

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held June 24, 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 Kevin Fuller, Rick Rettig, and Barry VanHoozen. Also present were Pat Jones, Police Chief/Safety Director, Fire Chief Bill McCullough, and Tim Effler, Law Director.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF 4/22/24 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the April 22, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

SURPLUS PROPERTY - FIRE DIVISION - 2009 FORD CROWN VICTORIA

Chief McCullough said that the Fire Division has a 2009 Ford Crown Vic, the last one in the City's fleet, that is no longer needed by the Fire Division and they are recommending that it be sold. The Committee agreed 3-0 to move this along to City Council.

PURCHASE OF FIRE DIVISION UTILITY VEHICLE

Chief McCullough requested approval to purchase a utility vehicle for the Fire Division. He said that the division's technical rescue equipment is currently being stored in 7 or 8 totes because they have no room to store it on their other trucks. He said that the specialized rescue equipment is used on high risk, but less frequent calls. He said that they have trained with this equipment, but deployment has been overlooked. He said there are two parts to this purchase, the chassis and the box. Chief McCullough explained that they haven't been able to get a second quote for the chassis yet, but both parts still need to go to the Finance Committee. Mr. Effler stated that the legislation provided to the Committee is for the box, but they are hoping to have the second quote for the chassis before the Finance Committee meeting, and that it will go from the Finance Committee on to City Council. Mr. Rettig asked about the frequency of these types of calls. Chief McCullough said that in 2023 there were 36 technical rescue calls, with 32 of them being river rescues. Mr. Rettig asked if this piece of equipment will be used outside of technical rescue calls. Chief McCullough said that it will be. He said they've had some auto accidents where they could have used this equipment. Mr. VanHoozen clarified that this is not a trailer, and Chief McCullough said that it will be a one ton, probably Chevy chassis, with four wheel drive. The Committee agreed 3-0 to

move this purchase on to the Finance Committee.

Chief McCullough provided the Committee with a copy of a letter from Senator Sherrod Brown that was sent to FEMA supporting our SAFER grant attempt. A copy of this letter is attached and made a part of these minutes. Chief McCullough wanted to publicly thank Senator Brown. Mr. VanHoozen asked about the timing of the grant. Chief McCullough explained that it is a 2023 fiscal year grant, so we will find out one way or another by the end of September.

KROGER NATIONAL OPIOID SETTLEMENT

Chief Jones said that a couple of years ago, City Council adopted the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding to distribute settlement funds regarding opioid litigation. He said that Kroger has agreed to a \$1.2 billion dollar overall settlement. He said that the State of Ohio will get their share and then pass it along in accordance with the OneOhio MOU. Mr. Rettig asked if there are parameters on what the funds are used for, and Chief Jones said there are. He said that we have used these funds to purchase Narcan, which we budget \$10,000 a year for because it expires after a year. Mr. VanHoozen asked if this legislation is just agreeing to accept the funds. Mr. Effler explained that the legislation also authorizes the terms of the settlement. The Committee agreed 3-0 to forward this on to City Council.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT RENEWALS

Chief Jones said that no legislation is needed, but he wanted to let the Committee know about the school resource officer contract renewals. He said that for the High School and Junior High resource officers, the schools pay 70% of the officer's salary and benefits which for the next year will be \$91,000 each, for a total of \$182,000. For the Hull Prairie Intermediate resource officer, the City entered into a different type of agreement. Since the SRO is also the DARE officer, he would already be at the school. As part of the agreement, the Schools take care of hiring and paying crossing guards and the teachers for Safety Town. Mr. Rettig said that the SRO is a great addition to the High School, and he could not imagine not having him there. Mr. Fuller asked if the contract covers all three officers. Chief Jones said there are actually two separate contracts. Mr. Fuller asked how often they are renewed. Chief Jones said they are annual contracts because the rates change annually.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. VanHoozen said that he and the Mayor received an email that he shared with Chief Jones, and he asked the Chief to comment on it. Chief Jones said that there has been a lot of talk about a database regarding police misconduct. Chief Jones said that there is not a local database, but he is a proponent of having a database at the state and federal level. He said that it is helpful when hiring officers from another department. He said that if they receive a complaint about an officer, they investigate, and those results go into the officer's personnel file and that information is public record. Chief Jones said when an officer leaves the City, they are required to submit a form stating why they left, did they retire, were they under investigation, etc. The Ohio Peace Officer Training

Commission has a search where you can look up police officers. Mr. VanHoozen asked about the procedure if someone has an issue with a police officer. Chief Jones said that there is a citizen complaint form on the City's website. He explained their procedure for investigating complaints and said that once the investigation is completed, they let the complainant know their findings. He said the website also explains how to submit compliments, because they want to hear the good and the bad. Mr. VanHoozen asked Chief McCullough if the Fire Division also has a procedure for submitting concerns about Fire Division employees on the website, and the Chief said they have a customer satisfaction survey on the website.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2024 at 4:30 p.m.

SHERROD BROWN

OHIO

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,
AND FORESTRY

BANKING, HOUSING,
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

FINANCE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510 - 3505

June 24, 2024

Administrator Deanne Criswell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
400 C Street SW,
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell:

As you consider applications for the Federal Emergency Response Agency's (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program, I write to bring your attention to the application submitted by the Perrysburg Fire Division in Perrysburg, Ohio.

The Perrysburg Fire Division is seeking support to train more firefighters in the Perrysburg community. Demands on the region's emergency response system have increased as the region has grown. To meet this increased need, the City of Perrysburg proposes to use this assistance to hire an additional six firefighters to keep the Perrysburg community safe and to help ensure the entire region is better equipped to handle emergencies. Without this assistance, the City of Perrysburg will likely be unable to make these critical hires.

As you consider applications for the SAFER grant program, I ask that you give full and fair consideration for the application from the Perrysburg Fire Division. Please keep my office updated on the status of this application.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator