

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held October 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER - 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present were Barry VanHoozen, Mark Weber, and Jan Materni. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, Kate Sandretto, Law Director, Amber Rathburn, Finance Director, Patrick Jones, Police Chief, and Tom Granata, Deputy Fire Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF 09/27/2022 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the September 27, 2022 meeting were approved 3-0.

PRESENTATION ON CURRENT FIRE OPERATIONS

Mr. VanHoozen stated that two months ago the Firefighters made a presentation and the Committee asked the Administration to respond with their thoughts and ideas relative to that presentation. Ms. Kabat stated that they are adding additional information, giving a different perspective, and discussing why they are doing it the way that they are. Ms. Kabat added that they recognize the population has grown and that their square miles have increased due to annexations over time. Deputy Chief Granata explained the second station location to help reduce response times in the City. Ms. Kabat stated that at no time was the Administration concerned that the safety of residents was being compromised and that they still received the same quality of attention.

In 2016, they applied for and were awarded a grant to hire three new additional firefighters. In 2018, they hired three new additional firefighters, which was approved by City Council, and took the staffing up to the nine per shift that it is today. Ms. Kabat stated that they appreciate their willingness to reconsider the idea of EMTs and will happily discuss at the next round of collective bargaining negotiations. Ms. Kabat added that while there may be different staffing levels at each of the stations, it does not lead to inadequate or unequal treatment of patients. Ms. Kabat noted that with structure fires, we have our automatic and mutual aid partners, and will do the best they can with all of the staffing that is on hand.

Deputy Chief Granata presented the distinct calls per month over a three-year period,

January 1, 2020 through September 5, 2022. More than one-third of their EMS calls were to eleven senior living facilities in the last three years. Ms. Kabat stated that they are happy to answer questions and will keep analyzing data to keep the Committee up to date. Mr. Weber asked about transport and the percentage of calls. Ms. Kabat explained that they are taking a deeper look at these calls. Deputy Chief Granata stated that there are difficulties with billing because they are an emergency transport service and it is an issue when they transport a non-emergency patient.

Ms. Materni requested numbers for mutual aid that the City has requested and given mutual aid in the last three to four years. She would like those numbers separated out. Mr. VanHoozen asked for clarification functionally how one station can have three and one station can have four, with the same type of cardiac call. Deputy Chief Granata stated that it is a specific call, so they have the ability to ask for help from the other station, and are not limited to just the three. He stated that they can always ask for more help.

Mr. Weber asked if Deputy Chief Granata could come back next month to answer more questions. Ms. Kabat stated that he will be here next month already to discuss the 2023 budget. Mr. VanHoozen stated that they are somewhat limited as City Council members and he appreciates being involved in both sides of this conversation. Mr. VanHoozen added that open and transparent communication, even when it is not necessarily what we want to hear, is always better.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2023 BUDGET

Chief Jones stated that the account numbers are a little different this year, as some things have been combined or moved around. Chief Jones added that the schools have taken over the personnel costs for the crossing guards and the teachers for Safety Town. He noted that one thing added is EMD Software, that will tie into their CAD System, which allows dispatchers to pass along medical calls over to the firefighters when they are responding to the calls. Chief Jones stated that they are planning to have three replacement cars, and unfortunately the vehicles they ordered earlier this year, six of them were canceled by Ford.

Mr. Weber asked about the increase in salaries and fringe benefits. Ms. Rathburn explained that the increase is for the union members and the benefits that are associated with that. Mr. Weber asked about the increase in supplies and materials. Chief Jones explained Mr. Weber asked about the capital improvements. Ms. Kabat stated that \$1.4 million is not enough and was prior to understanding that it would only buy them five years, so they are looking to do improvements holistically with what may happen with a new municipal complex.

Mr. Weber asked about the cost for the Police Officers' hours for security detail in the atrium because it has been asked a few times. Chief Jones stated that it is about nine hours a day and the safety and security of everyone is priceless to him. Deputy Chief Granata stated that they do not have a lot of changes with theirs, and the biggest

differences are due to the change of accounts and how things are listed. Deputy Chief Granata responded that there are no personnel changes. Mr. Weber asked about an increase in staff if it is determined they need that and Ms. Kabat responded that if the Mayor proposes that, yes. Ms. Kabat added that this will be on the November agenda for additional conversation.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.