatching for Fire as well.

Mr. Dietrich felt that because of the cost, they should consider taking into account what we are saying. Chief Tarase stated that he approves a lot of bills, and that is one he hates the most, which is \$57,000 per month. We have been doing this since 2014. Chief Chegan clarified this was a state mandate that all PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) needed to consolidate in Cuyahoga County, which was consolidated to four dispatch centers. At the time, there was over 40 in the county; everyone had their own. The first dispatch center to combine was the City of Bedford, which they received a grant in the early 2000's. Chagrin established on the far east side, and then basically took over that area as well. Strongsville was the next center, and that is when we joined. When the state made the mandate, the County made the push also. Therefore, Bedford, for example, who was already established, received a large grant; which was more money. In short, we were the third city and we received a smaller amount of funds. Then, two other dispatch centers came about and they received more money, which they had said they were not going to do. Since 2014, Chagrin Valley Dispatch included the Brecksville Center, Broadview Heights, Seven Hills, Independence, Cuyahoga Heights, Newburgh Heights, and Brooklyn. There have been a lot of moving parts. Chief Chegan indicated there are options however, we got placed in the one that was in our geographical area; which we were persuaded to go. Middleburg was the last one to join. It has been over a year and they are still transitioning. North Olmsted was going to have CVD Dispatch and they were going to consolidate the west shore area. They opted at the last minute, pulled their agreement, and are keeping their own dispatch center. The Chief stated that in order to have our own dispatch center, we still need equipment. Perhaps in the future we can put some numbers together. There are a lot of things that can be done with dispatch and should be. He, and Chief Tarase are both frustrated with certain aspects of this. We are trying day in and day out to make it right.

Ms. Krejci asked if we could be switched to Chagrin Valley. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated that we could. Chief Chegan explained we have four dispatch centers that surround us; Strongsville, Parma has their own, Broadview Heights has CVD, and we have Medina County with Hinckley. Geographically, we were probably in the right one initially if anyone were to merge. We are the third largest city in the county and it takes a long time to get to calls. It takes a long time for mutual aid to come and get the calls. The calls that we get are all within that center. This is a national model, which some work better than others. We are trying to make it better daily. There are options that we have been looking at.

Mr. Nickell pointed out that it has been ten years and suggested perhaps, doing an evaluation of some kind. Mayor Antoskiewicz stated we have constantly discussed dispatches; there are the goods and the bads. He felt the most frustrating part is that nobody likes the increases. He went on to say if we were getting the services that we desire. He voices things at meetings often and we will continue to do so. He expressed that both Chiefs do a great job keeping him up to date, also with some possibilities where we could make a move; we are evaluating.

Chief Chegan indicated that basically all cell phone bill money, as well as money that goes to 911 systems, and the call takers are the ones who get that money. In Cuyahoga County, all cell phone 911 calls go to an answering service; it should not go there. We have the technology to go to a dispatch center and it is driven by money; the County gets the money. He went on to say that the County has the 911 Committee. We are hoping there could be a change very soon. It is so unfortunate that it goes to an answering service and they are put on hold. We are still answering the 911 calls, however it is just starting somewhere else and then coming here. The Mayor added that they are getting the money. He spoke of the 911 Committee, which is a 5-person committee. We are working on it and we need three votes in order for them to disburse that money to either dispatch center, so that it can be divided amongst the cities involved in that dispatch center; or to the City. Our

hope is getting three committee members on board to vote yes, which would help everyone tremendously. We may see these costs go down as well.

Mr. Dietrich revisited the topic of doing our own dispatch. The Mayor commented part of these increases are upgrades in technology etc. He continued that we would have to buy equipment; along with personnel, salaries and benefits. Chief Tarase stated in the past year, he has had more roll out twice, to give some numbers as to what that would look like. We still have some equipment from the past that we would have to upgrade. Unfortunately, it is Motorola, a big company, and they have not gotten back with him on any numbers yet. He would continue to explore it. Mr. Dietrich wants to know the options and what it would be to switch to another company. Mayor Antoskiewicz noted that once we would potentially make that commitment again to have our own, we would really need to make the commitment and keep it. Mr. Dietrich felt that if we did our own dispatch, we could manage it more in house, although there is cost.

As discussion ensued, Mr. Kelly expressed his gratitude to both Chiefs for trying to make this work. However, if we were to go back to our own dispatch, Mr. Kelly wanted to suggest remembering that we went through a very difficult effort to unwind that experience back in 2013. We have commitments to the Unions, such that in the event that we were to create or restore our dispatch, we would have to bargain with them for the restoration of their bargaining unit. He was not saying we cannot do it. However, in addition to the technological problems and the expense involved, there's the question as to whether you can even create a new PSAP. He was uncertain if we could get license from the State to do that anymore. Chief Chegan reiterated there are a lot of moving parts and we are looking at all options. He commented that the dispatch centers are hiring often and they cannot fill the positions. Until we get something concrete, we will keep plugging for North Royalton, which we do on a daily basis, and make certain that we are getting the service we deserve.

Ms. Webber asked whether the Chief felt there is a good system known that would work. Chief Chegan clarified that we have looked however, the opportunity has not arisen yet. Police and Fire are two different entities. We are integrating a new CAD System, which integrates with our radios, our CAD, and then the new 911 system; which in theory is great, however we need to make it work. There have been problems on the Fire side for years with the CAD system. All of this is supposed to be implemented next Tuesday, whereas they are just now getting to Chief Chegan's Department; Fire.

