

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 17, 2005

The Safety Committee meeting was held on May 17, 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; Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Mike Fabish, Firefighter Marc Buchanan, Law Director Tom O'Donnell, Joseph Litwin.

Moved by Mr. Koch, seconded by Mr. Stefanik to approve the minutes of April 19, 2005. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City funds/volunteer firefighters

Mr. Litwin addressed the committee saying volunteers could be used in the evening to assist the paid firefighters allowing the paid firefighters to have more time with their families. He said that he was part of a program that worked in a city in New York.

Chief Fabish said that the city transitioned approximately 40 years ago from a volunteer department to a full-time department. There was a skeleton crew approach at that time. Over the years it became apparent that the city needed to have a larger full-time group because the volunteer group could not be relied upon to provide the type of coverage needed. While a volunteer department may work and be effective in their areas of use, it does not work in our area. Also given the technical aspect and the inclusion of paramedicine into the profession the skills, training and constant changes are difficult to keep up with people in the profession as a second job. The department has not been inefficient or ineffective and the resources and the money that the community has spent on the department are well spent. Our department has been providing exceptional service and one that he feels cannot be provided on a volunteer basis.

Mr. Litwin said with the way the city is growing he felt it may be that the city will not have enough staff to man the stations and the volunteers could be of assistance.

Discussion continued regarding the merits of a full time versus a volunteer department, including the testing selection process of personnel and availability of qualified volunteers, the training commitment involved, response time, and the level of expectation of the community. Chief Fabish does not feel that this concept is something that would work for our city. The committee agreed with the Chief.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. New fire station

Fire Chief Fabish said that there is more activity from the contractors to finish. Another traffic light may need to be installed and that will be determined after they move into the facility full time.

2. Avalon fire works display

Mr. O'Donnell distributed information. He said he tried to define public fireworks and private fireworks exhibitions and then exclude private fireworks exhibitions. The goal was to only permit public fireworks exhibitions. The material will be reviewed and further discussed at the next meeting.

3. Open Burning Fire Code Chapter 1620

The Fire Chief said that the state is adopting an international fire code at the end of the year. There is a section dealing with recreational fires. The restrictions will be more stringent than what is being reviewed in this chapter. He would like to include this in our code. Proposed changes to the code were discussed including that proposed changes may be too restrictive. Chief Fabish will review and recommend changes to fit our codes.

4. Highway Advisory Radio (HAR)

The test was run. The results were positive for those in automobiles and negative for those in houses. The message was not clear in all areas. The manufacturers of the system felt that it would work better with a permanently mounted antenna. Chief Fabish said that another test could be made in Beachwood to assist with further determination on how it might fit to our city. They will look at the reverse test in Beachwood.

5. Traffic Control - York Road and Intersection Widening

Mrs. Bobulsky said that she is receiving complaints that the no left turn signage is not giving motorists enough warning. Chief Bican said additional signage could be added, but that there are signs on top of the lights and this should be adequate.

6. Ordinance 05-40 Registration of Snow Plow Operators(approved 4-5-05) Chapter 834

The committee will review this next month.

7. ATV Trespassing

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said that Chief Bican responded to her about the problem and she felt this could be removed from the committee. Item removed from committee.

8. Back-up radio repeater for the Fire Department

Chief Fabish said it is working properly. Item removed from committee.

NEW BUSINESS**1. City funds/volunteer firefighters**

See above

2. Traffic lights signal system

Chief Bican announced that construction will begin June 1, 2005.

Mr. Koch moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stefanik. 3 yeas/0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.