

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

NOVEMBER 20, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairman Haraz N. Ghanbari. Committee members present were Deborah Born and Jim Matuszak.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Chris Hartford, 519 Mallard, said that he is a firefighter in a different jurisdiction, and he is hearing some things that he does not like about staffing of the new fire station. He said that he heard that when the new station opens in April there will be four firefighters on the engine at the new station and two on the medic at the old station, and all of them would respond to every call. This means that when a second call comes in they would be waiting for mutual aid. Mr. Ghanbari stated that the new station is scheduled to come online in January. He said that there has been discussion about adding three additional firefighters. Fire Chief Ruiz has proposed waiting and analyzing response times for a few months. Chief Ruiz explained that he does not want both stations to respond to every call. He said that if there is a structure fire or a multiple vehicle accident, then both stations would respond. Mr. Matuszak asked if everyone scheduled shows up for work how many firefighters would be present. Chief Ruiz said that there would be 8 full time and 2 part time with 6 at the new station and 4 at the old station. He explained that minimum staffing is 6 and if it went below that number, they would use overtime to fill the shift.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Ghanbari said that the Administration received a quote to upgrade the Police Division radios to use the same system that the Fire Division uses, and he would like to include funds for this radio system in the budget. The amount would be approximately \$300,000. Mr. Matuszak said that items that won't be purchased in the first few months of the year could be removed to allow the radio system to be added. Those items could then be put back in during the budget amendment process. Ms. Born suggested that the parking at Bicentennial and Woodlands Park, the Rapids Road parking, and Riverside Park improvements permanently be removed from the budget and those funds could be used for police and fire. The Committee discussed items that could be removed to free up funds so the radio system could be included in the budget. The Committee also discussed the ongoing Police Staffing Study. Mr. Ghanbari said that the study should tell us how many more dispatchers are needed, and should also indicate how many would be needed to provide emergency medical dispatching. Greg Bade, 26579 Cedarwood Lane, asked for clarification about what the Committee was discussing. Mr. Ghanbari explained that emergency medical dispatching provides instruction in case of a medical emergency. Mr. Matuszak said that he will email Ms. Kabat about other budget questions.

Mr. Ghanbari asked Chief Ruiz if he is asking for three additional firefighters to be added to the budget. Chief Ruiz said that he wants to do a true evaluation once the new station

comes on line. Mr. Ghanbari asked how long he wants to do the evaluation, and Chief Ruiz said three months.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ghanbari said that the Fire Division has wrapped up the written test for Lieutenant and all candidates passed the test. He said there will be an Assessment Center on December 15.

Mr. Ghanbari reported that the Mayor received the report from the Lucas County Sheriff's Office about the incident in Perrysburg Township.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Haraz N. Ghanbari, Chairman
Safety Committee

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 4:30 p.m., which is a change from the regular date and time.