

## HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 11, 2022

**In Attendance:** **Vermilion City Council:** *Monica Stark, President of Council; Steve Herron, Council At Large, Pat Stein, Ward One; Teresa Mayle, Ward Two; Greg Drew, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five*

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

**Call to Order:** Barb Brady, Chairwoman, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

---

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

Mayor Forthofer reporting on behalf of Chief Stempowski stated there was 10 incidents in the month of March and 52 year to date. He mentioned that Peter Pavlich, Jr., retired Captain, and Chaplin for the Vermilion Fire Department Station #2, passed away on April 4 and he wanted to wish his condolences to the Pavlich family. He contributed a lifetime to the department and the community, and he will be forever missed.

He reported that Chlorine Safety Training was held at Station #1 on March 1, which was coordinated by Gene Baker through the Fire Department and for other city departments.

Mayor Forthofer said they had a good round of interviews for future potential full-time chiefs. The committee individually has been giving him their choices on who they believe will be good full-time chiefs. B. Brady asked who from the fire department is on the committee to choose the chief. Mayor Forthofer noted that Chief Stempowski, Councilman Holmes, Chief Hartung, retired firefighter Tom Baker from Lorain County, and Amy Hendricks are on the committee. They interviewed the individuals after hours and good questions were asked. He felt very good about their interview process.

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

Chief Hartung reported that on Friday, April 8, they had their recognition of awards for the officers at Harbourtown Community Foursquare church. He thanked the church and Pastor Jim Cooper for putting this event on for them.

He received an anonymous letter from a resident relative to questions on Riverside Drive where it loops around, and the end is actually a cul-de-sac. He said the resident down there has actually been blocking it off because he does not like people coming through his property. He said the Service Director Tony Valerius went down there and inspected it and made a determination. He said he never received a return address on the letter, so he cannot provide

the resolution to his complaint. He said he can do this however, because it is private property where it is.

He said it came to their attention that they had unpaid billing for the WENS System. He said this is the Lorain County Alert System that you receive on your text if a tornado comes through or something like this. He said around 2016, the system came out and Lorain County 9-1-1 was picking up two-thirds of the bill and then the municipalities were splitting the costs, and Vermilion's total per year was \$526.00. However, something got lost in translation and they found out they have to pay. He said Tom Kelley was restructuring the entire MOU and then he left, so he has the updated MOU, which is what he sent to Council. He isn't sure it requires anything from Council to enter into the agreement. He said the agreement is pretty self-explanatory on Vermilion's portion to contribute to this alert system for the Lorain County side of things. He said Lorain County is notorious for not sending bills, but hopefully they got everything straightened out. He said Vermilion's cost is \$526.00 and it is determined on a formula of five cents per resident. He said the MOU is for three years (2021-2023). He noted he asked for the original MOU because he never signed it, but he still hasn't received a copy and he is not paying any monies back until he sees a signed MOU.

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

*Next Meeting: May 9, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. at the Vermilion Municipal Court Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio.*

*Transcribed by: Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*