

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 18, 2006

The Safety Committee meeting was held on July 18, 2006, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Lisa Uffman-Kirsch at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chair Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Committee members Denise Bobulsky and Robert Stefanik; Fire Chief Michael Fabish, Police Chief Paul Bican, Larry Antoskiewicz; Residents: Margaret Mathers, Gayle Clapp, Al Clapp, Julie Medas, ? Medas.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch noted that the minutes of the June 20 meeting had just been distributed today, so they will be held for approval until September.

Call for New Business on the agenda. None.

Call for Open Resident Discussion other than that on the agenda. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. No Hunting Code — Proposed Amendment

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch introduced a proposed amendment to our No Hunting Code (attached to the agenda), which was based on prior discussions. Chief Bican had some concerns with some of the language in that, and Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked him to share his thoughts.

Chief Bican said he didn't mind the insertion of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources language, but his objection was to putting in "the hunting or trapping" because we get from 300-400 animals a year from residents who use the Have-A-Heart traps for nuisance wildlife. If we use the trapping clause, we're going to prevent those people from doing that.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if, as a municipality, we were also subject to this.

Chief Bican said that his concern is that if we are chasing these people away and saying, "No, you can't trap," he would rather encourage them to bring the animals to us so that we can deal with it properly rather than run the risk of people cruelly doing away with the animals themselves.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if he wanted us to remove the word "trapping" from the title and/or "trapping" from the body. Chief Bican said that was correct.

Mrs. Bobulsky and Mr. Stefanik agreed with the proposed change, as did Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch, so it was agreed to make that change.

Chief Bican also stated that he would just as soon raise the penalty from being a minor misdemeanor to whatever the committee prefers—anywhere from a misdemeanor 1 to a misdemeanor 4. He explained that the lower the number, the higher the penalty. For example, a misdemeanor (1) would be up to a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail. A misdemeanor (4) is up to a \$250 fine and thirty days in jail. Other cities are anywhere from a minor misdemeanor to an M-1.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked for the Chief's opinion for a comparable offense under the subject area in our codes that would give us some guidance as to what it should be. Chief Bican stated that a dog running at large is an M-4, so he is leaning toward an M-3.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked the penalties for M-4, M-3 and M-1.

Chief Bican informed that an M-3 would be up to a \$500 fine and ninety days in jail. An M-1 is up to \$1,000 and a year, M-2 is \$750 and six months in jail.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked for other code violations that would be an M-1 for comparison. Chief Bican advised that an M-1 would be for unnecessary cruelty to an animal. An example of an M-2 would be abandoned animals.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch stated for hunting and killing, she is leaning toward an M-2, and asked how the rest of the Committee felt about the M-2 penalty. Chief Bican said he was leaning toward the M-3.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if it was the same penalty on a second offense. Chief Bican said it was unless we wanted to structure the penalties to increase. The judge could start out with a \$100 fine for the first time, and then the second time, raise it

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch stated she is definitely leaning toward the M-2 and her vote would be for the M-2. Mrs. Bobulsky and Mr. Stefanik agreed.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch confirmed the changes and asked if the committee had any other changes that they would like to make on this code.

Mr. Clapp felt that the penalty should be either M-2 or M-1. He preferred the stronger one because M-1 is for unnecessary cruelty to animals, and either wounding or killing an animal strikes me as very cruel.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if the committee was willing to send this out with a recommendation of the changes discussed and have it on the agenda for the first meeting in September. Mr. Stefanik and Mrs. Bobulsky agreed.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked for a motion to recommend approval to Council? Moved by Mr. Stefanik, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Police Department Status

Chief Bican stated that the department status is the same. There have been no changes.

3. Fire Department Status

Chief Fabish advised they are doing about the same. An employee may go to Texas for training on building collapse. He is on a regional Strike Team. The cost is being reimbursed to the city via a grant. Two other employees went this spring, and that money was also reimbursed to the city; so, it didn't affect the overtime budget. Cuyahoga County has this team which is a part of SERT. It's like a USAR, Urban Search and Rescue. This regional team is called out when buildings explore or collapse, for earthquakes and such. The Ohio-based team is out of Dayton, but our area up here has a team similar to that. The Chief confirmed that this is like the second step of an ongoing certification. He said that otherwise they are doing about the same as he's reported. He said they are just finishing up with some overtime that was previously scheduled last year.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch stated that we would be looking forward to what he's saying in September, because he was saying last month that the next three months were going to be pretty indicative of what the budgeted hours are going to look like.

Chief Fabish commented about the importance of having no injuries.

NEW BUSINESS

1. State/Wallings Detour Enforcement

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch advised that this item is a referral from the Streets Committee where there was extensive discussion for the past couple of months from some residents who were there from Lisa Lane and their concern about the enforcement of the detour relative to their neighborhood. Because it was really more related to safety, it was thought appropriate to bring it into this committee.

Mrs. Bobulsky (Streets Committee Chair) stated that Chief Bican and she had been discussing the concerns of Lisa Lane being used as a cut-through route, and enforcement of speed limit.

Chief Bican advised that we can't keep the cars from going on those roads. The residents understand that, but the police can certainly go there to make sure they are operating legally. But now we have the bridge out on Broadview Road in Broadview Heights between Royalwood and Wallings, which was supposed to be the detour. So now we're going to have a major problem. There's going to be two different detours several weeks apart. It's very confusing, but there is nothing we can do about it with the bridge out.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked how long the bridge was going to be out. Chief Bican responded that it supposedly isn't nearly as long as the Wallings Road project. It sounds like it will be a matter of weeks. Then we would have to change around all the signs, and hopefully get back to the original detour. We are having a problem with Avalon Event Center. They called today and said their driveway might as well be Wallings Road. So, he was going to see if we can get some signs posted.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch stated that a question brought up at the Streets Committee meeting—she believed it was from Councilman Gentile—was whether or not we could check to see if the Avalon could be used as a route where the school buses could go. Chief Bican responded they would have to be asked. They are clearly a private driveway.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said the residents were wondering if the school has determined their routes in the area.

Chief Bican stated that he doesn't have it. That would be up to the schools, but he imagines it probably has been determined.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked the Chief to confirm that we can't stop people from going through Lisa Lane because it is a public street. Chief Bican responded that is correct.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked, with being short manpower, would we still be putting extra focus in that area for speed limit enforcement? Chief Bican responded that we would, particularly at the beginning of the project. They're trying to give it a couple of weeks until the chaos passes before they start. They don't want to go in there and just start writing all kinds of tickets for the detours, speed limits and stop signs.

Mrs. Bobulsky stated the residents were told in the Streets Committee to contact the schools with any questions about the busses.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked the committee if we could remove this item from the agenda. Mrs. Bobulsky and Mr. Stefanik agreed.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Mr. Stefanik, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.