

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OF MAY 11, 2020**

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion  
Zoom Video Meeting

**In Attendance:**      **Vermilion City Council:**

*Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; F. Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk. Not Present: Steve Herron, President of Council*

**Administration:**

*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Stempowski, Fire Chief*

**Call to Order:**      Chairman Brian Holmes, 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**

Chris Stempowski reported the department responded to 11 incidents in the month of April with a total of 58 incidents year to date. He said two pickups were sent out to have battery chargers installed. The battery of engine 96 housed at Station #1 went bad, so it will be replaced as well. They currently have online training setup for all personnel and two training officers are assigned to running this. Since they're limited to on-station training, this online training will continue to keep them up to date with their education and certifications.

He said they were having minimal training at the station, but he cancelled it when the guidelines were put into place. He thanked the Erie County Health Department for their assistance in guiding the department through this crisis. He also thanked the other agencies, including EMA Directors of both counties.

The equipment apparatus/stations checks are still being performed and small groups are maintaining the equipment to make sure it's ready. It's happening once a week or more, but it's with limited groups.

He mentioned the Social Club provided personal face masks in coordination with Cindy Rice of the Amvets Auxiliary. They recently passed 60 masks to the citizens of Vermilion. They plan on doing another round soon. They will get the word out when this happens. Also, the Social Club donated to St. Jude's for Cindy's work on this in the amount of \$350.00. He thanked everyone for their involvement.

Also, the Social Club recently awarded scholarships to three Vermilion high school seniors and four returning recipients totally \$2,000. He wished good luck to all these students.

B. Holmes thanked the chief and staff for setting up the mask donations as it's greatly appreciated. He thanked the department for their gratitude during this time.

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

Brian Holmes thanked everyone in the Police Department for their service and reminded everyone that this is National Police Week (May 10-May 16).

Chief Hartung said they moved dispatch from the old Channel 2 location back to the department. He noted that the BCI testing for marijuana has been implemented. He is waiting for direction from the law director on which way they will proceed at this point.

The new portable car radios have been installed and communications are a 100% improvement from this project. Hopefully, when things get back to normal, they can revisit the repeater and eventually upgrade to a digital format.

Lastly, he reported they had another resident and dog who sustained injuries from an attack by another dog. He said this is a reminder that having a pet is a big responsibility and he cautioned everyone to make sure their pet is secure, as people are taking advantage of the outdoors at this time, so leashes must be used so the pets are secure.

B. Brady said the pizza's the police department passed out were great. Chief Hartung gave a kudos to his staff.

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

*Next Meeting: June 8, 2020 – Time and location to be determined.*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*