

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

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

**In Attendance:**        **Vermilion City Council:**  
*Steve Herron, President of 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*

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

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

---

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

Chief Stempowski reported the department responded to 16 incidents in the month of January. He said they had their station staffed with crews for 10.5 hours on January 19 during the snow storm to improve their response times. On January 23, they had rising waters and ice jams on Riverside Drive and assisted three families in evacuating safely. On January 26, the Fire Department participated in the Mill Hollow Winter's Day doing ice rescue demos.

He reported the antennas will be mounted on the new vehicles on February 12 and they will be on the road after that. He conveyed they had a vacancy in the Chief Engineer's position within the department, so they named Firefighter Bill McCale to that position. He will oversee the apparatus from this point forward.

Lastly, the department is doing some final bail out training with personnel, the VPD, and Lifecare Ambulance to get acclimated with their equipment and vice-versa.

**TOPIC TWO:**            **Police Chief's Report**

Chief Hartung reported they have been working with Lifecare Ambulance on the dispatching portion for the service. He has been impressed with their organization and professionalism.

He gave kudos to the fire department for doing a fantastic job on the ice rescues during a difficult situation. He said anytime they evacuate, especially down on Riverside Drive, he always worries if they've missed something. However, when EMA notified them that conditions were ideal and there was a potential flooding issue, he was on television three times to get the word out. He said if they could avoid putting firefighters in this situation in the first place, then he asks himself, what can they do differently. He said they are always looking at methods on how they can improve, so he is tweaking their policy on how they will handle these situations and will forward it to council once it's finished.

He gave kudos to the residents from the last snow storm as everybody did a great job getting their cars off the streets. The snow plow drivers did a fantastic job.

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

*Next Meeting: March 11, 2019 @ 7pm*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*