

## **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**JULY 23, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Mark Weber. Committee members present were Deborah Born, Jim Matuszak and Mark Weber. Also present were Bridgette Kabat, City Administrator, and Laura Alkire, Law Director.

### AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF COMMUNICATION RADIO SYSTEM FOR POLICE DIVISION

Police Chief Pat Jones stated that the Mayor asked that he do his own research and make a recommendation regarding a radio system for the Police Division. He called attention to a letter he wrote to the Mayor and a letter from Wood County EMA Director Jeff Klein that had been distributed to the Committee. Chief Jones stated that he talked to a lot of people, including members of the committee that was formed to discuss the radio system, and other experts in radio systems. He met with Sheriff Wasylshyn and the Chief of BGSU. The Wood County Sheriff's office, BGSU and Bowling Green City are all on VHF. He said that there are a variety of opinions on what's best. He said that our Fire Division, as well as many local communities including Maumee and Perrysburg Township all utilize the 800 MHz system. Chief Jones stated that for the safety of our officers and the community, he is recommending that we go to the Lucas County system. He said the cars currently have UHF and VHF. He recommends keeping the VHF so our officers can still communicate with the Wood County Sheriff and replacing the UHF with the Lucas County system. Chief Jones stated that the quote from Motorola for \$231,348.70 includes mobile and portable radios.

Ms. Born asked about communicating with the Ohio Highway Patrol. Chief Jones said that MARCS is not giving access the way they used to, and the OSP will have access to pursuit channels. He said no system is perfect, but the 800 MHz system is used by our Fire Division and by our surrounding neighbors. Mr. Weber said that he reviewed all the information and it makes sense. Mr. Matuszak asked for clarification on the different groups referenced on the estimate. Chief Jones explained that the base stations will be utilized by the detectives and unmarked vehicles. The variations of radios are based on the available room on the console in the vehicles. Mr. Matuszak asked if we will have direct access to the schools with the new system. Chief Jones said we will not, but we don't have direct access with them now. Mr. Matuszak asked where the funds for the new radio system are in the budget. Ms. Kabat said that \$230,000 of the cost will come from the 403 fund and the balance will come from the police operating budget. Mr. Matuszak noted that the quote is good for 30 days, and he asked if there is any idea on the time frame. Chief Jones said it will take four weeks to get the radios and then they will have to be programmed before they are put in the vehicles. The Committee agreed 3-0 to recommend approval of the purchase as an emergency.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Matuszak asked where we stand on dispatching. Ms. Kabat stated that Chief Jones was working on the radios first. Mr. Matuszak asked if City Council will have any input on the decision. Ms. Kabat said that because the employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, City Council would have to approve layoffs.

Ms. Born stated that there have been explosives used at the intersection of Hickory and Seventh Streets every weekend since the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Weber, Chairman  
Safety Committee

***Next meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.***