

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 18, 2008

The Safety Committee meeting was held on November 18, 2008, at North Royalton City Hall, 13834 Ridge Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 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, Community Development Director Tom Jordan, Fire Chief Mike Fabish; Other: Pat Jones, Paul Marnecheck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by John Nickell, seconded by Gary Petrusky **to approve the October 21, 2008 Minutes.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Cady Road/Ridge Road Intersection

Mr. Schmitzer said he had an opportunity to review the ODOT warrant criteria for this proposed guardrail. He said it does not fall under a warrant case directly, but there is a section that allows for that guardrail to be placed as a safety precaution to protect a residence, school, etc. Mr. Schmitzer's concern was placing a guardrail at this intersection and having a liability on the city's end. At this point, he does not see a liability issue since it does fall under ODOT's allowable criteria. The next step is to size the guardrail then pick the correct type of guardrail along with end treatments. The cost for this project will be approximately \$2,500-3,000 plus labor. After Mr. Schmitzer has the specifications ready and the funds available, the work will begin.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if placing a guardrail on one side of the street warrants having a guardrail placed on the other side of the street. Mr. Schmitzer said that in this particular case it is not necessary.

This item will be left on the agenda until the project is completed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A replacement program for police cars

Chief Bican said we currently have 21 police cars. The police department purchased 5 new cars with the 2008 budget. The Police Department has been gradually switching cars from silver to black and white. Chief Bican said we have 8 silver cars left that are in good condition that he would like to see transferred to other places. Mr. Kasaris asked how many of the 21 police cars are marked. Chief Bican said that 14 of the 21 are marked. Chief Bican said we replace 5 or 6 police cars each year, but we only replace detectives cars when necessary as they last for some time. Complete turnover of police cars occurs every 3 years. Chief Bican said we try to get rid of the cars before they reach 100,000 miles otherwise we are looking at expensive repair costs.

Chief Bican said the Police Department would like to replace 5 cars in 2009. He would like to purchase a Tahoe for some of the bigger guys in the department, but will cost \$10,000-11,000 more than purchasing a car.

This item can be removed from the agenda.

2. Purchase of a new ambulance

Chief Fabish distributed a copy of the specs he had for pricing of a new ambulance. We currently have three rescue squads which all have approximately 70,000 miles on them. Chief Fabish said that this purchase was budgeted and approved by Council for this year, but in order to purchase a 2009 rescue squad, the Fire Department had to wait until after September to get the process started. Chief Fabish said that the style of the squad has been changed from a Ford F350 chassis to a new GMC chassis. Chief Fabish said that one of his concerns in getting the GMC chassis was getting the squad serviced, but

he was able to locate a dealer in Richfield that is able to do the service work. This squad will cost approximately \$35,000 more than the current style due to the larger chassis, but he feels it will give us better service.

Chief Fabish also said that the new ambulance has an air ride suspension which should make for a smoother ride. A new cot was also purchased which cost approximately \$5,000.

Chief Fabish said he is planning to keep the older squad as a spare. Currently, when we are down a squad, we are down to two squads and sometimes have back to back calls. Chief Fabish would like to maintain three or four squads if at all possible.

Moved by John Nickell, seconded by Gary Petrusky **to recommend to Council the purchase of an ambulance for the Fire Department.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

3. Mile markers in the North Royalton part of the Metroparks walkway

Mr. Jordan said he has been in discussions with with the Planning and Construction Director for the Metroparks for the past couple of months. The Planning and Construction Director was to get back to Mr. Jordan to discuss this matter, but has not yet done so. Mr. Jordan called him this morning, and was referred to Mr. Kanicki, the manager for the Mill Stream Run Reservation. Mr. Kanicki and Mr. Jordan traded voicemails and Mr. Jordan will email more detailed information in advance of the next Safety Committee meeting, or will have that information by the next meeting date. Mr. Jordan is working with the Metroparks to install mile markers on the All Purpose Trail from the portion of the trail where it leaves off on Edgerton Road to Ridge Road. Mr. Jordan is not sure where we are in trying to fill the seven mile gap from Ridge Road to Broadview Road. Mr. Kasaris asked when they are committed to completing this project. Mr. Jordan said that they have a plan, but it is currently unfunded, so they are looking for funding. Mr. Jordan said a TLCI Study will be done in Brecksville, Broadview Heights and North Royalton which will help in determining how to get more people into the Metroparks. This study will begin within the next couple of months.

Mr. Jordan said that in regards to the seven mile gap from Ridge Road to Broadview Road, the Metroparks does expect cities to participate financially with them to build an All Purpose Trail. In the past, cities have provided half of the funding, however, it is possible that we may receive state funding for the entire project.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked how much of the seven mile gap is in North Royalton. Mr. Jordan is not sure how much of the area is in North Royalton, but he did say that a majority of it lies in Broadview Heights.

Mr. Nickell asked if we do our portion of the All Purpose Trail, can we get that to somehow connect to the sidewalks on Ridge Road. Mr. Jordan said that the purpose of this study is to identify these types of issues.

This item will remain on the agenda.

4. Manpower in the Police Department

Mr. Kasaris said the Mayor is committed to hiring one more police officer either this year or early next year as part of the 2008 replacement program. Chief Bican said he spoke with Darlene and she said she has the results back for five of the candidates and is waiting for three more. Chief Bican said there is one more candidate coming in from Mississippi who will perform all tests in one day. Mr. Kasaris asked what other tests still need to be administered. Chief Bican said three of the candidates have already taken the psychological test and all candidates still need to take the polygraph test which is all in process. Mr. Petrusky asked if there will be enough time to get the candidates into the Academy by January. Chief Bican said that one of the candidates will be able to get into the Academy in January.

Mr. Kasaris asked how many police officers we will have once the second officer is hired. Chief Bican said we are currently at 37, along with the officer that will start in March or April then the additional officer to be hired will take us up to 39.

Mr. Petrusky asked Chief Bican if he was budgeting for additional police offers next year. Chief Bican said he is going to budget for five new officers, three of which will be replacement officers and two additional officers.

Mr. Nickell asked how long the process takes from the time the candidates take their tests until the time they are actually on the road. Chief Bican said it takes approximately one year.

Mr. Antoskiewicz asked if we are almost finished with our list of viable candidates. Chief Bican said that we are almost at the end of our list. He is hoping we can still find good candidates, but if not, we will have to go back to Civil Service and ask them to redo the test which could take two months.

Mayor Stefanik said that the Safety Director and the Chiefs are going to sit down together to work out a long range plan for not only manpower in the Police Department and Fire Department, but also for finances. He said we are going have to start budgeting for some of the payouts that will be coming up next year.

Chief Fabish said the Safety Director is currently looking into a new radio system. The current system is 20 years old. Mr. Campbell said that the Police Department tried to get on the same frequency they currently use, but they could not get licensing for it, so they joined a Regional Southwest 800 system with Brookpark and Parma Heights. The monthly cost will go up depending on how many users we have.

5. ATV/Motorcycle noise

Chief Bican said that he feels that the new policies we have in place on how to approach the calls we receive on this subject seem to be working.

Mr. Nickell said he spoke with some people from Breyley Yamaha and they said if it becomes a big issue, we may want to follow the muffler code for the ODNR of Ohio.

This item can be removed from the agenda.

Chief Bican distributed information regarding the school's traffic phase and what is yet to come. The plan he distributed is not set in stone, he just asked that everyone review it prior to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Petrusky, seconded by Mr. Nickell to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.