

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday May 14, 2024

Chief called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Roll Call: Kevin Maloney, Steve Thorn, Chief Urso

Others Present: Mayor Tammy Meyer, Michele Stuck, Linda Clark, Miranda Brothers, Tom Aldritch, John Clark, Jill <unknown>, Chuck Peterson, Stacie Wilcox, Jeff Benner, Marty Tukkinen, Wes Hawkins, Mariel Sivolka

Minutes: Steve motioned to approve the 2/13/2024 minutes, second Kevin, all Ayes.

Department Report: Chief presented the Vendor Appropriations Status and SRO reports.

Citizens:

- Open Gate: John reported the gate is being left open near the Scout building. *Service will be notified.*
- South Prospect/44 intersection: Tom shared his safety concern with turning North out of South Prospect. Jeff suggested we block off a half a space on E 44 right at the corner. John suggested we put a mirror on the opposite pole. Tammy noted Portage Water may be putting a hydrant on the corner. Discussion about the possibility of a light / 4-way stop. *Chief will discuss with Chief Roosa.*
- Crosswalk lights: Linda noted a traffic study was done in November 2023, and that could pursue an AMATS grant for 2 flashing crosswalk lights (at McDonalds and the School). *Chief will look into this. Tammy will look into the traffic study.* John noted that pedestrian crossing lights @ Mill/McD have been broken a while now. *Tammy will check with Ryan as to whose responsibility it is.*
- Chain of Command: Linda asked of the status of 2023-16, whether it would be changed to remove personal references. *Processes committee will be addressing this.*
- <personal accusations omitted>
- Dispatch: Vickie read a letter to the committee expressing a number of concerns regarding dispatch vacancies. Extended discussion resulted. Suggested better dispatch pay. Marty and Miranda echoed that solution. Chief noted that we are making incremental salary improvements, it will just take a long time. <personal accusations omitted> Miranda suggested she be reinstated to relieve overworked dispatchers. <personal accusations omitted> *No action items.*
- Sheriff's Investigation: Linda asked for clarification. <personal accusations omitted>
- Kevin addressed a number of comments. <personal accusations omitted>
- Dispatch: Marty noted other stations have precedent to move road officers to dispatch.

Old Business:

- Employee Status (Dispatch): 1 in training, doing background checks on 2. *Chief will be setting up interviews for those 2.*
- Employee Status (Officers): Chase still in training but only wants 1-2 days/week.
- Wages: normally do evaluations and raises in the spring across the board. *Chief wants Finance to determine what percentages are available for raises.*
- Lexipol: Tammy recommended Safety be the Training Committee required by Lexipol. *Chief will document and provide training hours to Safety.*
- Dispatch: Tammy recommended we remove mention of Hiram village since there's little likelihood they would participate from 121.03 XII(1)(c) Motion to approve by Steve, second Jamie, all Ayes.

NB - email from Michele on 5/15 - these changes are already in the codified via 2024-07

- Speeding: Chief discussed the difficult reality of covering everywhere at once. We will be putting our speed camera back in service, though he dislikes them because they only focus on speeding, not other infractions. Miranda noted that Hiram is having issues w/ the prosecutor, and not using the speed cams. *Chief will observe what Hiram is doing, and will get back to us after a while.*
- Parking on Main: Chief suggested moving one 15-min spot from the W side to the E side, near the corner of Prospect to do double-duty. *No action items.*
- Ohio Collaborative: Met with us, certification would help us establish consistent and well-defined procedures, as well as aid in acquiring grants. *Chief will continue to look into this.*

Additional Business:

- John noted the Jake Brake sign went missing at the high school. *Chief will look into where the sign went.*
- Chuck noted that there are several street lights out. Chief suggested citizens contact First Energy more than once. Also, contact dispatch with addresses / pole # and they will log it.

Kevin motioned to adjourn at 7:25pm, seconded Steve, all Ayes.