

SERVICE-SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 23, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim Matuszak. Committee members present were John Kevern, Jim Matuszak and Barry VanHoozen. Also present was Jon Eckel, Public Service Director.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Tom Friess said his mother lives at 422 W. Fifth Street. He expressed his concern regarding the length of time roads have been torn up and streets have been closed in that area due to the sewer separation project. Mr. Eckel said that the roads are being resurfaced and it should be wrapped up within the month.

OHIO DIVISION OF LIQUOR CONTROL REQUEST FOR HEARING, COSTCO WHOLESALE

Mr. Eckel stated that a notice was received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a request for a liquor permit and that the city has the option of requesting a hearing if they would like. Mr. Eckel further explained the nature of the option to request a hearing at Mr. Vanhoozen's request. Mr. Eckel added that he contacted Deputy Police Chief Jim Rose and he has no issues with the permit. Mr. Matuszak asked who would own the permit. He asked if the permit would be assigned to a specific location or if ownership of the permit would be held by the entity requesting the permit. Mr. Eckel said it would be in the name of Costco Wholesale and that the request indicated somewhere near the intersection of Eckel Junction Road and SR 25. The Committee agreed 3-0 to not request a hearing regarding this request.

OTHER CONCERNS

Pete Scarborough, President of the Perrysburg Professional Firefighters IAFF L3331, made a presentation to the committee on behalf of the union to state the union's adamant opposition to the reduction in the minimum staffing level for the fire division. He added that the fire division personnel are also residents of Perrysburg. Mr. Matuszak reminded Mr. Scarborough that in emails between himself and Mr. Scarborough he had explained to him that the issue was not within the jurisdiction or purview of the Service-Safety Committee or the full city council, but rather it was an administrative matter. When Mr. Matuszak first asked Mr. Scarborough what he had hoped to gain from his presentation to the committee, Mr. Scarborough said that he wanted to educate the public and get information on the record. Mr. Matuszak asked Mr. Scarborough if he had presented the same information he had with him to the administration since the issue at-hand was an administrative matter. Mr. Scarborough replied stating that the fire division has a policy that prohibits him from coming across the street and talking to anyone. He later clarified that there is an exception for labor management negotiations.

After Mr. Scarborough had made his presentation and provided the committee the related information he had brought with him to the meeting, Mr. Matuszak asked Mr. Scarborough if anyone on the fire division has been losing money as a result of the

reduced minimum staffing. Mr. Scarborough replied that they actually make more money because they get called in more often. Mr. Scarborough reiterated on three more occasions that fire division personnel are making more money as a result of the reduced staffing. Mr. VanHoozen said that he was trying to figure out what an appropriate number for staffing should be since the fire union has been claiming that four is not an appropriate number. Discussion about scheduling ensued. Mr. Vanhoozen asked why the department schedules seven firefighters / paramedics per shift and how it has been that we have been ending up with less than the scheduled number of personnel on duty. Mr. Scarborough explained that seven men are scheduled to accommodate for sick time, vacation time, comp time and Kelly days and that any one of which would result in less than seven men on duty at any given time unless someone else was called in to "back fill". Mr. Scarborough explained that about 85% of overtime is incurred because of backfilling.

Mr. Scarborough made reference to the 2002 study that was done regarding a second fire station that he had provided to the committee. There was discussion that a recommendation was made in the study and who had made the recommendation.

Mr. Matuszak asked for further clarification regarding the fire division policy that prohibits the employees from communicating directly with the administration. Mr. Scarborough offered to e-mail him the policy and provided verbal clarification.

Mr. Matuszak said that personally he thinks money is an influencing factor for both sides of the minimum staffing issue. He made it clear that it is unfortunate if it is and reminded everyone that safety is of paramount importance. Mr. Matuszak said that although he cannot speak for the administration, he does not think they would knowingly endanger anyone. He also said that he was sure that fire division personnel wouldn't want to endanger anyone either.

Cindy Wilson, wife of one of the fire division employees, expressed her frustration with the fact that money keeps being brought up and stated that her concern is for her husband and the other fire division employees. She said if they arrive at a fire and someone is trapped inside, they don't have the personnel that they need and it scares her to think that her husband would attempt to rescue others without proper backup.

Jim Hagen, a citizen, cautioned the committee to proceed carefully because they have hired someone to oversee the fire division and they should let that person do their job. He said that an overtime budget was approved, and just like other divisions, the fire division is expected to live within their budget.

There was discussion regarding hiring additional personnel to eliminate some of the overtime. Mr. Scarborough said that there is not enough room in the fire station for more personnel and their gear. He said that if a second station were opened, they could eliminate all overtime.

Mr. Matuszak said that he is willing to help work things out, but he has to know that both sides are trying to work the safety issue out in good faith.

The Committee members each thanked Mr. Scarborough for his presentation. Mr. Matuszak asked that Mr. Scarborough make the effort to funnel the information he distributed to the committee to the administration through the fire chief.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Matuszak, Chairman
Service-Safety Committee

Next meeting: Monday, July 28, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.