



# Village of South Russell

Chief of Police  
Michael J. Rizzo

## Police Department

5205 Chillicothe Road, South Russell, Ohio 44022

Phone: 440-338-6700  
Dispatch: 440-247-7321

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**October 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD**

#### **Golf Carts, Micro Mobility Devices, Etc.**

Chief reviewed the proposed new chapter 478 regulating operation of Golf Carts. A final version will be submitted to Safety for review after the Solicitor reviews the updates.

#### **PD Garage Project**

Chief reported the garage project is moving along. We are waiting on contractor Kenco Electric to schedule new meter connection and panel upgrade. Solar connection to follow. The committee was advised that the architectural drawings needed to be updated as the electrical portion was inadvertently omitted. Chief will present project to Planning Commission at their next meeting.

#### **Mayor's requested topics:**

Mayor reported that he will seek approval to create the committee to research the multi-purpose trail initiative.

Mayor inquired about a traffic condition at Gurney School which may warrant traffic control at dismissal. Chief advised that the PD would monitor the conditions at Gurney and will also reach out to the bus garage to ascertain if a problem is occurring that had not been reported.

Mayor asked the committee if the Safety Budget was ready for the budget work session. Chief advised that the budget was submitted to Fiscal Officer Romanowski and we are prepared to present.

Mayor inquired about the ADP transition and if there were any current issues. Chief reported he was still waiting for the county to restore access to the village phone system which has been in process for several months. Chief is working with ADP to get the situation resolved, however, it is not classified as an ADP priority due to the upcoming election.

Mayor asked if the Drone vehicle was going to be relocated to another VEG municipality if the police department moves to Geauga County Dispatch. The chief clarified that the Drone Truck is owned by the Village of South Russell and furthermore, we will be remaining in VEG which has nothing to do with the proposed transition to Geauga County Dispatch. Chief stated that there were other agencies dispatched by Geauga County that are currently in VEG which include, Bainbridge, Chardon, and Russell Township.

Mayor gave an update regarding the ongoing program honoring First Responders. Mayor reported that this would likely be the final time the Royer's would be coordinating the festivities surrounding the event.

Mayor passed out a photo of a Streetsboro Police officer in a tactical external body armor vest and inquired if this would be what the South Russell Police Officers are transitioning to. Chief stated that the officers have already transitioned into the outer vest carriers, however, the appearance was that of a pressed uniform shirt. Lt. Pocek displayed the new carrier for the Mayor and the committee. Councilman Canton remarked that you cannot tell the difference between the uniform shirt and the new external vest.



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Mayor asked how the new policy with beards was going. Chief and Lieutenant indicated the program was going well and that officers were doing a good job maintaining a professional image.

Mayor asked about the manner in which the police department sends out vacation watch emails. Mayor stated he felt there were too many emails being sent which are designed to give residents an update each time a residence was checked. The Mayor was advised that the system is automated, and when an officer completes a check of a residence, the system automatically sends an email to the resident which states:

Dear Resident,

Per your request of the South Russell Police Department, we have performed a check of your residence and found no issues.

Date: XX/XX/XXXX 00:00 XX

### Chagrin Valley Dispatch Topic

Chief updated the committee on the option of moving police dispatch operations to Geauga County Dispatch. Chief spoke with the Sheriff, the Chief Deputy, and the Geauga Sheriff's I.T. Staff. The chief further advised that he spoke with CVD Director, Nick Dicicco, and CVD's Finance Director, Andrew Recker. The Chief obtained the following information:

The current cost for dispatch with CVD is \$59,393

The recently updated billing model beginning in 2025 will be \$88,145

If the PD transitions to Geauga County, the cost gets reduced to \$47,914.89 (Fire Only)

2025 Dispatch & Expenses	Chagrin Valley Dispatch	Geauga County Dispatch
Police Dispatch Services	\$40,269.45	\$0
Fire Dispatch Services	\$47,914.89	N/A
Police Records Management	N/A	\$0
Police MDT Software	\$4,810	\$0
MDT Aircards	\$2,100	\$2,100
IT Contract	\$15,000	\$2,200 (ADP)
Firewall	\$800	Included above (ADP)
<b>FIRE ONLY</b>		<b>\$47,914.89</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$110,894.34</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,894.34</b>	<b>\$52,214.89</b>

**A TOTAL SAVINGS OF: \$58,679.45**

If the Village is satisfied with Chagrin Valley Fire Department, The Village can continue to contract with CVD for fire dispatching only. (\$47,914.89)



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Ongoing issues with the new Motorola Software has improved over the past two years, however, the system continues to force officers to re-boot and re-connect. The system is unreliable, and officer safety should be considered when officers are distracted with re-connection attempts throughout a shift. The Chief reported that he worked a road shift on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, and was remotely logged off the system multiple times during the course of the shift.

The current system used by Geauga County has been improved and updated throughout the years and is more reliable than the current system we have in place today.

In summary, Chief asked Safety Committee to recommend making a motion to allow the police department to transition to Geauga County Dispatch.

**Old Business – None**

**New Business - None**

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:43 a.m.