2. Safety Town

Chief Chegan advised that the drawings are going to be completed this week; it will be per site. We are still working on two fundraisers, whereas one is a raffle that Niko's is hosting. He spoke of the second one, where the Brown's Backers are continually at events, not only on game day; they go out and do more fundraising. We will be hitting up some of the other vendors. Once we receive some of the hard-core drawings, we are going to do a video-based presentation and that will open up a lot more fundraising activities. Everything should be up and running to get everything started in the spring time. There will be more updates next month.

Mr. Marnecheck inquired about how much money needs raised. Chief Chegan recapped that the preliminary costs, when he initially started, was six figures. Once we get what we are doing structurally, we should be able to potentially market those to our local businesses for fundraising to sponsor the buildings. If we do so, that will be a revenue stream compared to the fundraising; that was his hope. We will definitely need between roughly \$50,000-80,000. However, we are not certain with costs raising, for example concrete. We had \$14,000, and all donations go into the account that Ms. Esarey set up. Then we utilize the funds for the architectural design. We will have another deposit in the beginning of February.

Ms. Krejci asked if the City gives any money for the Safety Town. Chief Chegan stated we have not done anything yet that would cost the City money. Ms. Esarey commented that we are not against it; we are not certain as to what the cost will be yet. Mayor Antoskiewicz indicated we hoped we could do it all through donations, however we may be able to contribute in a different way. Chief Chegan mentioned the schools have their own striper, as mentioned previously, and they do a nice job. They will stripe all the lines and take care of the paint for us. Ms. Krejci felt if it were to ever be delayed because of money, she would hope that at

the point, we would want to see if the City could keep it moving along somehow. She stated that she would hate to wait another two years just because we have not gotten enough through fund raising.

3. Fire Report

Chief Chegan reported that our September run numbers were slightly down from last year, however our overall numbers remain steady. We ran over 4100 calls last year. He pointed out the numbers, whereas run numbers are consistent; usually 75% EMS, 25% Fire, and service calls. We have had no changes to our staff and are fully staffed. He went to say that what is on our plate heavily at this time, is the CAD system. We have until next Tuesday to train our people. We have a lot of work on our IT part as well.

4. Gas and Oil Wells

REMOVE FROM AGENDA

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed legislation: MOU – NR School District and City of North Royalton adding certified therapy dog

Mr. Kelly explained this simply represents the renewal of the existing agreement. There were several tweaks that were made to it; between the Chief and Superintendent. However, it is the same agreement for the two School Resource Officers. He pointed out that Ordinance 23-120 needs to have sponsorship removed, so that we can go forward presumably, on Ordinance 23-123.

Mr. Wos moved to recommend 23-123 to Council for approval, seconded by Ms. Webber. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

2. Ambulance Purchase / Change Order

Mr. Wos moved to add Ambulance / Change Order to New Business, seconded by Ms. Webber. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Chief Chegan indicated that at the next Council meeting, there would be legislation. In January, we made a purchase of a new ambulance. At that time, he had conveyed it would take 24 months before we will have the ambulance. At this time, fire trucks are going over “four years”; this is a significant issue. There was a piece of safety equipment that was added to this ambulance from the manufacturer, and basically, it is more for our personnel with the restraint system and airbags; a state-of-the-art system that will protect our members. It came out after, which he felt is an important piece of equipment that needed to be on this ambulance. With the funds that he has in the new vehicle account, he originally proposed \$375,000 and then we signed for only \$349,000. He wanted to make certain we wrote it on the original ambulance purchase and that this is going to be an add on to that now, especially if there is any price increase to the safety system next year. We still have another fifteen months before they start to build it. He wants to have it in place. He pointed out the legislation will be on for the next meeting, in which Safety will not be in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Wos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich to adjourn the October 17, 2023 Safety Committee meeting. Yeas: 3 Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

North Royalton Police Department

Incident	# of for September 2023
MVA NON INJURY	26
MVA DEER	0
ASSAULTS	6
ATV/DIRT BIKES	10
NOISE DISTURBANCES	20
FRAUD/IDENTITY THEFT	15
PHYSICAL ARRESTS	6
SPEEDING CITATIONS	28
THEFTS (Includes Attempts)	16
SUNDAY NOISE COMPLAINTS (Mower/Leaf Blower)	0



THarvestedDeer2023

Monday, October 16, 2023

8:24:21 AM

PermitNumber	LastName	Ward	EndingDate	Address	Harvested	TotalDe
2023-028	MADEJ	4	9 /30/2023	4967 ROYALWOOD RD	1	1
2023-046	WITTERS	1	10/1 /2023	9594 STATE RD	3	3
2023-023	HETMAN	5	10/6 /2023	10315 EDGERTON RD	1	1
2023-090	SEKERAK	1	10/7 /2023	10371 SPRAUE RD	1	1
2023-077	BIEGACKI	5	10/7 /2023	10901 W 130TH ST	1	1
2023-042	CLISBY	6	10/7 /2023	4273 WILTSHIRE RD	2	2
2023-075	BAZNIK	1	10/7 /2023	6160 BUNKER RD	1	1
2023-094	STERLEY	6	10/8 /2023	3806 AKINS RD	1	1
2023-002	MACDONALD	2	10/9 /2023	4569 WALLINGS RD	1	1
2023-007	MATTESON	1	10/15/2023	9874 RIDGE RD	1	1
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