

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 21, 2008

The Safety Committee meeting was held on October 21, 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, Don Willey, Larry Antoskiewicz; Administration: Mayor Robert Stefanik, Police Chief Paul Bican, Safety Director Bruce Campbell, City Engineer Mark Schmitzer, Human Resources Coordinator Pat Jones.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by John Nickell, seconded by Gary Petrusky **to approve the September 16, 2008 Minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Intersection Safety

Chief Bican said that he discussed with the Safety Director the overgrown grass/weeds situation at various intersections throughout the city. Mr. Kasaris asked what has been done at the intersection of Bennett Road and Valley Parkway during the past week. Chief Bican said that there has been a lot of enforcement and signs have been placed at that intersection. Chief Bican said that he has not been able to do anything with the intersection at Edgerton Road and Akins Road due to the attention that has been given to other intersections.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked about the intersection at Bennett Road, York Road and Akins Road. Chief Bican said the light that was placed at that intersection has helped to reduce the number of accidents in that area. He said that in order to change the visibility at that intersection, the road would have to be re-engineered. Mr. Petrusky asked about placing rumble strips on the road to slow traffic down. Chief Bican was concerned about the snow plows taking the asphalt off the road if rumble strips are used. Mr. Antoskiewicz asked about reducing the speed from 35 mph to 25 mph. Chief Bican said he does not think that Bennett Road would warrant a 25 mile per hour speed.

Mr. Kasaris asked about the intersection at Bennett Road and Valley Parkway. Chief Bican said he would like to clear the right of way in both directions on Bennett Road including some of the trees to the north which are private property. Mr. Hartman will be asked to contact the residents whose property is involved to see if they are willing to cut down the overgrown trees on their property. The Service Department will take care of cutting down the overgrown trees on the city's property. Mr. Kasaris will send an action form to the Mayor.

This item can be removed from the agenda.

2. Cady Road/Ridge Road Intersection

Mr. Kasaris received an email from the City Engineer which states that they are in the process of reviewing the installation of a guardrail in the Cady Road/State Road area to protect the house on Cady Road from another accident similar to the accident that occurred recently where a car drove into the house.

NEW BUSINESS

1. City employee safety in the workplace

Mr. Jones discussed safety in the workplace. He said that the Wastewater Department, Service Department and Recreation Department are the three departments he is concentrating on at the moment. Mr. Jones said the Service Department had 27 incidents in 2006, 22 in 2007 and 11 in 2008. There are also three outstanding incidents that have not yet been categorized. Thirty-three percent of these incidents were on trash trucks. These trucks have been improved to make them safer, including right

hand drive and the installation of backup cameras. Other safety precautions that have been implemented include employees wearing long pants, gloves, boots, and protective eyewear.

Mr. Jones also told committee members that the number of lost time accidents has been reduced from 28 in 2006, 11 in 2007, to only 3 in 2008.

Mr. Jones met with representatives from The Bureau of Workman's Compensation last week and discovered that there may be some grant money available for some automatic lift stations, but there are some requirements that must be met. Mr. Jones is going to discuss these requirements with Chief Fabish as there have been a number of back strain claims within the Fire Department and these lift stations might help alleviate this type of claim.

Mr. Jones said there are four items he would like to see implemented before the end of the year. These items include a lock out tag out training which would help employees work on equipment safely. The second item is accident investigation training for supervisors. Also, a Health and Wellness Clinic will be held on November 21, 2008 and will be open to all city employees. There will be 12-15 health care vendors in attendance to make employees more aware of health and safety issues. Lastly, all service trucks have been equipped with fire safety equipment and first aid kits, therefore, fire extinguisher training will be held for Service Department employees.

Mr. Jones met with all five of our medical providers. Each of them has been provided with all city job descriptions and our transitional work program which allows us to get the employee back to work sooner after an injury. We previously had a four day lag time in receiving a response from our medical providers. We now have a 1.25 day response from our medical providers which means within 36 hours, our medical provider will contact the injured employee to make a follow up appointment for their injury.

Mr. Jones said that future safety goals also include post accident drug testing which will be incorporated by January 2009. Also internal departmental inspections will be conducted. This will involve a team of people from each department performing various types of inspections to make sure that all equipment that needs to be repaired is repaired properly.

Mr. Jones meets monthly with the Bureau of Worker's Compensation to review claims and meets quarterly with our third party administrator. Mr. Kasaris asked what kind of reduction we have seen in the number of claims. Mr. Jones said we are currently in retro status and there is a 3-4 year process before we will see any reduction.

Mr. Gentile said that when you sign up with The Bureau of Worker's Compensation a financial account is established. When your injury costs and lost wages eat up the cost of your account they put you in retro status and you have to pay all of that back over a period of years. He said that if we don't get a good safety program in place to avoid injuries, we are never going to get out of retro status.

An emergency contact database

Mr. Kasaris said that he was asked by a resident if the city keeps a database of residents who are on vacation. Chief Bican does not think this is a good idea as it is difficult to keep up with all of the changes/updates. The Police Department does offer vacation checks if residents want to call in with specific information as to when they are leaving/returning, who has keys to their home, cars that might be in the driveway, etc. This information will then be shredded upon their return. Chief Bican feels the best thing to do when you are on vacation, is to let friends and relatives know you are going on vacation, and give them the keys to your home.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Nickell to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.