

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held January 27, 2025

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, Barry VanHoozen, and Rick Rettig. Also present were Joe Fawcett, City Administrator, Pat Jones, Safety Director/Police Chief, and Bill McCullough, Fire Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF 10/28/2024 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the October 28, 2024 meeting were approved 3-0.

AGREEMENT WITH AXON FOR BODY, FLEET, AND INTERVIEW CAMERAS

Chief Jones requested approval of an agreement with Axon for body worn, vehicle, and interview room cameras for the Perrysburg Police Division. He spoke about the City's current contract with Motorola for cameras and said that the contract will be expiring very shortly. He also mentioned that the quality of the products and service received by Motorola is no longer what the police force is looking for. The new contract with Axon will provide body worn cameras for all 40 sworn officers plus 4 spare, as well as cameras for every marked police vehicle and the 4 interview rooms at the police station. This contract with Axon will also provide the City with a warranty on all cameras for the duration of the contract and will replace any damaged or broken cameras for the department. Axon also provides unlimited Cloud-Based storage for all recordings. This contract is for \$111,644.96 a year for 5 years, which is under budget, as the City budgeted \$120,000 for this new contract. Chief Jones has asked for this legislation be passed as an emergency to ensure timely purchase and implementation of these services. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES FROM MONTROSE FORD

Chief Jones requested approval of an agreement with Montrose Ford for the purchase of four 2025 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles totaling \$190,109.00. The vehicles purchased will be three individual EcoBoost engine vehicles for \$48,524.00 each and a fourth vehicle that will be a standard V6 engine for \$44,537.00. The three vehicles with the EcoBoost engine will be replacing 3 existing marked police cars that are at the end of their life for reliability and performance, due to age of the vehicle and the wear and tear a police vehicle endures while in use. The City budgeted a total of \$300,000 for

these vehicles and upfitting with equipment. Chief Jones has asked that this legislation be passed as an emergency to permit the Division of Police to take the necessary steps to order the vehicles and utilize them in the fleet as soon as possible. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

PURCHASE OF NEW VEHICLE UPFITTING FOR POLICE VEHICLES

Chief Jones requested approval to enter into purchase agreements with P&R Communications. The police division has plans to purchase four new vehicles, each of those vehicles need to be upfit with necessary equipment; and, the individual price for upfitting 3 of the vehicles is \$21,277.50, the price for upfitting the fourth vehicle is \$12,005.81, for a total cost of \$75,838.31. Chief Jones has asked that this legislation be passed as an emergency to permit the Division of Police to take the necessary steps to order the equipment and utilize the vehicles in the fleet as soon as possible. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

2024 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Chief Jones shared the Police Division's 2024 Operational Highlights with the Committee. In total there was about a 17% decrease in crime in 2024 compared to 2023 and the police divisions response time decreased by about 3%. Chief Jones spoke about some personnel changes, as they lost two officers to the Oregon Police Department, but will be gaining one back once he finishes the police academy. Chief Jones also mentioned that they just hired a police dispatcher. The department and Chief Jones plan on attending career fairs this year both at the local high schools and universities to get people interested in joining the police force.

Chief McCullough shared the Fire Division's 2024 Operational Highlights with the Committee. Chief McCullough also shared some personnel changes within the fire division. He said that Fire is looking to hire three new EMS/Fire personnel in 2025. This would allow for each of the three shifts (1st, 2nd & 3rd shift) to get an extra person. The inclusion of an extra person each shift will cut down on overtime cost as well as make it so there can be three staff members off per shift. Chief also talked about the average response time for EMS & Fire which was 4:53 for the year 2024, he believes that the inclusion of the extra staff members will cut this response time down even farther.

CAPITAL PURCHASE - ZOLL EMS VENTILATOR PURCHASE

Chief McCullough spoke to the committee about replacing obsolete ventilators used by EMS. The current ones are no longer supported by the manufacturer for part replacement. The EMS/Fire division plans to purchase these ventilators through Zoll Manufacturing. These ventilators are in the Capital Budget for 2025 and the plan is to purchase them after the Annual Capital Purchases/Surplus Equipment Legislation is approved by City Council. This is informational only, there is no legislation requested.

FIRE STATION 38 HVAC REPLACEMENT

Chief McCullough spoke about the HVAC at Station 38. He said it is underperforming and currently has a negative air flow making the station indoor air quality very poor due

to unfiltered outside air entering the building, as well as moisture issues from outside air infiltration. The Fire Chief stated that they have not started on the HVAC work yet but are currently working with Engineering to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP). Chief McCullough said that he will keep the committee updated on this process and will bring legislation to them when necessary.

DONATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Chief McCullough discussed the donation of surplus property. The division is requesting to donate 12 infant CPR trainers and 2 AED trainers to the Safety Council of NW Ohio. Chief McCullough said that this property is no longer able to be used by the Fire Division, as the mannequins are old and not sufficient for teaching CPR. Chief McCullough has requested that this legislation be passed as an emergency measure so the Safety Council is able to receive these items quicker. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN JOEL WHITMORE

Chief McCullough spoke to the committee about the retirement of Captain Joel Whitmore. Joel Whitmore is retiring on February 6, 2025 with over 30 years of service to the City of Perrysburg. He was hired on August 2, 1994 as a firefighter/paramedic. The Fire department has planned a retirement reception on February 3rd from 1-4pm.

SIERRA WIRELESS

Chief Jones spoke to the committee about a contract with Sierra Wireless to upgrade the modems used by the police division. This will switch the existing technology to 5-G for faster processing speeds and camera footage. This contract does not need legislation as it is under the threshold required by council. The contract will be about \$48,000 and the City will receive a \$28,000 credit from Verizon Wireless to off set the cost.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief McCullough spoke about the Fire Division's new Fire Engine that was purchased on 2021. The manufacturer has completed building the fire truck and, there are just minor adjustments that are being finished up. Chief said that we are at the 60 day mark before they can put this new engine into the fleet. Chief McCullough also spoke about a change in protocol for Medical Alarms (i.e. Life Alert). He said that in 2024 a lot of the alarms did not need any medical attention just needed assistance. He said that they would send the entire fleet of vehicles for every alarm and this ended up being unnecessary most times, as only 6 people were transported to the hospital last year out of 62 alarm calls.

Mr. Rettig asked Chief Jones about what concerned citizens of Perrysburg can do about a problem dog in their neighborhood. He asked what channels might they go through to designate a dog as dangerous or vicious. Chief Jones stated that the Wood County Dog Warden takes care of dog designation, but if there is a dog on the loose in a neighborhood or if someone was just attacked or bitten by a dog, then they should

call the police first, and afterwards the Dog Warden will get involved if needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 24, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.