

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF NOVEMBER 19, 2018

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

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:**
Monica Stark, Council at Large; Frank Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four. Absent: Steve Herron, President of Council; John Gabriel, Ward One; 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 fire department responded to 21 incidents in the month of October for a total of 185 responses year to date. The department received truck preventative maintenance reports and every truck was serviced and they all passed. He noted that engine 80 that is housed at the City Service Center will probably be decommissioned as it is 35 years old and it's too costly to start dumping money into it. He reported they received their recertification for engine 90 as all issues were corrected. He said engine 81 has been repaired and is back in service. The promotional exam is scheduled for December 9, which is a two-year promotional list for any officer vacancies. They currently have one firefighter enrolled in a Firefighter 1 course at the Lorain County Fire Academy, and this class should be finished in February.

He reported he attended a meeting last week at the Amherst Fire Department with some chiefs from surrounding areas and they had good discussion on automatic mutual aid agreements. Obviously, they didn't put anything into place as they are working towards this. They currently have things in place, but they need to revisit them.

The Fire Department received a reimbursement in the amount of \$9,137 for cost recovery from the Valley Harbor incident, which was submitted through the county EMA. Also, they applied for and received the BWC grant (Firefighter Exposure to Environmental Elements Grant). Firefighter Eric Johnston did a phenomenal job of writing and submitting this grant. They are waiting on the funds to arrive and their portion of the \$15,020 grant is \$2,503, which is based off the entire City of Vermilion payroll as opposed to just the fire department payroll. He said they have some plumbing and wiring to do for the gear extractor for the turnout gear the firefighter's wear they will utilize these grants monies for this.

Lastly, he thanked the Firehouse Committee for their involvement in the process. He is looking forward to getting this project done. M. Stark asked if there was a projection date on the Firehouse being built. C. Stempowski thought it would be around 12-18 months. C. Howard

said if they bid the design/build project out in January they may shoot for construction completion before the end of 2019 contingent upon the contractor and the price. Mayor Forthofer said there are a lot of laws that govern design/build by municipalities and sometimes things move slower than they like them to.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Captain Graham reported recently they had a car that went into the river and they worked with the Fire Department, ODNR, and the Lorain County Dive Team to get the vehicle out of the river, along with the help of Valley Harbor Marina who assisted with the use of their crane. It was great to see everybody working as a team. Luckily there was nobody else in the vehicle and thankfully there was no bodily injuries.

He said the 'No Knock" list is ironed out and they have a form that citizens can fill out at the Police Station 24/7. He said citizens will need to show proof of residency with either a driver's license, utility bill, or tax record. The registration is good for three years and renewal is required.

Lastly, he said the holiday season is the time for scammers and he wanted to remind everyone to be cautious.

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

Next Meeting: December 10, 2018 at 6:00 pm

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk