

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 18, 2005

The Safety Committee meeting was held on January 18, 2005, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Committee Members: Chair Denise Bobulsky, Robert Stefanik, Tom Koch; Council Members: Vince Gentile, Don Willey, Robin Zaccardelli; Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Mike Fabish, Service Director Skip Mayer, Building Department representative Rick Arrendale.

Moved by Mrs. Bobulsky, seconded by Mr. Koch to amend the minutes of November 16, 2004, Unfinished Business Item 4 High School parking lot traffic to add that Chief Bican reported that officers have been assigned to assist until the traffic lights have been installed as requested by Lisa Uffman-Kirsch. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Moved by Mrs. Bobulsky, seconded by Mr. Koch to approve the minutes of November 16, 2004 as amended. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. New fire station

Fire Chief said that the project is almost complete but there are a lot of little things that need to be done before occupancy. There was a target date of January 14, 2005, where the contractors were to be concluded. The plan is to have a truck and a squad working there during the day at first to make sure all systems are working. He is optimistic that this will occur on a limited basis. He currently would like to see the building occupied on a 24 hour basis by March 1, 2005. He would like to have Council do a walk through once the epoxy floors are done before it is officially opened to the public. He is not certain at this time of an exact date. Landscaping will be completed as it is able and an effort is being made to make sure the neighbors are satisfied with it. Today a meeting was held with SBC regarding the overhead cabling on Albion Road side. The cabling will be placed underground instead of overhead. With all the recent rain the retention system as designed does not appear to be causing any problem to the storm sewer system. So far the project is within budget. Changes that are underway are using the contingency. Cleveland Water lost record of the tap-in fee that was hand delivered to them and due to the holidays the water tap-in was not scheduled. This held up other contractors as sprinkler couldn't be tested, the domestic piping. This has all since been resolved.

2. Avalon fire works display

Chief Fabish spoke with the Law Director. He said Mr. O'Donnell has a good handle on a way to curtail private fireworks displays by Ordinance.

3. Open Burning Fire Code Chapter 1620

Chief Fabish spoke with the Law Director. Chief Fabish said many communities are struggling with the chimeneas and the UL approved deck type fireplaces trying to determine regulations for them. State fire code will be changing this year and the new language may address recreational fires. Our code does not address recreational fires. The issues are safety and smoke and the hazards are being considered. Chief Fabish hopes to have something soon from the Law Director.

4. ISO Audit

Chief Fabish said that he is happy with the audit. He will request a revisit of the audit as soon as the new station is open. In looking at the report, we are low in fire apparatus that we have for a community of our size. A reserve engine is recommended, but we use our reserve engine as a responding unit. This weak area should not change the amount of residential insurance rates. In order to get maximum credit it is required to have an engine company within 1 ½ road miles of every residence and a ladder company within 2 ½ miles of every residence. We are going to improve our rating when the new stations are built and running. This item was removed from the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:**1. Licensed and bonded commercial/residential snow plowing**

Mr. Koch said he previously reviewed the code with Jack Murphy before he left. Points were noted for discussion, pushing the snow on property of others and registration of persons plowing snow for money.

Landscapers are licensed, but those plowing snow in the city have no requirements. Registration could show proof of licensing and bonding in case of damage. Snow is being left in the gutters, and in the street causing damage to city plows and it is an unsafe condition for the residents. It was questioned how those registered would be identified and how this would be regulated. It is difficult to determine damage to a tree lawn until after the snow melts. Registration of snow plow drivers will not necessarily resolve the problems. Registration will provide an opportunity to give the rules to those plowing snow. It was questioned if this problem was too big to legislate. Requiring registration could be a detriment as it would cause the small plow driver to now be classified as a business and to have taxing and bookkeeping issues for a business that would not benefit the small driver. It may be a punitive issue to the residents.

It is currently legal to push snow across the street as long as the ability to see when pulling out of the driveway is not hindered. It is not legal to cause damage. There was discussion regarding not allowing snow to be plowed across the street. Chief Bican will check on why it was decided to allow this action. Mr. Koch said that perhaps the responsibility for damage should fall on the homeowner who hired the snow plow driver. He feels that the snow should stay on the property of the residence.

The benefit could be to everyone in that those registered would be put on a list that could be made available to residents, those doing the snow plowing would know the regulations and be more accountable. This would not be an endorsement of a contractor just a list of those who have registered.

Mr. Koch said Brunswick is operating with registration and that he will get information from Brunswick to see how they handle it.

2. Purchase of Police Vehicles

Chief Bican said the purchase is standard replacements. Mr. Willey said he wanted to review this in Finance Committee to assure the funds are available. Chief Bican said that the money was already appropriated in order that the deadline for ordering could be met. There was discussion regarding the Police Department vehicle fleet.

There are certificates from the Finance Director indicating that funds are available. The Safety Committee moved this item to the Finance Committee.

3. Weed and Grass 660.14

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch provided amendments and the discussion was noted that woody vegetation would remain in the ordinance because there is a problem with that in some locations.

Moved by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to recommend approval of the proposed amendment to Chapter 660.14 Weeds and Grass. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

4. Highway Advisory Radio (HAR)

Chief Fabish said there was a presentation to the Fire Department and the CERT team leader regarding the Highway Advisory Radio system to notify the community in times of need of things such as shelters open or vaccination centers in progress specific to North Royalton. There is an economical AM radio transmitter system on a 10 Watt power that would cover an area of five miles in all directions. The cost is around \$25,000. Other options being looked into are a reverse 911 system as well as notification through radio and TV channels.

Mrs. Bobulsky moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Koch. 3 yeas/0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.