

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2017

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

In Attendance: S. Herron, M. Stark, F. Loucka, J. Forthofer, B. Holmes, B. Brady, B. Keller, C. Hartung, C. Stempowski, G. Fisher, T. Valerius, Mayor Bulan, L. Miggins. Absent: Fred Ostrander.

Call to Order: B. Holmes, Chairman, 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 18 incidents in November bringing the department's total to 241.

Last month they had 11 self-contained breathing apparatus bottles hydro-tested and they are all back in service. He said they ordered some pumps, a trailer, 15 horsepower motor, and water rescue equipment that have arrived. However, the new boat trailer is still under construction and they expect to have it after January 1, 2018. The 14' aluminum boat should be delivered on December 15. The inflatable boat with the aluminum bottom has been delivered and the 25 horsepower motor is in route which they expect this week as well.

He reported that the two firefighters that were enrolled in the Lorain County Fire Academy have completed their course and completed their live burn training over the weekend, so now they are scheduled to test out for their state certification on December 14. The MVT's have all been installed in all the fire department units but they are not in service yet as there is some programming that needs to be done.

He addressed the need to do something with Station #1 as about 10 years ago they had a station design build person talk with them on what they needed for the fire department. He wasn't sure about the legalities of a design build or how it worked. They have been upgrading everything else as needed throughout the years. It has come to the point where Station #1 needs to be addressed as there is literally no room in the station. He understands they can go with a design build contractor but there are some criteria that have to be met. He believes they would need to list the criteria for the design build contractors and then if they were interested they would submit their qualifications to design and build a station. B. Brady asked where the oversight would come in. L. Miggins explained the way a design contract is usually done for a building is that you hire a criteria architect who would work with the Chief on exactly what he would want in a fire station, and then you take the criteria document and go out for actual pricing from a design build team who will do the detailed design and actually build it. Mayor Bulan said they would do qualifications for the criteria architect and then they ask for qualifications from a design build contractor. She said Janotta & Herner, Starr Builders, and a few others in the area have done fire stations so this is who they would reach out to. Chief Stempowski said

it sounds like a better way for them to go. Mayor Bulan said they would need a motion from council to proceed with the process.

M. Stark asked if they are looking at their existing property or looking to move the station elsewhere in the city. C. Stempowski said there are many things they will need to consider; obviously size. The current site is a great site but it isn't big enough unless there was property acquisition. There are other sites they can look at that are city-owned and some that aren't city-owned. He thinks ultimately it will be in a different location, but he doesn't want to throw them out now until they know the process. M. Stark asked if this is something they need to decide prior to hiring an architect because they may need to know the dimensions of a lot and layout. Chief Stempowski said from past experience this was something they were going to do.

F. Loucka asked if the building needs to be longer and wider and the Chief said both and he would almost double the size of the current station. When the station was built it was based around fire trucks that were the size of pickup trucks. He said a drive-thru station would be phenomenal. They also need a training facility (class room setting with audio/visual aids), and bunk rooms if the station ever went full time. He said during storms when people are called in on standby then they would have a place for them to sleep. He said if they move the station to another site then it would free up space at the City Service Center for the streets or water department where Station #3 currently is. There are a lot of options they could use that station for; even housing an engine.

B. Brady asked where the new boats will be housed. Chief said they have boats at both stations; the more equipped rescue trailer boat is housed at Station #1 and a smaller version is at Station #2.

M. Stark asked the Chief how they propose to pay for a new station. Chief Stempowski said he asked this same question to the Finance Director. They have paid cash for their fire engines in the past and he would lean on the Finance Director to answer this. B. Keller said depending on the scope and size of the structure, hopefully they could pay cash for it. He believes there are some grants available and he feels they are in pretty good shape in the fire department funds.

J. Forthofer MOVED; S. Herron seconded to proceed with the design build process for Station #1 and to request qualifications for a criteria architect. Roll Call Vote 6 YEAS. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Chief Stempowski said it has been an honor working with Mayor Eileen Bulan as she has been great to work with and has been very supportive. He thanked her for her service.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung said he just returned from FLMA and ADA training in Hillard, Ohio. He noted Hillard has a joint safety services complex (fire, police, and court).

He noted that Greg Stark has been a part time patrol officer for 22 years and recently tendered his resignation due to the fact that his own personal business is booming. He has been a fantastic officer to work with and has been a fantastic part of the marine patrol unit. He is sorry to see him go but wished him the best of luck. They hired Bob McLaughlin as a part time officer. He retired from the Huron County Sheriff's department and has an exceptional record on narcotics investigation. He feels he will be a fantastic addition to the department.

He said they need to start addressing their communications as they are starting to have problems with their radios as they are having more static. He said VASU is looking at their repeater but obviously this problem could have serious ramifications. He has been talking with the county representatives as there is grant funding available and he wondered if they could do a county-wide initiative to convert all radio communication to digital. Eventually, he thinks they will be mandated, so he is hoping they can get this taken care of.

He mentioned recently there was a six car pileup due to the weather so he cautioned the residents to be careful. He also reported the winter parking ban is in effect and there is no parking overnight on city streets. They do not issue citations until after January 2 because over the holidays a lot of people have family in town. Warnings have been put out to the residents advising them of the law.

He said it has been a pleasure working with Mayor Eileen Bulan over the years and wished her luck in her future endeavors.

Chief Stempowski addressed the pileup they had and he was amazed at the number of people who tried driving through the accident scene. He said the safety of the safety personnel is put at risk and he stressed that people need to slow down and wait to be directed rather than weaving in between emergency vehicles.

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

Next Meeting: January 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk