

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

SAFETY COMMITTEE  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chief Urso, Marty Hura, Steve Thorn, and Tammy Meyer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Motion to excuse Chuck Peterson by Marty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve, all ayes

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Clark, Miranda Brothers, Ryan Klemm, Nina Schroeder and Heather Paisely

CALL TO ORDER: Chief Urso called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

ACCEPT MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes from June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting by Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marty, all ayes.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Appropriation Status, Vendors, and SRO report provided. All reports on file. Tammy questions if Lexipol is a one time a year thing. Chief explains yes. Tammy questions the price difference for TAC in July. Chief explains the difference is due to the watch guard, and the fire wall that is within the watch guard to protect the agency, and explains the different fees. Tammy questions the Cleveland wrap charge. Chief explains that 3 different invoices were sent, and Maryann issued one check. Tammy questions the AT&T bill vs the appropriations. Chief then explains that amount does not account for the almost \$1,000 reimbursement that is received from the Mantua Shalersville Fire Department per month for their ½ of a shared circuit. Chief explains that roughly \$12,000 is reimbursed a year from the MSFD. Tammy states the appropriations are low, and Chief explains that they are still high compared to what the department pays after reimbursement. Tammy states she wants to make sure there is enough appropriated for that line-item next year. Chief further explains that she should check with Maryann due to there being multiple AT&T accounts. Tammy questions the SRO wage increase. Chief explains that the wages increase 3.5% at the start of every school year. Heather questions if there is someone filling in the SRO position, Chief explains that the officers are filling the position.

CITIZENS: Nina questions if the SRO requires any specialized certifications. Chief explains the position needs to be an OPOTA-certified Mantua Village police officer. Chief explains once the department finds a permanent SRO they will go to a 40-hour training called Basic SRO Training. Chief explains that the MOU with the schools explains it will be a Mantua Village police officer. Tammy questions if there have been any changes to the MOU since 2019 when it was put in place. Chief explains that in 2015 a 10-year rolling contract was put in place. A discussion was held regarding the terms in the MOU. Tammy mentions the requirements and training with a substitute SRO. Chief explains that the majority of the training was completed in the basic police academy, which is the reasoning for the certified Mantua Village police officer. Chief explains that the school is responsible for sending the SRO to any required trainings, also mentioned in the MOU. Chief explains the school will pick up the cost of any and all training. Tammy states that the MOU mentions that the SRO should take trainings in the summer. Chief explains that every officer in the State of Ohio is required to take 24 hours of continued training. Chief explains out of that training, multiple topics that are mentioned for the SRO are covered.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- ❖ **Odor complaint from resident** – Chief explains that he has not heard, or received anything in regards to the complaint.
  
- ❖ **Elm Street parking update** – Chief explains that the problem had seemed to go away, and no further action has been needed.
  
- ❖ **Patrol car status-** Chief explains that the department is still waiting. Chief explains that there is a wait on different pieces of equipment.
  
- ❖ **Comments or any other Old Business – None.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- ❖ **Potato Festival update-** Chief explains that he is still waiting on the insurance. Chief explains that the liquor permit was emailed. Mayor Clark explains that the insurance was emailed, and she would forward it to Chief. Tammy questions if the department has enough coverage. Chief explains that the department will make it work, and if needed the department will react out to other agencies to help with coverage. Chief explains that Ryan has offered employees from the Service Department to help with coverage with the parade. Chief explains that if the Service Department is utilized the Village will not pick up the cost, they will be added to the Potato Festival billing. Tammy questions if Chief reached out to the Mantua Shalersville Fire Department for help, and Chief explains that they will have their guys lined up with their equipment. Chief explains with the help of the Service Department along with the Police Department, the coverage should be good enough to make it work. Chief explains the festival will kick off Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Chief explains that High Street will not be closed this year. Chief explains the parking will be on the North Side of High Street, and the festival will be on the South Side.
  
- ❖ **Employee Status-** Chief explains that Eric Dunn's service ended with the Village on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief explains that he received a 2 week notice from John Fudella on August 29<sup>th</sup>, meaning his last day will be on Tuesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Chief explains at this point there has been no applications for the SRO. Chief explains that after some discussion, it seems that pay is a big factor into it. Chief explains that working in the schools takes a certain type of individual to be a good fit. Chief explains the department could use 3 dispatchers right now. Chief explains that Sergeant Gilbert will be taking on more of the work load. Chief explains the department is trying to work with the staff that is employed currently. Chief explains that the employees are tired, and the department is trying to raise the moral and turn things around. Chief explains that he is looking to have an employee get together outside of the Village to put the last year behind and move forward.

- ❖ **Building concerns-** Chief explains that the tile flooring in the police department is in poor condition. Chief provides pictures of the flooring for the committee to view. Steve questions if the flooring is “spongy”, and Chief explains that the Service Department fixed the areas where the flooring was spongy. Chief explains that the tiles were installed in 2006. Chief explains that moving forward something will need to be done with the flooring. Chief explains that the tiles are starting to break and chip more frequently. A slight discussion was held in reference to the crawl space. Ryan states that the Service Department will take a look at the area. Chief explains that the building needs maintenance, and appropriations were never discussed prior.
  
- ❖ **Comments or any other New Business –** Chief explains that Bica came out, and installed a new key pad lock on the door that enters the back hallway from the garage. Chief explains that the lock is the exact same key pad as what was installed on the front door to Village Hall. Chief explains that this will make it easier for the Service Department as well as the Police Department employees to enter the building when needed. Tammy explains that the Village website for the Police Department is outdated, and the information on the website is not accurate. Tammy mentions that it would be fabulous to see the website updated. Chief explains he will get updated information to Michele to update the website. Ryan explains that it is a good opportunity to have Michele meet with Elena and work on updating the website. Ryan explains that moving forward the Village Solicitor will not be handling the website, and it will be handled in house. Ryan explains that the idea is to update the website more often, and have residents utilize the information on the Village website more. Steve mentions in the ordinances for the Village it states there should be a fire department representative. Nina mentions that it also states there should be a representative from Hiram Village. Steve mentions that in his experience there has never been representatives at the meetings. Steve questions the tornado siren, and who’s responsibility it is to set the siren off. Chief explains that the tornado siren on Reservoir Drive is coming down, and will not be fixed. Chief explains that Chief Roosa with the fire department is going to make it a priority to remove the siren. Chief explains that before technology with prior Chiefs at the fire department if the police department felt the siren should be set off, the police department had the ability to do so. Chief explains that the discretion was taken away after an incident occurred when the siren was set off under the dispatcher’s discretion. Chief explains that since the incident there was a memorandum order stating the dispatchers are not to set the siren off unless the fire department advises them to do so. Chief explains the night of the most recent storm the dispatcher called down to the fire department questioning if the siren should be set off, the fire department advised not to set it off. Chief explains there was a meeting with the Fire Chief, and if Mantua is listed with a Warning, the dispatchers will have the discretion to set it off. Heather asks Chief if they can include in the siren requirements 70 mph or greater winds. Chief advises her to check with the Fire Chief. Chief explains that the Fire Chief may converse with the EMA on different requirements to set the tornado siren off.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS: None

ITEMS RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL: None

ITEMS REFERRED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE: None

ITEMS REFERRED TO PARKS COMMITTEE: None

ITEMS REFERRED TO SERVICE COMMITTEE: None

ITEMS TABLED: None

NEXT MEETING: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Steve Thorn, 2nd by Tammy Meyer, all ayes.

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Steve Thorn, Chairperson

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Joseph Urso, Chief of Police