

VIDEO MEETING  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

SAFETY COMMITTEE  
May 05, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chief Urso, Ben Prescott, Marty Hura, Heather Paisley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michele Stuck, Village Solicitor, Mayor Clark , Jenny August, Clerk

CALL TO ORDER: Chief Urso called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. April 07, 2021 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes by Ben, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Heather all ayes.

CHIEF's REPORT: Appropriation Status, Vendors, and SRO emailed. All reports on file. Ben had a question reference SRO, Chief explained.

CITIZENS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- ❖ **Distracted Driving Ordinance** – ORD (331.45) Section D4 – Council sent back to Safety for wording. Discussion on being on the phone prior to entering the Village could they be stopped. Chief advised not at this time because they are not manipulating the keyboard, however we are looking at that wording. Looking at having no interaction with phone at all and if you would drop the phone, it is a true distraction. After discussion majority of Committee recommends wording to be “Hands Free”. There are exceptions for emergency situations in the Ordinance. Motion to take back to Council and Michele will work on wording that you can't be holding your phone in your hand for any purpose, then Council can decide and/or amend. Tammy made Motion, Marty 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion, 2 ayes 1 nay, Ben.
- ❖ **Traffic Enforcement** – Discussed at Council and agreed sometimes the businesses may be impacted during a traffic stop due to the location, ultimately this is for the safety of the businesses.
- ❖ **Personnel Status** – Interviewed part time dispatcher, hired her and she has started her training. At Council we moved and Auxiliary Officer to part time and talked about starting process for another full-time officer
- ❖ **OCJS GRANT** – Updated information since last Safety Meeting. 90% reimbursement grant and project total about \$4300, we are getting everything for about \$430.

NEW BUSINESS:

- ❖ **Covid Guidelines** – Questions and Concerns on when we are opening things up like Lodge, Playground, Village Hall and Police Dept. I feel we need to follow what the Governor suggests. With vaccinations being done gatherings per the Governor can take place without a mask. People are scheduling outdoor for events also which helps.

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**NEW BUSINESS CON'T:**

- ❖ We have not discussed the opening of the Government Center. We have had requests for tours of the Police Dept. and I am not comfortable with that yet. Meetings are ultimately Council's decision. My recommendation is to see what the spring brings.
- ❖ **Dispatch Contract** – Dispatch Contract with Garrettsville Police Department is up at the end of 2021. Garrettsville Chief has contacted me to discuss the contract. They have reached out to other entities and did receive a quote from Portage County Sheriff Office that was substantially lower. Quote from the County is approximately \$55,000 cheaper than the current contract. Mayor Clark and I met with Chief Christopher and a Council member last week and we laid everything out, after discussion it seems that their recommendation to their Council is to take dispatch to PCSO, although Chief Christopher said he had not made a decision yet and they would like to make a decision by July 1<sup>st</sup> to stay with us or not. They feel that eventually everyone will have to go to County. If the decision is made to leave it will impact the Village financially. Misconception for some is that the money paid goes directly to the Police Department. A percentage of that comes to the Police Department and the rest goes to General Fund. Chief and Mayor both expressed that we do not want to lose Garrettsville. Chief asked Committee for discussion, opinions, suggestions on moving forward. Mayor Clark suggested Committee might want to think about long term and a possible suggestion for Safety to consider would be a put a ½% income tax for Police only which would help supplement the Police Dept. \$216,667.00. This would have to go on the ballot for residents to vote on. Michele has the necessary legislation and time limits. Marty made the Motion for ½% income tax increase to be put on ballot to go to Finance Committee, Heather 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion. All ayes.

**COMMENTS/CONCERNS:** None

**ITEMS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:** Modification of Ordinance 331.45

**ITEMS REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE:** ½% Tax Levy

**ITEMS REFERRED TO PARK COMMITTEE:** None

**ITEMS REFERRED TO SERVICE COMMITTEE:** None

**ITEMS TABLED:** None

**NEXT MEETING:** June 02, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** Meeting adjourned at 6:32p.m. Motion to adjourn by Ben, 2nd by Heather, all ayes.