

Safety Committee Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2020 7:00 a.m.

Present: Chairman Canton, Porter, Chief Rizzo, Lt. Fabian

Chief Rizzo advised that part-time officer John Pfaff, resigned, which was addressed at the December 2019 Council meeting. He said there was a candidate from the previous round of interviews which he planned to bring back for another interview. He reminded the committee that Ben Milroy from Chester Township had been hired, but ultimately resigned during the probationary period. As a result, the Chief advised there were two part-time positions he wanted to fill. The Chief reviewed other potential resignations and retirements in the Police Department in the coming year. The Chief stated that with the approval of the committee he wanted to put an ad in the paper in the coming weeks for a part-time police officer. He advised that he and Lt. Fabian would screen the applicants and then have the committee present to conduct a second interview. The final interview would be conducted with the Mayor. He further stated that there was a lot of background checking and other parts of the process that would occur before presenting a solid candidate for the committee.

Porter asked if a psychological screening was still conducted, and the Chief explained a thorough background check was conducted as well as psychological testing and a voice stress analyzer (VSA), which is similar to a polygraph. A physical is also required.

The committee agreed with the Chief proceeding with the process.

The Chief explained that this year, the Police Department would require two radio purchases, for which there was a purchase order prepared. It would occur in January. The final purchase for next year would be a few more radios for the part-time staff, and he added that the old portables that come out of service could be used as well. The Chief stated that it was anticipated the project would be \$100,000 and stated the price had come down and would potentially be \$65,000 - \$68,000. Porter advised there had been discussion in Council about available grants, and the Chief stated he spoke to Roger Peterson, Emergency Management Association of Ohio, and determined that the grant to which Council member Carroll referred was a Homeland Security type grant. Peterson said he would be willing to try on behalf of the Village but suspected the Village would have to wait a couple of grant cycles. The likelihood of South Russell getting radios specifically for the Village would be unlikely because the target was more of a regional use, like with the regional dispatch transition. The Chief further advised that he had acquired grant funds in the past, and that it required a tremendous amount of work for a smaller Police Department. He would continue his efforts, however.

The Chief advised the production of the new cruiser was a little delayed, but that he would have more information January 20. The removal of equipment was complete from the old cruiser that would be transferred to the new cruiser. He explained that some of the equipment must be new because of the body style change.

The Chief described the new hybrid cruiser to the committee and addressed the benefits of the technology. He added that with the current cruisers, the problems seem to arise after 100,000

miles and there had been issues with the water pumps in particular. The Chief advised that the Service Department had been helpful in repairing some of the problems, which had saved the Village a great deal of money. Porter asked if the Service Department staff had experience with the electric vehicles, and the Chief said it would be new for them, but there was a 100,000-mile warranty with a police car. As far as basic maintenance, he felt the Service Department would be able to learn the new systems and could handle it.

Regarding Mobile Data Terminals (MDT), the Chief reported that the box came in January 16th, so he would be getting the MDT's back in service while awaiting the docking stations. Porter asked if the new car was compatible with the MDT's, and the Chief said with the new design, a special mount was required. It would have a tablet configuration and mount higher up on the dashboard with a independent keyboard.

The Chief stated that in relation to the difficulties the department had with Microsoft software updates and resulting equipment incompatibility, the department was considering a new video system for the Police cars. Panasonic Arbitrator had been used, but the company had been absorbed by another company and dramatic changes were anticipated. The costs to maintain the current system would increase and include maintenance agreements to enable updates. The Chief stated, however, that the old system was still working and should until the units were phased out. For the new car, the Chief purchased a Watch Guard video system made by a company which had been purchased by Motorola. A new server was required and had been purchased. IT people would be required to set up the server, and he did not anticipate requiring more money.

The Chief stated that otherwise, he had two or three more computers to upgrade to Windows 10. Porter asked if the Police Department had acquired the patch for Windows 10 that had been on the news lately. The Chief said no, and Porter stated that NSA found a way into Windows 10 and Microsoft issued a free fix for it. He speculated this meant computers could be hacked without it, and Microsoft issued the patch January 16th. The Chief stated it should be an automatic update. The Chief said he would look into it.

Regarding the car show, the Chief advised that the 501C3 issue made it difficult to determine how it could be held, and that it appeared it could be costly to the department. Sgt. Pocek was attempting to see how to make it work with the 501C3. A resident who had offered to help suggested using his foundation's 501C3 to ask permission to the Village to utilize the property. The resident asked if a contract could be created to indemnify his company, and the Solicitor stated that the Village could not indemnify anyone, which left the Chief with the question of where the Village would stand with liability. He acknowledged that the previous year, the department "winged it," and although the Chief did not want to make any more mistakes, he wanted to have a great car show again. The details were hampering the process and he did not know where to look at this point. Canton stated that he viewed the car show to be quite successful. He thought another one would be even more successful, and he would like to see it continue. The Chief stated that it would not be necessary to pick a beneficiary, and possibly the car show income could instead raise funds for the Shop with a Cop program. Canton asked if the car show had to be on Village property, and the Chief did not think so. He was unaware of another venue other than the Village park, which was still Village property and involved an issue

of liability. He wondered if the Village's liability insurance covered the event, or would additional insurance need to be purchased. With the committee's permission, he could ask the Solicitor to explore it. The Chief emphasized that he would like to keep this community event going. Porter explained that the liability would be higher if the activity were not normally associated with a government municipality. These activities would not be covered by governmental immunity. He said that insurance for one-time events could be purchased and was not too expensive. Lt. Fabian asked how the liability issues applied to the department's fishing event, and the Chief explained that the department was invited onto private property to hold the event.

Canton stated he would suggest doing whatever it took to get the car show to be a tradition. The Chief stated that it took the place of the annual Open House. The Chief would continue to look for options. He proposed approaching Ganley Chevrolet about putting it on, to include being the money collectors. Canton clarified that if the car show took place, then there would be no Open House in the coming year. The Chief stated that August 2 was the preliminary date for the car show. He advised that the Open House was usually in September. Canton said the car show could be an open house. The Chief advised that a problem at the car show was that there were no outside restrooms, necessitating the use of the Police Department facilities.

As far as requesting use of the Village property, the Chief asked how the Farmers' Market worked. Porter stated there was a contract, and they indemnify the Village if there were a problem. They hold their own insurance. Porter further explained that when there had been concerts at the park, the organization must have an insurance policy. He stated it did not cost much. Chief Rizzo said he would reach out to Ganley Chevrolet.

Regarding new/old business, the generator in the Police Department was installed in 2003. He stated it had been malfunctioning. Service companies had come out, but there had been problems with it engaging and starting. The Chief advised that the generator was critical in a power outage, and consideration should be given to replacing it. He added, however, that the computers had battery backups to hold the computers until the generator came on, but this only would last for several minutes.

The Chief addressed the traffic light, and said in looking to the future, there have been continuous maintenance issue with the in-ground loop detectors. The Chief advised that he has learned to deal with the issues, and that perhaps in the next five years, the Village would want to consider replacing it with a newer system. He indicated that one involved a camera that detected the presence of cars and activated the light instead of an underground sensitivity detector. He added that there was also radar that signals the light. For safety, the radar will sense a vehicle approaching at a high rate of speed and hold the yellow light to allow the car through the intersection. The Chief stated it was good technology but also expensive. He did not know that the Village needed this but felt that the overall traffic light needed to be looked at because of worn components and the underground loop detectors which were in constant need of sensitivity adjustments.

Canton addressed the school zone lights, and the Chief agreed this was another constant maintenance issue.

Porter stated a camera at the intersection of Chillicothe Rd. and Bell Rd. would serve as a speed deterrent. The Chief explained that the overhead loop detectors only serve that purpose. An additional camera would be required for this purpose. He advised that a few years back, he proposed putting a DVR in the traffic box, and cameras could be mounted to the outside of the box. He was going to do this for the purposes of crashes or crime.

The committee discussed traffic circles in relation to the intersection of Chillicothe Rd. and Bell Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 a.m.

Gerald Canton

Prepared by Leslie Galicki