



Public Safety Committee

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Attendance: Mr. Heban, Ms. Zuchowski-Eckel, Mr. Oberdorf, Chief Goss, Chief Drouard, Assistant Chief Stautzenbach

A representative from REDFLEX came to give a presentation on REDFLEXspeed Hand Held manual speed cameras. The National Transportation Safety Board has issued a recommendation that all US states allow the use of automated speed enforcement, finding that it is an “effective but underused countermeasure.” The committee discussed when and where they would be used. There was some concern over backlog created by filing all of the reports, Chief Goss said that if they can’t keep up, they will adapt how often they are used. We would operate on a fully paid citation agreement, meaning fines would be sent directly to REDFLEX for collection, they take only a portion of the fine for their service. If no fine is received, there will be no charge. The committee will take some time to review the information provided and will discuss possible implementation at the next committee meeting.

The fire Department presented information to the committee on the current staffing issue in the department. In January of this year there were 7 calls that no one responded to. Troy township had 564 calls last year. They staff 12 hours per day. Pemberville had 350 calls last year, they and they staff daily from 8 to 5. Whitehouse had 636 calls last year, they staff 24 hour medic unit with Lucas County for EMS coverage. Rossford responded to 1028 calls last year. The number of volunteers has been on the decline over the past 5 to 7 years. This issue is not unique to Rossford as all of our neighboring communities are having a hard time finding volunteers. Currently, the department has had guys voluntarily spending the night at the firehouse to help with the overnight calls. The Department presented several models for 24 hour staffing. Lake Township is currently in the process of hiring and working to going to 24-hour coverage with part time employees. They will be using a 3 person model. The committee recognized the urgent situation with department staffing and discussed moving ahead to put a levy on the ballot to help pay for 24 hour staffing this November. Mrs. Karen Freeman will be attending the next committee meeting to discuss finances of the department and what we need to do to make 24-hour staffing happen. In the meantime, the department is having a Labor Management meeting to discuss the lack of response and what to do about people not responding. The committee discussed the amount of strain that a multifamily complex would put on the department at this time. Perrysburg is paying 9.8 million dollars for their new fire station on Fort Meigs Road to service Levis Commons and the surrounding area.

Chief Drouard talked to the committee about Leasing to own fire apparatus. Currently, Springfield Township, Bath Township and Whitehouse Fire participate in Lease to own programs.

Chief Goss presented the committee with information on reimbursing Monica, from Monica's Canine Castle, when she houses dogs picked up by the Police running loose through town. Currently she is not reimbursed for this service. The Committee voted 2 to 0 in favor of using the fine money collected from the owners of the loose dogs to reimburse Monica for her services.

Chief Goss also invited everyone to the open house for the new firing range Sunday, February 11th at 5:30.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 27th at 5 pm in Council Chambers.