

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF APRIL 9, 2018

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:**
*Monica Stark, Council at Large; John Gabriel, Ward One; Frank Loucka, Ward Two;
Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five.
Excused: Steve Herron, President of Council*

Administration:
*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Howard, City
Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Chris Stempowski, Fire Chief.*

Call to Order: B. Brady, Chairperson, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety
Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to
order.

TOPIC ONE: **Fire Chief's Report**

C. Stempowski reported the fire department responded to 23 incidents in the month of March for a total of 48 year to date.

He said they have been continuing to focus on the Station #1 options and they are in the process of compiling generic data. They are looking at site and size options, and they were provided with other plans to review. They have a good idea of where they would like to go with this, so it's a matter of putting it on paper and tweaking the needs for the station. B. Brady said with the Highbridge Road Bridge going in does it change the city's look as far as two stations. C. Stempowski said this would be his suggestion to have two stations because it would improve the response times on the east and southeast side. B. Brady asked if it changes how they look at the location. C. Stempowski said he would be in favor of two stations and they haven't pinned down the location for Station #1 as they are still considering sites. The city would be best served with a two station layout. Mayor Forthofer said the location will be considered when reviewing the two stations. M. Stark asked if it was common for a municipality the size of Vermilion to have two stations. C. Stempowski said it's not uncommon, but he has known of departments that have gone down to one station by building a bigger complex. However, they have struggled with this as their community grows and expands because it's hard to go back to that two station layout. Some communities don't have the geographical obstacles that Vermilion has either, so this is what's critical for the City of Vermilion. Mayor Forthofer said Vermilion is dealing with a river, two railroad tracks, a highway, and a long narrow city.

Chief reported on the following:

-Recently completed the Emergency Vehicle Driver's Training classroom portion that is required for all firefighters yearly.

-Participated in a live fire training exercise in Florence Township, which is always a great opportunity for firefighters who have never been in a structure that's on fire. He thanked the Chief of Florence Township for the invite.

-Reported the department after about 25 years has their first female firefighter (Courtney Kovalan) who completed all her requirements, passed her state exam, and is officially certified.

-Department is working on a date to host a recruitment or information Open House for those who are interested in being a firefighter. The Explorer Program helps in the recruitment and is through the Boy Scouts of America, which he fully supports. The Social Club (Vermilion Fire Company, Inc.) is heavy sponsors for these kids in the program. If anyone is interested in the Explorer Program they can contact him at 440-204-2472 by leaving a message. The criteria are they have to complete the eighth grade and be a minimum of 14 years old and up to 21 years of age, and maintain a 'C' average in school.

-A firefighter has taken over the gear inventory and maintaining it properly. He will be applying for grants through the BWC for some gear extractors and other turnout gear that will be more beneficial specific to the NOMEX hood and gloves. They need the equipment to properly clean it and decontaminate it, and possibly obtain some other protective equipment.

S. Holovacs asked the chief if the department attends the school's Career Day and Chief Stempowski noted they do.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

No report.

B. Brady adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

Next Meeting: May 14, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk