

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee met at the South Russell Police Department at 0800 hours. Present were committee members: Dennis Galicki, Cindy Nairn and Police Chief Michael Rizzo. Lt. Fabian was present for minutes. Chief Rizzo had previously forwarded Ordinances from Chagrin Falls Village and Chardon City regarding: “unnecessary noise” and “sound amplifying systems.”

Chief Rizzo opened the meeting with a discussion about a proposed “Amplified Sound Ordinance.” The Chief reported that in the past as well as recently, complaints have been received from residents regarding noise (music etc.) coming from the Burntwood Tavern as well as private parties. The committee members reviewed the sample ordinances (Chagrin Falls and Chardon) and discussed how the ordinances may be adjusted and or modified to suit the needs of South Russell Village. The group determined that this would be an ordinance worthy of exploring further and bringing the proposal to Council.

Secondly, Chief Rizzo recommended passing as an “emergency” the Leash Law (618.01) and Disturbing the Peace (648.05). Chief Rizzo reported that with the warmer months upon us the potential for receiving complaints will increase as the summer progresses. Nairn and Galicki agreed.

Chief Rizzo updated the Committee on the police departments scheduled summer events.

- June 9, Cops and Kids Fishing at Bellwood Lake (9am-2pm)
- August 4, Car Show on the Village Campus (10am-2pm)
- September 7, Open House, (10am-2pm)

Chief Rizzo explained the current status of the tornado siren and intermittent activations. Chief Rizzo said that the radio company will be at the site on June 7th for further testing. The Chief explained that currently it appears as though terrain interference may be causing inconsistent activations. The Chief reported that equipment may need to be purchased and installed at the Chagrin Falls Fire Station to alleviate this problem. The related costs would likely be incurred by South Russell.

Chief Rizzo updated the Committee on the part-time and overtime budget as we are closing in on 6 months of a new schedule model (12-hour shifts). Chief Rizzo reported that the use of the part time hours are down significantly as opposed to this time last year. Chief Rizzo explained that the new schedule model has alleviated gaps in coverage that were historically covered by part time officers.

Overtime is down as well. Chief Rizzo projects that by the end of 2019 the savings may be approximately \$20,000. Chief Rizzo is proposing reinvesting about 25% of that money back into the part-time officer’s hourly rate. Chief Rizzo cited the quality of the part-time officer pool, low turnover and competing with increased “off duty detail” pay rates that can be significantly more than the current part-time salary. Discussion was held and Galicki and Nairn agreed that a salary survey of area / similar departments be conducted to see what the median salary is compared to the South Russell’s part-time Patrolman’s salary. Galicki advised that once the survey was completed it should be directed to the Human Resource Committee.

The meeting end at 8:55 am.