



SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Description Safety Committee Meeting

Results Desired Better communication, Pass on information

Date February 17, 2021 **Time** 1300 hours **Location** via Zoom

Scheduled Time			Actual Time		
Start	Stop	Total Hours	Start	Stop	Total Hours
1300	1400	1.0			

Personnel Attending

1	Caroline Zuchowski, Chairwoman	(x) present () absent
2	Larry Oberdorf	() present (x) absent
3	Chris Heban	(x) present () absent
4	Josh Drouard Fire Chief	(x) present () absent
5	Ryan Stautzenbach Asst. Fire Chief	() present (x) absent
6	Todd Kitzler Police Chief	(x) present () absent
7	Allyson Murray City Administrator	(x) present () absent
8	Mayor MacKinnon	() present (x) absent
9	Gina Schell Finance Director	() present (x) absent
10	Chris Segura – Union Rep	(x) present () absent

Fire Department – Chief Drouard

	Update on Reinstating 24 Hour Staffing The Union Rep and the Chief will be working on updating the Memorandum of Understanding that expired at the end of 2020. They learned a few things from the trial period that they'd like to change and there are a few other tweaks that need to be made.	✓
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Vaccinations

	Sargent Merrick and Chief Kitzler were vaccinated in through Mercy as part of their no waste list. They are scheduled to have their second shot on Saturday. All Saints is having its employees vaccinated on Friday the 19 th and the Chief has officers on the no waste list for that clinic.	
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Police Department

	Chief Kitzler	
	The Committee discussed the vehicle leasing program plan and once again agreed to try it for three years. The City Administrator presented the committee with a list of the vehicles and the amount spent on each vehicle over the past 3 years. The \$18,000	

	<p>figure for 2020 was inexpensive in comparison to the \$24,000 spent in 2018 and the \$30,000 spent on repairs in 2019. The committee looks forward to the information from the Finance Director regarding the lease impact on bond rating and hopes council passes it on Monday so that the cars can be ordered.</p>	
	<p>Feeding Deer / Animals Ordinance Change: The committee discussed the issue with residents feeding deer in the community and would like to consult with ODNR to get guidance. The Chief requests that Council discuss the current ordinance. He wants us to change it to make it enforceable. The committee discussed ways to alter it to include not feeding any wildlife with the exception of bird feeders. It is harmful to feed the deer population en mass because it is similar to COVID, Chronic Wasting Disease can be transferred easily. There was only one crash due to deer in 2020. ODNR has previously encouraged the City to collect data through out 2021 to determine the level of concern. If residents are experiencing damage from the deer population they are encouraged to document it with pictures.</p>	
	<p>Junk Motor Vehicle Ordinance: Another case was dismissed from court. The prosecutor says that it is not enforceable. Currently, the Ordinance says that one criteria of being a junk vehicle is if the value is less than \$1500. The Chief believes that the \$1500.00 amount in definition is too low. The Committee would like Kevin Heban to look into this and bring his recommendations to the committee for discussion.</p>	
	<p>Manpower update: Both new hires have been sworn in and they have started. They are in the process of field training. It will be mid-May before they can be on the schedule by themselves.</p> <p>Other departments are going to a pay-back system, where they require officers who leave within a certain amount of time to pay the City back for vests, uniforms etc. The Chief would like to stay in the same ball park with other what other departments in our area are doing. State patrol requires them to pay back \$5000 if they leave within the first 5 years. The Committee asks that Mr. Kevin Heban look into this and confirm that it is done as to not create a contract violation.</p> <p>We are so far behind other departments in wages. If we want to keep people we need to pay them and hold them accountable. This will be up for negotiation as the contract ends this year. Council woman Eckel will follow up with Kent to get the comparison information gathered three years ago. The committee wants to bring this to the attention of the Finance Committee and the Finance Director now, in February, so that they can have plenty of time to investigate BEFORE this contract negotiations begin.</p>	
	<p>AG/BWC Vest Grant extension: The last 3 years the State and Worker's Comp have had a really good reimbursement program for police bullet proof vests. The program has been extended through June 2021, so the Chief was able to use that grant to fund the vests for the new officers.</p>	

	<p>Changing Civil Service Hiring Requirements: Chief would like the Civil Service Committee to change the requirements for new hires and let the Chief hire officers that do not have their certification before we hire them. If time allows, he would like to hire good candidates and send them to Columbus to be certified. The training is free, the City would have to pay their wages and benefits while they are in training. The Committee is in favor of this with the stipulation that they must stay employed at Rossford for 5 years or be subjected to pay back requirements.</p>	
	<p>The message boards purchased with the CARES act funding are up and operating. They are really visible. They are easily moved. The batteries work good. Look for the Chief to get creative with messages such as “Keep your head out of your apps.”</p>	