

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 20, 2007**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 20, 2007 at North Royalton High School, 14713 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Committee Members: Chairwoman Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Robert Stefanik, Denise Bobulsky; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz; Police Chief Paul Bican, Fire Chief Michael Fabish, Law Director Tom O'Donnell; Residents: Gary Petrusky, Rick Nagle; Media: Joanne DuMound.

Moved by Mr. Stefanik, to approve the minutes from January 16, 2007, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

The February minutes will be voted on at the next meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **1. Police Department Report**

Nothing new to report.

#### **2. Fire Department Report**

Chief Fabish said the Motorola radios are in and \$21,000 reimbursement has been applied for from the county. The radios will be programmed and he expects that all will be switched over by the end of April. The Chief said that Parma Hospital reported that our cardiac care transport time statistics are excellent and improving...49 minutes from pick up to catherization lab.

#### **3. Traffic light functioning and removal**

Chief Bican reported that the traffic light on Sprague by the old Tops store will not be put on flash mode. In order to shut down the light the pedestrian signals would have to be removed. It was discovered that the light was being triggered by the construction trucks across the street parking on the loops. The construction crews are not parking there now, and it seems that the problem is resolved. This is removed from the agenda.

#### **4. Cul-de-sac No Parking signs**

The Service Department will be installing the No Parking signs as soon as weather permits. This is removed from the agenda.

#### **5. House Bill 347 Revisions of Concealed Carry Law**

The Law Director reviewed his memo responding to the question posed regarding the effect, if any, that this state legislation would have on our local codes. Our codes are the standard concealed carry law and have typically mimicked state law, so the state law will not affect our codes. The City of Cleveland has filed suit challenging HB347 under Home Rule provisions. Chief Bican stated that our officers will have to deal with the changes in their approach to and dealings with people. This is removed from the agenda.

#### **6. Chapter 1620 Open Burning Code amendments**

The Fire Chief and Law Director have been working on the amendments to Chapter 1620. The Fire Chief reviewed the latest version that was submitted. The concept of recreational fires, which is recognized by state law, is incorporated into our city ordinance. There is a restriction of certain devices on decks so people don't get too close to the house with any recreational burning, yet there is an allowance for cooking.

Some of the nuisance fire issues were discussed when crafting this version. The Law Director felt and the Fire Chief agrees that the nuisance issue would be better dealt with in a separate ordinance. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if the nuisance described as smoldering would be addressed in the separate ordinance. The Law Director said he did not feel it would be covered specifically. He said that type of nuisance would probably take an act of Council to declare requiring a hearing, taking testimony and making a decision if it

was a nuisance. It would be subjective. This topic of nuisance fires and a new nuisance code will be added to the agenda for next month.

The proposed draft was discussed further. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch posed the following questions/comments:

- 1620.03(b) needs numbering correction.
- 1620.03(d)(1) is taken from the Ohio Administrative Code. It requires permission of the Fire Chief, who would also request the Police Chief to advise. This would be left in since it is in state law and the rare need should have a method of disposal.
- 1620.03(d)(6)(A) Why the limit of three hours? Chief Fabish explained that it came from the Ohio Administrative Code. He explained that this is a large ceremonial fire, not a smaller recreational fire which could be burned longer. These consume large areas, large amounts of fuel. Usually a ceremonial fire is not burned that long. It is not intended to last all night or to be left smoldering all night.
- 1620.04(b)(7) What is this for? That will be checked.
- 1620.4(b)(1) Is it required to be an EPA form? It was determined the form should be our form required by the Fire Chief.

This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **7. Safe Routes to Schools Project**

The follow-up meeting was held on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Bobulsky reported that it was recommended to apply for the grant. Mr. Kosdrosky will do so. It is anticipated that a list of cities in competition for the grant would be available next month. Other grants are being sought that would provide safe walking connectors from the school to the crosswalk. Chief Bican asked if a memo from the Police Department had yet been presented.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **1. Police Department Vehicle Purchase (1 Explorer, 5 Impalas) Proposed Ordinances 07-33 and 07-34**

Chief Bican said the funds to be used for the vehicle purchases would be from the General Fund and the money from traffic fines. There were no vehicles purchased last year. The vehicles being replaced are in poor condition but will be offered to the Service Department if it is possible to use any.

Mr. Stefanik moved to recommend approval of Ordinances 07-33 and 07-34 to Council, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

##### **2. Police Department I.T. Systems Administrator/L.A.N. Manager Proposed Ordinances 07-37 and 07-38**

The position is a new one and requires legislation to create and fund it. Chief Bican explained the need for the position based on the need to keep up with technology. The police officer currently handling the computer needs would be better utilized elsewhere. It is time to have the position added full time in the department. The computer companies in the area have been consulted with regard to the type of knowledge and experience the person would need and s/he will be selected with the recommendations in mind.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if the new person would be able to help in other areas of the City once s/he got caught up in the Police Department. Chief Bican said it was hoped to be done.

Mrs. Bobulsky moved to recommend approval of Ordinances 07-37 and 07-38 to Council, seconded by Mr. Stefanik. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Stefanik, to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Bobulsky. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.