

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held March 25, 2024

CALL TO ORDER - 4:30 PM

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson Barry VanHoozen.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members present were Rick Rettig, Kevin Fuller, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Joe Fawcett, City Administrator, Tim Effler, Law Director, Patrick Jones, Police Chief, and Tom Granata, Deputy Fire Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF 2/26/24 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the February 26, 2024 meeting were approved 3-0.

ADDITIONAL FLOCK SAFETY ALPR CAMERAS

Chief Jones explained that the Flock Safety Falcon Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) Cameras allow them to have access to other communities' cameras too, such as Toledo, Lucas County, Rossford, and Perrysburg Township. It allows the officers to receive an alert if a vehicle is stolen or if there is a warrant out for that person. Chief Jones stated that they have seven ALPR Cameras currently and are hoping to obtain an additional ten. The price of \$36,500.00 is for the one-year lease and installation of the ten Falcon Cameras.

Chief Jones stated that they have been seeing success with the Cameras. Mr. VanHoozen is curious how he defines success. Chief Jones responded that if there is a suspect in a series of thefts or they are doing a drug investigation, they will be alerted right away when the vehicle comes into the City and can also get other local agencies involved. He added that it has been a good tool to recover stolen vehicles as well. Chief Jones clarified that it is not a speed or red light type of camera system.

Mr. VanHoozen asked about numbers. Chief Jones will start looking at those numbers. Mr. Fuller asked if this is a shared server. Chief Jones responded that it is all cloud-based and only used for law enforcement. He added that another good thing about Flock is that they have a corporate side and can search the private side if a crime occurs at a store. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 3-0 to City Council.

PURCHASE ONE 2023 FORD EXPEDITION FOR THE FIRE DIVISION

Deputy Chief Granata explained that the purchase of the 2023 Ford Expedition XL would replace a 2009 Crown Victoria in their fleet. This vehicle would become the Deputy Chief's vehicle. He stated it was slated to be a state purchase, but it expired, so with the permission of the Finance Department, they received two quotes for the vehicle. Montrose Ford provided the lowest and best quote. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 3-0 to City Council.

FIRE DIVISION GRANTS

Firehouse Subs

Deputy Chief Granta explained that this is informative and no action is needed by the Committee Members today. They are applying for four gas meters. He stated that with the recent increase in gas line leaks, these gas meters would allow them to get a reading out of the sewer. Deputy Chief Granata explained that Firehouse Subs will buy the equipment and then donate it to the Fire Department. Mr. VanHoozen thanked him for sharing this.

FEMA SAFER Grant

Deputy Chief Granta explained that the City is interested in applying for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. If awarded, this grant would fund the salary and benefits of six firefighters for a period of three years. After the three years, the City would support these positions through the general fund. Deputy Chief Granta noted that this would accelerate the anticipated hiring for 2025 and 2026, where they would hire three new firefighters each year. Mr. VanHoozen asked how competitive this grant is. Deputy Chief Granata responded that the earlier we apply, the better, because they review the applications as they receive them. Chief Jones added that they hired a grant reviewer for this, who is a retired FEMA senior grant reviewer.

Mr. Fuller asked when the last time was that the department had growth in personnel. Deputy Chief Granata responded that the last hire of three people was in 2017, in anticipation of opening the new Fire Station, and was also done under a SAFER Grant. He stated that this year, they are about to hire five new employees, two are replacements for personnel that have left and three are additional personnel. Mr. Fuller asked if there are additional grants to apply for. Deputy Chief Granata responded that the intention is to be able to fund these positions at the end of the grant period, but there are additional grants out there as well. Mr. VanHoozen asked about staffing levels and where they are at. Deputy Chief Granta responded that they should have hired the three new personnel three years ago. There being no objections, this is being forwarded 3-0 to City Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Deputy Chief Granta stated that this is another grant where no action is needed today. They are looking to join with the five other northern Wood County fire departments for a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant for the Knox Box e-key tool. The electronic key will allow them to unlock a Knox Box without having a physical key. Rossford, Northwood,

and Perrysburg Township will be a part of this. There is an electronic record, so they know who accesses it, which will help to sustain this.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Monday, April 22, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.