

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF MARCH 12, 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; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five. Excused: Frank Loucka, Ward Two.

Administration:
Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; 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: **BAC (Health Care)**

B. Brady announced that Tom Forrester, Vice President of BAC was unable to be present for the meeting and asked the Mayor to invite him to the April 9, 2018, Health & Safety meeting.

Mayor Forthofer understands in the police contract there is a provision for a health care committee. He along with the finance director has been discussing the possibility of activating it to include representation from council, the administration, and representatives from the union in an element to reduce health care costs. B. Brady agreed with this and said in the past she was assigned to this committee, but they never met.

S. Herron announced the April meeting schedule as follows:

- April 2, 2018 – Vermilion City Council
- April 9, 2018 – Vermilion City Council Committees (Health & Safety; Finance; Legislative)
- April 16, 2018 – Vermilion City Council
- April 23, 2018 – Vermilion City Council Committees (Streets & Utilities)
- April 30, 2018 – 5th Monday – No meeting

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

Chief Chris Stempowski reported the fire department responded to 11 incidents in the month of February, bringing the department's total to 25 year to date.

He reported on the following:

- Repairs were made on Heavy Rescue 98 which is in service.

- Boats and the trailer are now fully in service. He purchased additional wood for the bottom part of the trailer which didn't have any wood decking to hold both boats. The inflatable was designed for the lower level so they re-decked it.
- Seven firefighters attended Bowling Green State University Regional Fire School this past weekend.
- Station #1 – A lot of excitement within the department for the consideration of the station replacement. The guys have been working individually on their ideas for the needs of the station which will be discussed later this evening in more detail which includes site considerations.
- Received a quote on the command vehicle to replace the old Chevy Blazer. It could be another six months until they receive the vehicle and get it outfitted with lights, sirens, etc.

Lastly, he addressed the Vermilion Fire Department's Year End Summary for 2017 as provided to council for review. In summary he addressed the parking lot project at Station #2, the tracking and mapping software (Sentinel) and mobile data terminals (MDT's) which is up and running. He thanked the Vermilion Police Department for their assistance in this process.

He highlighted the ISO Audit results. They were audited in 2016, but didn't receive the results until 2017. The department improved in their classification rating to 3/3y from their previous rating of 4/8b, which had been their rating since 2009, and a rating of 5/9 prior to that.

Incidents responses in 2017 were 251 in total. Total emergency and non-emergency responses within the city limits was 221 or 88% of their incidents. The contractual portion of Brownhelm Township was 22 or 8.8% of their incidents. Mutual aid responses for their department providing assistance to agencies outside of their jurisdiction were 8 or 3.2% of their incidents. The average emergency response within the city limits for 2017 was 7 minutes and 19 seconds. This response is from time of alarm to the first unit arriving on scene. The average emergency response time to the contractual portion of Brownhelm Township was 9 minutes and 4 seconds. This response is from time of alarm to arrival of the first unit on scene.

He noted they try to do all training in house and his training officer came up with 1613.75 total continuing education hours and 852.75 VFD Monday training attendance hours consisting of equipment/inspection and station maintenance.

He reported that responding to emergency medical incidents for their department has become a frequent request for assistance from North Central EMS and other EMS agencies providing mutual aid for NCEMS in the city's jurisdiction.

He acknowledged and recognized all personnel on the force. Throughout the year they do a phenomenal job. They have firefighters that really aren't responsible for some of the tasks they take on and without them doing those items; they wouldn't be as proficient as they are. Beyond the officers and their assignments, there is so much pride in the department. The volunteer firefighters maintain full time jobs and maintain family responsibilities, and in their free time they commit to the department, which includes responses, training, and keeping up on their certifications. He said it's difficult to retain and maintain firefighters in a volunteer department pursuant to the requirements set forth in the certifications.

In 2018, some projects and opportunities they are looking into include:

- .Station #1 replacement
- .Replacing the current command vehicle (2000 Chevy Blazer)
- .Replacing SCBA packs and bottles (Estimated \$71,000 for this project)

- .Purchasing new SCBA personal masks
- .Purchasing additional personal bail out kits
- .Purchasing new fire inspection software
- .Replacing aging portable radios
- .Having more personnel trained as CFIS's (Certified Fire Safety Inspectors), Medical First Responders, Swift Water Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Technicians.

J. Gabriel asked if his total of 31 firefighters is normal staffing and C. Stempowski said it's a little low. J. Gabriel asked him what his goal would be as far as staffing goes. C. Stempowski said he could say 31 if it was evenly split between days and nights. They are well staffed on the night time shift and they have been as high as 40 – 45 which was a comfortable level. The goal is to get people who have night shift primary jobs, so they are available on day shift.

Mayor Forthofer commented to the benefit they have in the city in recruiting additional businesses or even residents in that both of the safety departments are recognized achievers. The low ISO rating in the fire department is a benefit to anyone who has to get insurance for their business or home, and they have their recognized police department for the safest city. Chief Stempowski explained the ISO rating and said the 8B can be improved as they need to show ISO they can supply so much water a certain distance for so much time. There are a lot of requirements for the 8B which is also the 3Y classification now.

TOPIC THREE: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung said the department was very pleased to see the City of Vermilion listed as the safest city, but they would like to see the ranking much higher.

He said they received their second phase of their Ohio Collaborative provisional certification with the statewide recognized standards. He congratulated Captain Graham for putting in a tremendous amount of time.

He said last week the department was involved in the 'Safer Schools' meeting. The big focus was on school safety. He said a good resource is the National Threat Assessment Center that is run by the Secret Service. Nobody does threat assessment better than the Secret Service and in 2002 after Columbine happened, they went out and did a study on school shootings. They have had school shootings since 1974 and had 26 incidents before they even got to Columbine. Therefore, the Secret Service with the Department of Education sat down and did a joint study which is available online at www.secretservice.gov if anyone wants to brush up on school shootings.

He addressed the last council meeting minutes relative to discussion on charging cases under the Codified Ordinances of Vermilion and the Ohio Revised Code as far as funding structures. He said they charge under the ORC for first degree misdemeanors and above. He said they had to pay \$100 per day to stay in Erie County and \$75 to stay in Lorain County. The costs were skyrocketing so they reconfigured and anything like a barking dog or disorderly conduct is charged under city code. If they do jail time then they are charged under state code.

S. Herron mentioned a situation that occurred recently at Drug Mart which was on Facebook about an individual who was dealing with some mental health issues. He expressed his sincere gratitude to the police department for handling these types of situations. He said the department found out about his family and this person's individual situation and helped him out, and took the chaos out of the situation. He said it's a great thing what the department is doing as it's the forefront of dealing with mental health.

Chief Stempowski distributed to council a copy of a letter from ISO sent on January 23, 2017, that explains the fire department's rating.

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

Next Meeting: April 9, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk