

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**OF JULY 16, 2018**

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

**In Attendance:**        **Vermilion City Council:**  
*S. 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. Absent: Brian Holmes, Ward Five*

**Administration:**  
*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Captain Graham*

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

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S. Herron advised the public that the Charter sets forth the rules on regular council meetings and committee meetings. During committee meetings, a member of council is in charge of a committee, so it's up to that member as to whether or not they will permit public commentary. Generally it's done, but there are times when it's in the discretion of that elected official if they feel something is not a good idea or it's getting out of hand. They can also set times limits on the discussion. He said if anyone feels they were not heard or didn't have enough time to be heard, or thought of something later they wanted council to know, then they need to remember Council will not make final decisions at that meeting. He said two ways to be heard is to attend a regular City Council meeting and to sign in under 'Open to the Audience' where people can address council and discuss any matter they want. In addition, residents can write in to Council and their letter will be read into the record as long as they identify themselves and they are not profane or threatening.

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

Safety Director Forthofer reported on behalf of the Fire Chief and stated the fire department responded to 28 incidents in the month of June for a total of 106 total responses year to date.

He reported the roof repairs on the south flat roof at Station #1 on Ohio Street were completed. Additionally, ladder truck 90 was out of service after yearly maintenance. An inspection found one of the cables on the aerial ladder was frayed and the truck was out of service for a few days. The department has a backup plan for a ladder truck as needed.

He said during the Fish Festival, Fire Department Station #1 had personnel ready for quick response times if the department was needed. There were no safety problems during the fireworks and pre-post firework inspections were conducted with no incidents. He reported that Saturday morning after the fireworks a driftwood fire occurred off the east break wall. This was not related to the fireworks. The police department through Mayor Forthofer contacted the Fire Chief who then coordinated with the police department who dispatched Police Boat 850 which utilized their recently installed fire pump to extinguish the fire.

He reported a cliff rescue was performed when a citizen while riding his lawnmower went over the cliff. Both patient and the tractor fell approximately 35-40 feet. Fire personnel set out rescue lines and sent firefighters over the cliff to assess the patient's injuries and to mobilize him on a backboard, and then packed the patient into a basket with protection over his head, face, and body to protect against falling rocks and debris. Fire and police personnel raised the patient to the top of the cliff to coordinate an effort to the awaiting EMS crews. He said the police department personnel assisted with fire crews to make this a safe and successful rescue.

He said the department's fire alarm systems are being inspected today and the results will be forwarded. The fire department has applied for a BWC grant for turnout gear, a washer and personnel NOMEX hoods, and \$15,000 is requested and they will keep the committee posted.

He reported the Fire Chief met with representatives regarding the fact that the Ohio Fire Departments are now falling under the BWC PERRP and OSHA regulations. The Fire Chief is still in the process of learning everything he needs to know.

He reported the Fire Station Construction project is currently in the phase of identifying a criteria architect. They are working to make sure they fall into the legal requirements to do so.

He said a new command vehicle is expected sometime in early August. The Fire Chief is currently working on the equipment for this vehicle.

B. Brady said she was present during the cliff rescue and the fire department handled the situation extremely professional. She also reported that Dave (patient) is okay and is walking around.

## TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Captain Graham said they received their first permit request relative to the new solicitor's legislation. They have a process in place which seems it will work. However, the only part of the process they need to iron out is the "Do Not Knock" registry. At some point this can become a large list. They are not doing much with this list until next month until they find out how they want to manage it. He explained that anybody who wants on the "Do Not Knock" registry can come to the Police Department lobby and fill out an application. The application is good for three years and after that you would need to reapply. B. Brady asked if there is any indication they are on the list; possibly a sticker placed at the home. Captain Graham said they are not sure how they want to get this information out, whether it's social media, the website, or printing out a copy.

He reported that Officer Reising, also the IT guy, went to school for security cameras and they are working on software that will map every camera in town whether it's a business or a private home. This way if something happens they can look at their map and determine where the cameras are. Whoever owns a camera would have to sign off on this as there is a way they can log onto these cameras live. He said they got hit hard with vehicle entries this spring and they had multiple guns stolen from vehicles, so this is something they need to take seriously and this is a method they think will help them out.

Pete Spears, 886 Howard Drive, said he started the Vermilion Neighborhood Watch Program on Facebook and regarding the camera issue for the citizens; this was actually brought up at their meeting to try to put something together on a volunteer basis that the police department could

have access to if there are break-in's in the area. He asked Captain Graham if there is anything in place. Captain Graham said D. Reising just went to a school last week so he is still trying to organize this. He will probably put out a survey to see where all the cameras are and to see if the department can have access to them.

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

*Next Meeting: August 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*