

## SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 18, 2007

The Safety Committee meeting was held on September 18, 2007, at North Royalton City Hall 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chairwoman Lisa Uffman-Kirsch, Robert Stefanik, Denise Bobulsky; Council: Larry Antoskiewicz, Don Willey; Administration: Police Chief Paul Bican; Other Attendees: Gary Petrusky, Nick Cinquepalmi.

Moved by Mrs. Bobulsky, to approve the minutes from July 17, 2007, seconded by Mr. Stefanik. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried.

### CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS

None

### OPEN RESIDENT DISCUSSION

None

### UNFINISHED/ONGOING BUSINESS

#### 1. Police Department Report

No report.

#### 2. Fire Department Report

No report.

#### 3. Safe Routes to Schools Project

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said that we are still waiting for guidelines. There is no report.

#### 4. Nuisance Fire Code

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said she distributed the copies of the code information she received from Hudson as well as our code. She hoped to use this as a basis for discussion on whether to create some type of nuisance fire code or not.

Mr. Stefanik and Mrs. Bobulsky felt that the Fire Chief should take the lead on this discussion. No action pending information from Chief Fabish.

#### 5. Safety levies

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said nothing will go on the ballot for this November. We must look at the next step. There is a possibility that the primary election on March 4, 2008, may be moved to May. If the date stands with March, the filing date deadline will be December 20, 2007. This will require 60% voter approval.

Based on previous discussions Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch compiled a review of the status of this topic. She said Mr. Gentile would like one comprehensive levy with police and fire combined and that it be a continuous levy. Mr. Willey felt based on the discussion of having it on this November ballot that it was too late to evaluate the needs for both short term and long term. Mr. McKee needed more information. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked for a plan for next year. Mr. Stefanik felt there was not enough time and would prefer to see a 5-10 year plan not just a plan for next year. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch and Mrs. Bobulsky supported putting at least the EMS renewal levy on the November ballot.

Chief Fabish stated in a memo that we need to develop and promote an effective levy solution to include assessing department needs and the capacity of the community to accept the levy changes. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said she would like to hear from those present what the logical steps should be and what the order to go about this should be. She said it was her opinion that it would make more sense to work cohesively on this together with the administration in order to let them know what Council is comfortable with putting on the levy and what we will get behind and support so they can prepare a plan. She asked for comments on what we should do.

Chief Bican said he does not like the 60%; while people are supportive of police and fire the levies never pass by very much. He thought exposure would be gained but the down side is that there is a lot of work to do between

now and then in getting it put together. He has no idea of the actual costs of the things that are needed yet in the Police Department keeping in mind the building is 20 years old. Significant money would be needed for the building and the radio system. He is down manpower so that would need to be included. Chief Bican likes the idea presented of a combined police and fire levy where they will not be competing for funding. Both departments could be brought in to promote it rather than competing with each other. He would definitely like to see a continuing levy.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said that the paramedic levy expires December 2008. It has to go on and pass by then or all that money is lost. The thinking was that it may need to go on at least one time before that and then it could be combined at a later time. Members present were asked if they agree with the need of putting at least the paramedic levy on in March and all present indicated that they would agree. Mr. Stefanik said while he agrees, he would like to see a 5-10 year plan and that should be developed with the Fire Chief and Police Chief.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said then the focus will be to get the paramedic levy on for March and wait for a rough draft of a plan from the two safety departments in order to determine when we can go forward with it.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked Chief Bican how long it would be before he would have a draft prepared and the Chief responded that he would need consultants to assist with determining cost and said it would be at least 3-4 months before it would be ready.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if there were any grants available for the radio equipment. Chief Bican said that they are always looking for grants and have not found one for the system yet.

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said it is difficult to discuss the paramedic levy until the Fire Chief is available to discuss. Mr. Stefanik said that the next administration and Council should discuss the levy considerations. They can make the decision in December if it is to be put on. This can be determined by the second meeting in December for the March ballot.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Preliminary discussion on potential legislation governing ATVs**

Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said this came as a resident request. This is not about trespassing ATVs. This is for those that are operating with approval to be where they are. A resident was complaining about noise coming from abutting property where they are operating with permission. She said that she discussed with the resident that something would have to be done that would be workable for the rights of both sides. The resident came up with the idea of the possibility the time duration and number of riders that could ride at one time on a property. She asked for discussion to determine if there was a solution.

Chief Bican said that there was one on Sprague Road that worked the way one would hope that it would. But the down side is when the residents file written complaints. The problem is often where nobody wants to make the complaint and they want the Police Department to catch those riding. Mrs. Bobulsky and Mr. Willey said that they have had complaints as well regarding ATVs in their ward.

Chief Bican said that perhaps the nuisance code that Mr. O'Donnell sent out could be reviewed to assist with this situation. The Chief will review it. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch will ask that the Council Office research how other communities regulate legal ATV use, is it by number of riders, time of day permitted for riders or what. This is not about trespassing ATVs. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch asked if any communities would be a good starting place to check for this information. Mr. Willey said a good place to start might be Lyndhurst and perhaps more densely populated areas. Mrs. Uffman-Kirsch said she is looking for ways that it would be allowed with specific controls that the Police Department can use, not ways that are prohibited.

Moved by Mrs. Bobulsky to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stefanik. 3 yeas/0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.