

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**February 19, 2008 - 6:30 p.m.**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on February 19, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chairman Dan Kasaris, Gary Petrusky, John Nickell; Council: Vince Gentile, Larry Antoskiewicz, Kurt McKee; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Police Lt. Clark Chilcott, Fire Chief Mike Fabish, Service Director Kris Kamps; Other Attendees: Nick Cinquepalmi, Pat Jones.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to **approve the January 15, 2008, minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Police Department Report**

Mr. Kasaris said that Lt. Chilcott was present this evening on behalf of the Police Chief and will be discussing police department staffing issues. Lt. Chilcott said that the department is down 6 officers from the department high of 42. The Chief had hoped that we would get 5 officers this year to bring us back up. The shortage of manpower has affected our ability to answer all the calls and respond to all the citizens requests, but he felt that we were adequately meeting those needs with the dedicated employees that have assumed extra responsibilities. He felt that the quality of service we are rendering today is not any different than what we were doing years ago.

Mr. Kasaris said that one of the vacancies is a result of Officer Centner running for public office. He said that should he not return to duty after the primary, Mayor Stefanik has stated that he would be replaced immediately. The Mayor has also indicated that the budget contains funding for 2 additional officers to begin academy training in August. Discussion occurred regarding the various academies available for use by the city. Lt. Chilcott gave an overview of the civil service process involved with hiring new officers.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if the current list of candidates contains an adequate number of applicants to fill the 2 or possibly 3 positions this year. Lt. Chilcott said that although possible, he felt it would be unlikely that we would exhaust the current list of approximately 50 applicants before finding 2 or 3 viable hires.

**2. Fire Department Report**

Chief Fabish said that we are looking at acquiring property for a future fire station in the southern part of the city. Mayor Stefanik said that we will be discussing this further in Executive Session this evening. Chief Fabish said that the money is available, however we may have to delay the ordering of the pumper truck until later in the year. He said that this would not be a problem for the department's operations.

**3. Discussion on potential legislation governing ATVs**

Mr. Kasaris presented a draft of legislation he wrote 10 years ago for the City of Norwalk and said it could be a starting point for discussion on this matter. He said that he also handed out last night the police reports provided by the Police Chief dealing with ATV calls.

Mr. Nickell said that he has had complaints about ATV's operating late at night or encroaching onto private property. He felt that here was a need for regulating their use. Mr. Kasaris said he receives complaints as well.

Mr. Petrusky said that he has not received many complaints in his ward, but agrees that something has to be done. Regarding Item 5c on the handout stating that operation will not be permitted between 6 p.m. and 10:00 a.m., Mr. Petrusky questioned why 6:00 p.m. was chosen. Mr. Kasaris said that this is what Norwalk wanted and it can be changed to whatever works for us. Mr. Nickell felt that it could be moved up to 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Lt. Chilcott suggested they consider the language of sunrise/sunset as guiding hours. Mr. McKee felt that we must be careful with any language that can be open to interpretation. He felt that our current laws regarding unlawful operation, underage operation and trespassing were sufficient to regulate these vehicles.

Lt. Chilcott said that one of the problems we have is with normal sized 100x200 residential lots where these vehicles are being driven around and around on their own property for hours and it is very disturbing to neighbors. We have had difficulty enforcing the noise ordinance for this purpose due to the need for equipment to measure the ambient sound and the violating sound. It is time consuming and we no longer have the equipment. He said the goal is to give the police a tool to somewhat control, limit and impact this growing nuisance problem. He did not feel that our existing laws are readily enforceable for this situation.

The committee agreed that the allowable time for these vehicles should be 10:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding Item (b)2 where it states that an ATV is not operated within 50 feet of the nearest portion of any public sidewalk or public street. Mr. McKee felt that this was being much too specific. Mr. Kasaris said that Item (b)3 already prohibits ATV use in any front yard and most sidewalks are in the front yard, so this item can be deleted as redundant. Mr. Nickell said that Item (b)4 prohibits ATV use within 300 feet of any dwelling and said that this would prohibit their use in most subdivisions that have 100 x 200 lots. Mr. Petrusky suggested combining Items (b)1 and (b)2 to read... "within 10 feet of any adjoining property, public sidewalk or public street." Mr. McKee felt that (b)4 should be eliminated completely. He also disagreed with prohibiting use in the front yards. He said that while we will be stating how and when these vehicles can be used, the biggest problem is still going to be the noise.

Mrs. Vozar said that the complaints about these vehicles is usually not about how late at night it is, but rather how long it goes and that it goes on day after day. It's a lot more than just time and noise, it's the nuisance factor that causes most of the complaints.

Mr. Antoskiewicz agreed. The main problem is in the subdivisions, not someone who has 10 acres. If someone is riding the vehicle all day long in a subdivision, this legislation does not help that problem because they will still be able to do this. The only way you can regulate this is to put an acreage restriction on it. Mr. Petrusky said that (b)(4) was left in, it would eliminate anyone being able to operate an ATV within a subdivision.

Mr. Kasaris said that he will rewrite the legislation, bring it to the committee next month and then see if Council wants to introduce this legislation.

#### **4. Pumper Fire Truck Purchase**

See Item 2 above. Removed from agenda.

**5. Blinking light at State Rd and Valley Parkway**

No action.

**6. Cul-de-sac parking**

No action.

**7. Truancy and school safety issues**

No action.

**8. Current lighting situation at intersections throughout the city**

No action.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Purchase of (5) police cruisers and (1) 2008 Ford Expedition for the Police Department**

Mr. Kasaris said that Police Chief wants to purchase 5 Impalas that would be black and white and one Ford Expedition. Discussion was held regarding black and white vs. solid colors. Lt. Chilcott said that the trend is moving back toward the black and white vehicles, but there is an expense associated with this vs. the solid colors. Mayor Stefanik said that this would be discussed further at the budget hearing on Saturday.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Nickell, seconded by Mr. Petrusky to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.