

Safety Committee Meeting 01/16/2018

In Attendance: Mr Oberdorf, Mr Heban, Chief Goss, Chief Drouard, Asst. Chief Stautzenbach

Ms Eckel – Excused

Committee chair person will be designated at next safety meeting when all three Council members are present.

Meeting called to order at 7:00am

1. Fire Department

- A. Chief Drouard asked for approval to continue with a grant that RFD is partnered with Sylvania Township Fire Department to replace radios that are out of date. If the current (6) radios in use are damaged the parts are no longer available to repair them. After the new radios are acquired RFD will continue to use the old radios until they are no longer functional. Cost for the radios is approximately \$5,000. Chief Drouard would like Safety Committee's recommendation to send to Finance Committee for approval. Heban and Oberdorf agree that the new radios are needed and to send to Finance Committee.
- B. Chief Drouard discussed raising transport fees. He explained that it wouldn't affect reimbursements from Medicare or Medicaid. Mr. Oberdorf asked where our rates were compared to other similar municipalities. Chief Drouard explained that Rossford was somewhere in the middle and collected approximately \$162,000 in 2017. Chief Drouard was open to keeping the fees the same. Mr. Heban suggested the rates stay the same. Mr. Oberdorf agreed.
- C. Chief Drouard would like 24 hour staffing. He explained that after 4:00pm response times are not guaranteed and that there were 2 calls that RFD was unable to respond to. He also explained that call volumes are up 42% over the past ten years. Assistant Chief Stautzenbach noted that we need to prepare for the RED district as well as other growth within our city. Chief Drouard referenced the Northwood FD model in which on call employees took a small pay cut to man the entire night shift instead of being on call. Mr. Oberdorf suggested that the first step should be to discuss the pay scale with the union representatives. Chief Drouard will set up a meeting to discuss. Mr. Oberdorf asked about staffing levels if we are unable to utilize PT employees to man the night shift. Chief Drouard believes we would need an additional 3.4 mills to the fire levy to achieve adequate staffing levels for the department to operate efficiently with 24 hour staffing.
- D. Chief Drouard discussed the need to replace the 22 year old ladder truck with a smaller model employing a lease/purchase agreement. Chief explained that the amount we have spent in repairs to the current apparatus could have been put towards payments for a new truck and possibly have paid for it in full. Mr. Oberdorf asked if there were any other departments that have utilized this method of lease purchase. Chief will research and report back at next safety meeting.

2. Police Department

- A. Chief Goss suggested having the school zone flashing lights by All Saints on Lime City Rd reprogrammed to only flash for 15 minutes before and after school rather than the entire school day as there are no “walkers” to All Saints. Chief Goss believes having the flashers on all day impedes traffic. Heban and Oberdorf agree with Chief Goss to reprogram the flashers at his recommendation.
- B. Chief Goss discussed reimbursing Monica’s Canine Castle for their care for the stray dogs found in the city. Chief suggested that whatever Rossford collects in the form of a fee be passed on to the business and will follow up with Kevin Heban to review the ordinance and present to Council.
- C. The firing range is almost complete and they are finishing up lighting and epoxy flooring. Public Works will paint upon the completion of these two items. Tentative completion date is February 1st.
- D. Chief Goss discussed the implementation of metal detectors and cameras at the Municipal Building. Both Oberdorf and Heban agree that this would be beneficial for the safety of City employees and visitors during normal hours, Council meetings, committee meetings, etc. Chief discussed a fixed camera system that can have multiple cameras within the vicinity of a centralized unit at a cost of approximately \$7,000. Also discussed was who and who is not authorized to carry a firearm within the Municipal Building besides Police Officers. Chief Goss will follow up with Kevin Heban and report back at next Safety Meeting where we will revisit both topics.
- E. Traffic/Speed cameras were discussed briefly. Both Oberdorf and Heban agreed that they needed more time to think about this and it would be beneficial to discuss in more detail at the next safety meeting with all members of the committee present.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20am