

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 19, 2021

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; Brian Holmes, Ward Five. Absent: Barb Brady, Ward Four

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

Call to Order: Brian Holmes, Chairman, 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 27 incidents in the month of June for a total year-to-date of 124. He said lately they have had a lot of water and boat related incidents. On June 16, they had a fuel spill at a local marina and the area was contained. On June 18, they had a sunken boat at another local marina and the vessel was retrieved and there was no injuries or contamination. On June 21, they had the rest of their radios reprogrammed and everything appears to be working fine. On July 21, they responded to an attic house fire on Elberta, and it was a quick knock down and there were no injuries. He thanked the Amherst and South Amherst Fire Departments for their assistance. On June 9, the department received the new extrication equipment, and it is set to go on the new truck when it arrives. The set from engine #98 will be transferred to Station 2 and they will most likely decommission it.

He said they ordered some vehicle stabilization equipment, and it has arrived. However, it is not in service. They are coordinating a training session on the extrication and stabilization equipment with the vendors, so they can get hands-on training.

Next month they will have their Health Care Provider training that is scheduled with LifeCare in-house. The new truck was scheduled to arrive after the July 4 holiday, but they were notified the truck has been delayed and will not be delivered until September due to COVID and manpower issues at the plant. However, they are pushing the date up and now they are looking at the second week of August. He said they are sending three people up for the post inspection between August 11 – August 13 and they should have the truck the following week.

B. Holmes asked for a follow up with regards to Chief Richie's report and asked if the committees are getting together. Chief Stempowski said there is motion on this, and committees have been formed. In discussion with personnel, they feel they need to take slower steps because it is challenging to form eight or more committees with volunteers who have full time jobs, so there is progress, and they have run into some hiccups.

B. Holmes thanked the Assistant Chief for responding yesterday to the flood emergency in Carlisle Township. Chief Stempowski said he reported to two incidents. He initially was called to the City of Elyria and upon return to Vermilion he responded to Carlisle. The Assistant Chief is a member of the Swift Water Rescue team.

TOPIC TWO: Police Chief's Report

Chief Hartung announced that Sergeant Kopniske and Sergeant Chandler were accepted into the Step Program at the OACP (Supervisor Training & Education Program), which is a three-week program in Columbus. He said Sergeant Holmes put his application in for the Great Lakes Leadership Seminar in Buffalo through the FBI. The Chief and Captain Graham have both attended this seminar and it is an excellent opportunity, so hopefully Sergeant Holmes will be accepted into this.

He addressed the uptick in the number of attempted suicides and unfortunately successful suicides in the community. They have seen a significant rise this year. He said they are getting out of the COVID, and people are still having a tough time, so everyone needs to pay attention to their family members and friends. There are a lot of resources available recognizing the signs of the person that is in distress. Sometimes it can be a difficult conversation to have but speak up and have a conversation.

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

Next Meeting: August 9, 2021 @ 7pm at the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio

*Transcribed by:
Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*