

## **Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee**

**Meeting Held August 23, 2022**

### **CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen. Committee members present were Barry VanHoozen, Mark Weber, and Jan Materni. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, and Tom Granata, Deputy Fire Chief.

### **APPROVAL OF 07/26/2022 MEETING MINUTES**

There being no objections, the minutes of the July 26, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

### **MIKE HICKERSON - PERRYSBURG FIRE FIGHTER/PARAMEDIC**

Mike Hickerson, President of the Perrysburg IAFF 3331, stated that they get a lot of satisfaction out of making a difference in peoples' lives. He started with Perrysburg in 2002, when it was a smaller community, before a lot of change and growth. At that time, they were running with a four or five man crew, and three people would come in from the standby list, effectively having a staffing level of seven. Mr. Hickerson stated that the minimum staffing today is seven, twenty years later. He added that the International Association of City Managers, that the average staffing for any City over 10,000 citizens is 1.52 (firefighter/paramedic) per 1,000 (citizens). Mr. Hickerson stated that where we are at now is an appropriate level of staffing. Mr. Weber asked if he had recommendations. Mr. Hickerson would like the City to hire six people right away, bringing the shifts to eleven people per shift, either EMTs or Firefighter/Paramedics.

Mr. Hickerson stated that the call volume has greatly increased and that the majority of their calls are for EMS. He added that Perrysburg supplies them with great equipment, but all of the equipment in the world does not matter if they do not have the people to get that person out the door. Mr. Hickerson stated that a four-person crew can complete the same number of fire run tasks 5.1 minutes faster than a three-person crew, which is significant when a fire doubles in size every thirty seconds. He added that he is a huge proponent of community CPR, that everyone should know how to do it, and that it saves lives. Mr. Hickerson presented numbers on how our neighboring communities are staffed.

Mr. Hickerson stated that peoples' lives are in their hands and if they are not giving it their all, it could leave them with a disability or they do not survive. Mr. Weber asked how long there had been a staffing of seven. Mr. Hickerson stated that they are still staffing at seven since the twenty years he has been with Perrysburg. Ms. Kabat stated

that Administration is taking notes and will respond. Mr. VanHoozen is appreciative of what they do and he fully recognizes the importance that they bring to the City and its people. Mr. VanHoozen added that he took a lot of notes, so there can be a conversation with Administration addressing these issues.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Weber asked if Ms. Materni or Mr. VanHoozen have been approached by anyone asking about the Animal Control Officer. Ms. Materni stated the only issue she has heard about are cats. Mr. Weber would like to know how it is working, from the Police Chief. Mr. VanHoozen wants to see this on the agenda for next month. Ms. Kabat stated that the Animal Control Officer was doing duties outside of his scope and authority, at one time. The Wood County Dog Warden is doing exactly what they are supposed to be doing. ACO is supposed to deal with only dogs, not cats, deer, raccoons, skunks according to their Code.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson  
Safety Committee

**Next meeting: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.**