

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF JANUARY 8, 2018

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; Tony Valerius, Service 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**

Chief Chris Stempowski reported the fire department responded to 10 incidents in December of 2017, bringing the department's total to 251 for the year.

He reported on the following:

- MVT's have been installed and they are working on fixing some bugs.
- Chief attended an Active Shooter Work Place Violence Seminar in Detroit at the end of last month which was geared to industrial settings.
- Erie County Haz-mat team is currently working on reorganizing.
- Structure fire occurred on Shadyside Drive at the end of December during frigid temperatures. Everyone did a great job fighting the fire and fortunately the homeowner was able to get out without injury. They requested mutual aid with Florence and Vermilion Township. They used around 500,000 to 600,000 gallons of water to put the fire out.
- Four gas monitors that are used for confined space and carbon monoxide incidents went down at the same time. He contacted the Amherst Fire Chief who loaned the department one and he is getting another one loaned from one of the sales representatives until they can get theirs up and running.
- Fit testing is occurring to make sure their masks are sealed properly.
- Bailout Refresher Training and Driver's Refreshing Training will be ongoing throughout the year. Bailout training is where a firefighter has to get out of a structure when in danger.
- Reminder to the public to test their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working properly as they save lives. He advised the public to never hesitate in calling 9-1-1.
- Year-end Summary is a work in progress and he will submit to council once it's completed.

B. Brady asked if there was any new information relative to previous discussion regarding a new fire station. C. Stempowski said they are waiting to hear from the law director on the specific procedure to follow on the design/build.

J. Gabriel asked if the new boats were received. Chief Stempowski said they both came in and they are waiting on the trailer, which is expected to arrive this week. They can use the boats now if needed and the department is working on them tonight to make sure the motors are working.

M. Stark asked if hard-wired smoke detectors need to be replaced if they have a battery backup. Chief Stempowski explained that sensors in those go bad just like sensors in regular detectors. Therefore, they should also be checked. The life expectancy is around 7 to 10 years.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung said he is finishing up their training schedule for 2018. A few officers are out right now and Officer Kopniske has been temporarily assigned to work the road shift so the department doesn't incur any overtime. They should be back to 100 percent by February 1.

He reported he is finalizing his annual report and will submit it to council. He noted their biggest update is on policy and procedures and they are rewriting their job descriptions.

B. Brady asked the chief if he had a chance to look at the email she sent to him. Chief Hartung said he did and explained they are updating the broadband service for public safety agencies which is getting to the point of fruition. He is waiting to see what they are going to charge the city. B. Brady said there was an email in one of the publications she got on a dedicated broadband. Chief Hartung said it is geared more towards national security which is dedicated to public safety.

TOPIC THREE: Employee Health Care Benefits

B. Brady asked the mayor with council's approval if they could get a representative from BAC to talk with council as the former finance director mentioned the concern on whether the city was in compliance with the Affordable Health Care. She thought council should be aware of where they are with their health care. S. Holovacs felt it was ideal with the budget coming up for discussion in 2018, and to know where they are for costs and policy changes. He said they keep seeing the numbers increasing. B. Brady explained the city is self-insured with a major medical policy. J. Forthofer said he would check into it.

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

Next Meeting: February 12, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk