

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF JANUARY 14, 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 17 incidents in the month of December for a total of 214 responses for 2018. He checked today at the State Fire Marshall's Office for the upload and the number was off by one, so the assistant chief will contact them to find out why.

He noted that all their inspectors have completed the required education for the latest Ohio Fire Code revision. The deadline was December 31.

He said last month they had the State Highway Patrol in at the station to inspect personal vehicles that are used as emergency response vehicles. They must pass the inspection by OSP to be certified and obtain their sticker. He had expected the command vehicle to be returned to them, but it did not come in. The BWC grant funds have been received in the finance department. The setup work for that project has been completed as far as the plumbing and now they need to order the extractor.

He reported the fire department responded last night to a fire in Amherst. Currently, he doesn't have all the specifics.

Lastly, they are working on the Fire Department's Year-End Summary, which will be forwarded to council upon its completion.

B. Brady said there is a statement in the Food Truck Ordinance under Section 872.03 (10) that states: Certification from the City of Vermilion Fire Department confirming that the Mobile Food Unit complies with all applicable federal, state, and local fire safety statutes, regulations, ordinance, and codes. She asked the Chief if this was okay with him. C. Stempowski said yes and they will have to come up with something if these units move in and out daily. It would be difficult for them to run around town tracking them all down, so he would assume there would be procedures in place for notification that inspection would be done. Also, all the food truck vendors when applying through the Chamber of Commerce are aware of the codes and their

requirements when operating. Very rarely during their inspections do they find any major concerns. He said they will need to figure out how this procedure will work.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung reported on a couple recent crashes on Route 2 which were separate incidents. He said there was two individuals who were suspected heroin overdoses that wrecked their vehicles on Route 2 over the weekend. He said this illustrates the seriousness of what's going on and how it's expanding all around. He noted Patrolman Reising did a great job on the city's IT but said with having him back on the road it allows them the opportunity to rotate Detective Kopniske back into his narcotics function.

He stated a 15-year old young man at the school was arrested on five counts of rape involving females under the age of 13. There have been some questions about the school's notification and what the school knew about, but everyone needs to keep in mind that age 14 is the minimum to be registered if there is a sex offense, but that's a determination made by the court; not by the Police Department or the school system. They are reexamining issues to find out if they can come up with a better form of communication. He had a meeting last Friday with Superintendent Pempin to move forward on the second SRO position since the levy for school security passed. They discussed preliminary numbers and this is a project they are continuing to work on. He will provide more information to council on a later date.

He thanked council for authorizing the 'Letter of Intent' on the police vehicles. It wasn't obligating the city, but they are coming down to the zero hour on the transition from the current model years to what the next state contract will be. There is estimates that the cars will be \$4,000 to \$5,000 a piece more because Ford must tweak things. The letter locked them into the price.

He reported that on February 24 and March 3 they are having their yearly defensive tactics training for lead officers. He invited the members of council to attend. He said this May they will be having firearms training and will be utilizing the range on Baumhart. They will also be incorporating simunitions exercises, which is force on force training. He invited council to participate in this as well.

He reported on the radio project as they are waiting for the consultant to come back to them. They inventoried their current equipment; radios – repeaters. The plan would be encompassing the Lorain County Radio System, including building towers, etc. It's a two to three-year project. He said it could be around \$93,000 just to do the police department, but everybody will need to be tweaked. He thought this project would be right for grant funding.

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

Next Meeting: February 11, 2019 @ 7pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk