

## HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2017

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

**In Attendance:** S. Herron, M. Stark, F. Ostrander, F. Loucka, J. Forthofer, B. Holmes, B. Brady, B. Keller, C. Hartung, C. Stempowski, G. Fisher, T. Valerius. Absent: L. Miggins; Mayor Bulan.

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

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

C. Stempowski reported the fire department responded to 30 incidents in September bringing the department's total to 208.

He said they completed their third cycle Medical First Responder Education course which is put on through North Central EMS. Hose testing is continuing and the self-contained breathing apparatus bench testing was completed at the end of last month. There was one pack that failed which was 29 years old. The cost to repair it is about \$1,000 so it's really not worth it as they are looking to upgrade their older ones next year with better technology and safety features. Pump tests were completed which they did with Vermilion Township to save money. All of their engines passed, but engine 80 was not tested as it is their reserve engine that needs work. The aerial is scheduled for its annual inspection on October 27 and new helmets are on order with a new design. The modem project is ongoing and everything came in; they are programming and installing the software in all the equipment. They did order a new rescue boat and trailer and the boat is a heavy duty Zodiac style of boat, and the trailer is specifically being built for their use as they will haul two boats on it. They are looking into purchasing another boat which will be some type of a rugged aluminum rowboat they can push through ice or debris that can take a beating as opposed to a rubber-sided Zodiac rescue boat. They need a bigger horsepower on the motor for swift water rescue techniques. They also ordered motors, life vests, and rescue throw bags.

He reported that Fire Prevention Week went well and they conducted a lot of fire safety prevention talks with schools, churches, and daycare centers. The Pizza Delivery Program was a huge success.

J. Forthofer noted that a couple weeks ago most of the city woke up to lower or no water pressure and wondered how it impacted the fire department's operation and how the communication went. Chief Stempowski said when the water distribution system goes down it affects them. So, when it goes down it's critical for them to preplan and there are things in place if they find the water distribution system is down when they respond. They have automatic mutual aid and MABIS alarms which are predetermined assets and resources that are already drawn up. They request MABIS alarms and different apparatus respond from different departments and jurisdictions, which are based on the type of incident. When they are talking strictly about water distribution they are fortunate to have the fleet of apparatus they do because they can technically respond to any structure fire within their jurisdiction with approximately 8,000 to 10,000 gallons of water to start. If the distribution system is down then they have to go to a backup system which generally is a water shuttle. They have tankers from other jurisdictions shuttling water. They have areas identified throughout the city that they can suction water from which can be taken to the scene. If they are fortunate to have a water supply near the incident then they can draft the water and supply and feed right onsite. If not, then they have to shuttle the water. This is all predetermined and if they are aware there is a problem with the system it automatically goes into place and he makes calls to the officers and they send

text to all personnel so they are aware the water distribution system is down. He said with this particular incident the fire department was training and his procedure is that any time they use water during training or for non-emergency events; they will notify the water department that they may be using a hydrant. He said this evening he contacted the water department and told them the department was hose testing and would be using the hydrant on West River at the water tower. The water department employee advised him that he could not do that because the water plant was down where they couldn't use the system, so they immediately stopped what they were doing and then they went to draft sites to fill. J. Forthofer said it seems that he found out that they didn't have water in the course of trying to access water and Chief Stempowski confirmed. Chief said they did find some access sites and were able to draft some water into their engines. They got the water out of the pumps so they didn't have bad water in the pumps. Once the system was back up they got rid of the pond water out of their apparatus and put fresh water back in the tankers. He put out a directive to his personnel that the officer in charge is to contact the water department before they start any water training in the future.

B. Holmes suggested that in the future if the city knows of water shut off or temporary shut off they should notify the fire department.

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

Chief Hartung reported they concluded the Simko homicide trial and Detective Davis had three days on the stand. The judge let them know that he will be making his ruling on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.

He said he spoke with Sheriff Sigsworth who received notice from the Erie County Health Department that their grant runs out in 2018 for Narcan. He said Vermilion has been lucky to be between two counties as Lorain or Erie County has picked up the tab. One of the biggest concerns is that the counties start backing off and the costs for those items fall into the laps of the municipalities. He said it's a great concern especially if it becomes \$500 a dose. They are checking into other avenues and their supply isn't in jeopardy at this time, but it could become a concern in 2018.

He reported he met with the Lagoons Homeowners Association regarding speeding complaints and noted Dr. Zeck was unable to make the meeting, but essentially he presented the processes relative to complaints and talked about speed devices. The association said they would take everything under advisement and if there was an issue that would come up then they would contact the chief, but he thinks this pretty much puts this issue to bed for the time being.

He reported that First Aid Training is scheduled for Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the Vermilion High School. At 1:00 p.m. it will move over to the Service Center on Devon Drive. This training will center on gunshot trauma and dealing with trauma wounds.

F. Ostrander said he had a neighborhood incident awhile back and Officer Holmes responded and explained a lot of things to the neighbors and they were very happy. Also, at the Library the other day, Steve Davis, Sr. was there speaking and he wanted to commend the officers for their speaking ability as people are always happy with the results from those conversations.

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

*Next Meeting: November 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*