

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
OF DECEMBER 14, 2020
VIA ZOOM

In Attendance: **Vermilion City Council:**

Steve Herron, President of Council; Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; F. Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Hologacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk.

Administration:

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

Call to Order:

Chairman, Brian Holmes, 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 28 incidents in the month of November for a total year to date of 193. He said on Sunday, November 15 the department was busy during the storm and high winds. The department responded to 12 separate incidents and he said it was a fantastic job by the personnel. He also gave kudos to the police department dispatch as they were extremely busy.

He said hose testing was cancelled by the testing company as their crews were quarantined due to COVID.

He reported the fire department has applied for the AFG (Assistance Firefighters Grant). They were also asked to go in with Lifecare on a communications grant for portable, mobile, and base radios. Prior to agreeing, they verified to make sure they would be able to participate and they were assured they could. The estimate for the grant is for \$242,000.

He said the breathing air station at Station #2 is currently out of service and they are having a difficult time getting parts. They were fortunate to have another breathing air station at Station #1. He said the air station is over 40 years old.

With regards to the Brownhelm Township CARES Act Funds, he noted they received funds and part of those funds were distributed to fire departments that serve their jurisdiction, and Vermilion is a part of that and received \$39,820 in products. They put their priority on PPE and other EMS supplies, laptops that give them the ability to work remotely, a gear extractor that will be located at the new facility, some training aids, and sanitizing equipment. They are grateful to the township for these products along with the hazard pay they received.

He reported the new fire station is around 95% complete and they are tying up loose ends. Final inspections will be completed, and they are anticipating receiving an occupancy permit before the end of the year. Currently they are coordinating moving items into the new station. Their estimated timeframe of moving into the new facility is around late January or early February.

Amy Hendricks said with regards to the grant in coordination with Lifecare, this is one value added they have received from contracting their technology services with them. They have been proactive in including them with opportunities for grants. B. Holmes asked what would happen if they did not agree in the future to have Lifecare as their EMS provider. Does the equipment stay with the city or go with them? Chief Stempowski said he will need to ask this question, but he is certain they would have considered this.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung commended the men and women of the agency as it has been a challenging year. He commended City Council and the administration for governing this year. He said there has been a lot of turnover in the department. He said Sergeant Adams will be retiring on January 4 and Steve Kopniske will be sworn in as a Sergeant to replace him.

He said the focus this year has been on continuing education and officers have been assigned a lot of online schooling. They will also get everyone up to speed in 2021 with the relatively young mid-level management positions they have. The focus will be on getting them up to speed and to review all the changes the state will have.

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

Next Meeting: Time and Location TBD

*Transcribed by:
Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*