

Minutes of Perrysburg Safety Committee

Meeting Held February 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER - 4:30 PM

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

ROLL CALL

Committee members present were Kevin Fuller, Barry VanHoozen, and Rick Rettig. Also present were Brian Thomas, City Engineer, Joe Fawcett, City Administrator, Pat Jones, Safety Director/Police Chief, and Bill McCullough, Fire Chief.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

None.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

There being no objections, the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting were approved 3-0.

ASP BATON DONATION

Chief Jones explained to the Committee that the Police Division would like to donate 45 ASP Batons and their holders to Owens Community College Police Academy. No questions from the members. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

ADDING MOBILE DATA COMPUTER (MDC) CAPABILITY TO THE FIRE DIVISION FLEET

Chief McCullough updated the Committee about the addition of Mobile Data Computers (MDCs). MDCs help firefighters access information about incidents and locations, which can improve response times, they also allow firefighters to communicate with dispatch and other agencies. This computer capability is considered the industry standard.

FIRE DIVISION'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Chief McCullough gave the Committee an updated Annual Report for 2024. The Chief went over response statistics for Fire and EMS. He stated that PFD responded to 3,584 incidents in 2024, with an average response time of 7 minutes and 18 seconds. This response time differs from January's meeting report, as the Chief did not have all of 2024's numbers yet. Chief McCullough also spoke about the increase in call volume in 2024. The division experienced a 12.74% increase in calls, which is equal to about 405 calls. Chief McCullough hopes to keep improving the response time as well as the entire Fire Division, he believes that with the added staff members, the PFD will keep improving.

Mr. VanHoozen asked Chief McCullough about the recent Blade article about

Perrysburg Township charging out-of-town drivers for car accidents that occur in the township. Chief explained that the Township charges for the fire services used, for example, if a vehicle were to catch on fire as a result of an accident, or if the Jaws-of-Life were used. Chief McCullough said that this could bring in some extra revenue to the City, but could not be completely worth it, as fire personnel would have to remain on the scene longer to get information for billing, instead of moving on to the next emergency.

ECKEL JUNCTION ROAD SPEED LIMIT

Mr. Thomas presented the Committee members with information on the requested speed change on Eckel Junction Road. This stretch of Eckel Junction from Carronade Drive to Thompson Road is partially in Perrysburg Township and partially in the City. The proposed speed change would allow the speed to be the same on both sides of the road. This change will benefit motorists as well as law enforcement. The Committee has requested that the speed on the City's portion of this road be changed to 45mph to match the speed on the Township's side of the road. The Committee voted 3-0 to forward to Council.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Fuller asked Chief Jones about some pamphlets that were distributed and littered around the streets last week. The pamphlets demonstrated hate speech and included statements that could incite hatred or violence against a group. Chief Jones said the Police Division will be on the lookout for anyone caught distributing this kind of material and will do everything possible to help those who could be victimized by this type of hatred.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry VanHoozen, Chairperson
Safety Committee

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