

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held October 24, 2023

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 Joe Fawcett, City Administrator, Amber Rathburn, Finance Director, Patrick Jones, Police Chief, William McCullough, Fire Chief, and Tom Granata, Deputy Fire Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting were approved 3-0.

2024 BUDGET FOR POLICE & FIRE

Chief Jones noted that there are four new marked police units budgeted for 2024. He said that he hopes to get eight new portable radios each year and bring the older ones back in to have as spares. He wants to replace shotguns because some of them, in service, are thirty plus years old. Chief Jones stated that training is a big part because the state is requiring training each year. Police will be getting iPhones for vehicles, with the new CAD and record management system, which will allow officers to more easily document their calls appropriately.

Mr. VanHoozen asked about the percentage of increase of fringe benefits and salaries. Mr. VanHoozen also asked about the capital outlay change, if it is just an accounting change. Ms. Rathburn responded yes and that it is best practice to have capital separated. Mr. VanHoozen asked how they define capital. Ms. Rathburn responded that capital has a cost over \$10,000.00 and a useful life greater than five years. Mr. Weber asked if anything had to be cut from the budget. Chief Jones responded that everything is in the budget that they need.

Chief McCullough stated that they are hoping to see delivery of the new fire engine in 2024 and need to allocate funds to equip said engine. Ms. Rathburn added that the engine has already been paid for. Mr. VanHoozen asked about the cart and if it will be to the standard of an EMS vehicle. Chief McCullough responded it will be an EMS vehicle, but not a transport vehicle, unless there is an extenuating circumstance. Mr. Weber said that he is looking forward to seeing what it looks like.

Chief McCullough brought attention to salaries and fringe benefits because they are requesting three additional firefighter/paramedics. This would change their minimum staffing from seven up to eight. He added that they have a gap in their incident command training and that is important.

Ms. Materni asked, with hiring additional help, if overtime will go down. Chief McCullough responded that they did reduce the overtime budget, as it will not have a direct reflection because their minimum manning is also going up. Mr. VanHoozen asked when they anticipate needing the next new engine. Chief McCullough responded that he intends to discuss it at the end of 2024, taking into consideration the three-year turnaround time that it will take until delivery.

IROL SERVICE AGREEMENT

Chief McCullough explained that IROL is a third party reporting company that provides web-based services and solutions that drive prevention, community risk reduction and life safety efforts. He is bringing it before Safety Committee just for awareness, as there is no cost to the City and it saves their personnel time. Chief McCullough explained that if they are doing a restaurant fire inspection, their inspector can be sure ahead of time that they are current and compliant with their hood inspections from the IROL site.

Mr. Weber asked if there is just no cost for a limited time. Chief McCullough responded that it is no cost for forever. Mr. VanHoozen asked if it has not been well advertised and if it has been available. Chief McCullough responded that he just became aware of this two months ago when the Fire Marshal brought it to his attention, but it is a relatively new service. Mr. VanHoozen appreciates him informing them of things that they do not necessarily have to approve.

FIRE DIVISION STAFFING PLAN

Chief McCullough explained that there are increased call volumes, which equates to an increased demand in their resources. In 2004 there were 1,400 calls. This year they have already responded to over 3,000 calls. They staff two medic units and, as soon as they have the third run, their resources are depleted and they have to depend on automatic aid and mutual aid agencies. Their goal for the size of the City and the call volume, is to handle more than two calls at a time.

Mr. VanHoozen asked if we had nine, would we be able to run a third unit? Chief McCullough responded that if they had a minimum of nine personnel, they would be able to run a third unit, but they cannot have a third unit with eight personnel. He noted that the part-time program is becoming more challenging to maintain and finding staff is difficult when they are hiring part-time personnel.

Chief McCullough stated that the end result they need to get to is adding four additional personnel per shift, which is a net increase of twelve personnel. They are striving to get to a thirteen person shift, with a minimum of ten. He proposed adding three per year for

the next three years. Chief Jones stated that, as Safety Director, he has educated himself on the operations of the Fire Division and has seen firsthand that they are understaffed. He added that they need to have a full-time professional fire department that is capable of handling more than two calls at a time.

Chief Jones supports this plan and hopes to get the three new people in the budget for next year. Chief McCullough stated that this needs to be an ongoing conversation.

OHIO BWC FIREFIGHTER EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS GRANT (FEEEG) PROGRAM

Deputy Chief Granata explained that they had budgeted for an exhaust system because they did not outfit the farthest north bay with an exhaust system at the new station. He just received the numbers this afternoon and the City's cost will be about \$3,000.00. Deputy Chief Granata looks forward to applying for this. The Committee members agreed 3-0 to move this forward to City Council.

REQUEST FOR 2023 GMC ACADIA VEHICLE FOR THE DIVISION OF POLICE

Chief Jones explained that they are requesting to purchase a 2023 GMC Acadia for the Detective Bureau, which would replace a 2011 Ford Taurus. This is not a general fund item. The price for the 2023 GMC Acadia is \$37,531.50 from Perrysburg Automall. Chief Jones stated that they have it on the lot and will be asking for this as an emergency measure. There being no objections, this is being recommended 3-0 to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.