

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

OF OCTOBER 21, 2019

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; F. Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five

Administration:
Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Chris Stempowski, Fire Chief; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Bill DiFucci, Building Inspector

Call to Order: Chairwoman Barb Brady, 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 department responded to 25 incidents in the month of September making it a total of 186 incidents year to date. He reported they completed hose testing on September 28 and bench testing (SBA's) passed except for two. One was repaired on site and the other one was a little costly so they're holding off on that right now. They're in the process of replacing some anyway. The truck preventative maintenance is complete and they're awaiting reports. However, engine #4 is out of service as it won't start due to the computer/electronics. The technician was able to get it to start, but now it won't shift into gear. They have enough engines and they are trying to get engine #4 repaired as soon as possible.

They recently had joint rope rescue training with Florence Township and next week they have additional training with them that will include the aerial and tanker.

He reported that Fire Prevention Week came and went, and they participated at the schools, day care centers, churches, and did the pizza delivery and open houses. He thanked all the firefighters for their participation.

Lastly, he said in the last 30 days they lost three retirees, with a total of over 100 years of service. He said Alan "Pete" Nieding had served over 50 years with the department and the other two firefighters were Earle Bogan and Denver Echard.

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

Chief Hartung reported that on October 1 the department responded to a sexual assault on Cummings Road. They have additional lab testing that they're waiting for with regards to the DNA. They received some preliminary results and further additional testing, so he's limited as to what he can talk about on this case. He said he tries to avoid the local social media pages but there are some individuals who are perpetuating a notion that the victim in this crime made it up, which is an inaccurate statement. They are anticipating a 20-day turnaround for the results, so hopefully within about 13 days they should have some additional information. They are reviewing tips as they have received about 40 to 50 of them. Per the pending investigation, he's limited on what he can get into on this case. However, once they get more information, they will release it.

Secondly, he reported the city will need to eventually revisit the Golf Cart/ATV issue as a result of some titling issues that came up with some individuals. He said Ohio Revised Code 4511.215 gives the city the authority to

have golf carts, mini trucks, and utility vehicles, and permit them to operate on the road. Some of the vehicles they have are classified as APB's (All Purpose Vehicles), so under ORC 4511.215 that the city operates their ordinance, APB's cannot be permitted to drive anywhere on the city streets. However, ORC 4519.49 gives the city the authority to regulate snowmobiles, dirt bikes, or APV's anyway the city sees fit. He said some of the vehicles the city permits them to operate in the 45 mph zone, but per city ordinance golf carts cannot exceed 35 mph, but there is no restriction as far as ORC 4519.49, so he asked the law director to look into a couple things on this matter as they will need to tweak the ordinance eventually. He will refer it to the clerk once the law director gets back to him. B. Brady asked if this would limit the use of these vehicles and Chief Hartung said no as they will just need to tweak some of the verbiage.

He said the Woollybear Festival was fantastic this year and they had no problems. He reported the police boat will be taken out of the water by the end of the month. Also, Trick or Treat will be on October 31 and many of the officers will be donating their time to patrol the neighborhoods.

He reported on October 13 they had a breaking and entering incident on Baumhart Road at the Blueberry Farm. The truck that was stolen was found on October 17 and it was totally burnt. It may be that Lorain and some surrounding jurisdictions may have similar incidents from the same group of individuals. It was a specific MO and they are targeting mostly areas that aren't visible. These individuals are taking out the entire power upon entering the buildings. He cautioned businesses in these areas to take extra precaution.

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

Next Meeting: November 18, 2019 - 7pm @ the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk