



# Village of South Russell

Chief of Police  
Michael J. Rizzo

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## Police Department

5205 Chillicothe Road, South Russell, Ohio 44022

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

### **SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**January 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD**

**1. Staffing**

- Safety to request council to allow Chief to advertise for part-time patrol officer positions.

**2. Crosswalk Project:**

- Discussion regarding original crosswalk proposal. The Committee will propose to move forward with the crosswalk project if the funding is available.

**3. New Business:**

**4. Old Business:**

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:28 a.m.



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### **SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD**

#### **1. Safety Committee Schedule**

- Confirmed Safety Committee will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Police Department.

#### **2. Grant Projects**

- Discussion regarding the necessity for engaging a grant writer for any police department projects. After discussion, it was determined that the police department does not anticipate any significant projects in the near future.

#### **3. Staffing**

- Chief provided an update on current staffing levels.
- The Safety & HR Committees will be engaged for interviews as soon as potential candidates are identified.

#### **4. Crosswalk**

- Chief was instructed to obtain updated costs on the crosswalks including engineering costs. Updated costs estimates are as follows:
  - \$16,000 - Solar powered LED signs & Installation
  - \$10,000 - 2 @ ADA concrete approaches with truncated domes
  - \$5,000 - Basic striping / Roadway markings
  - \$1,000 – Engineering
  - **\$32,000 TOTAL EACH CROSSWALK**

#### **5. New Business: N/A**

#### **6. Old Business: N/A**

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:15 a.m.





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### **SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**April 11, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. @ SRPD**

- **Staffing**
  - Safety Committee was advised that Chief & Lieutenant conducted one interview with an applicant. It was decided not to move forward with the candidate.
- **Vehicle Fleet**
  - Safety was asked to consider keeping 2018 Ford Explorer for Administrative use. The committee will make the recommendation at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting.
- **New Video Server**
  - The committee was apprised of the upcoming end of life with the current video server. Chief is working with the vendor to obtain quotes for upgrading equipment or migrating to the cloud.
- **Crosswalk Discussion**
  - Mayor wanted an update on the crosswalk project. The committee was given the updated cost estimates from Engineer Haibach which totaled \$32,000 per location. Discussion was held regarding moving forward with at least one of the two locations if cost was an issue. It was recommended that the Village Park location would be utilized more than the Gurney location. Safety will recommend moving forward with the project to include both locations, however, if Council decides to select one location for the purposes of keeping the project under the original estimate of \$50,000, Safety would recommend the Village Park location.
- **Geauga County 911**
  - Mayor asked for clarification on the Geauga County 911 Resolution. The Mayor was advised this was a routine task required by Ohio Revised Code for all 911 answering points.
- **New Business: N/A**
- **Old Business: N/A**

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:42 a.m.



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### SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. @ SRPD

- **Staffing**
  - No current candidates for part-time positions.
  
- **Guardrail Proposal**
  - Chief asked Safety Committee to consider installation of a guardrail at 1649 Bell Road due to an increase in serious crashes into a utility pole at the location.
    - Pole replaced after crash on 8/12/2014
    - Pole replaced after crash on 5/27/2016
    - Pole replaced after crash on 1/13/2023
    - Pole replaced after crash on 1/3/2024
    - Pole replaced after crash on 4/18/2020
  - Two Estimates range from \$10,006 - \$11,188
  - Street Commissioner advised that Streets Committee agreed with the proposal and was going to check to see if the funds were in the budget to complete the project.
  
- **2025 Tax Budget Items**
  - Chief reports the following major purchases planned for 2025:
    - \$72k - New Cruiser
    - \$15k - Video Server & Storage (Continuing to research options)
    - \$15k - Redactive Software (5 years)
    - \$5k – 8k - Intersection Traffic Camera feed into PD (One time)
  
- **Mayor's Topics:**
  - Resident Sidewalk Letter
  - Crosswalk Update
  - Chagrin Fall Regional Utilities
  - Administration Building Letter of Support
  - First Responder Event May 22 @ Triangle Park
  - First Responder Luncheon for SRPD Officers @ Augies
  
- **New Business:** Councilman Canton initiated discussion regarding alcohol being permitted at the Village Park. He further indicated that the current park rules prohibit alcohol unless approved by council. After discussion, the opinion of the Safety Committee was to prohibit alcohol consumption at the Village Park. The recommendation will be made at the next Council Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at: 12:50 p.m.



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### SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD

- **Crosswalk Project**
  - Quotes being submitted. Should have quotes for the July 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.
  - Location @ 1000 Bell Road.
- **Guardrail Project**
  - Project completed.
- **PD Garage Project (Drone Truck)**
  - Working with Dave Hocerar
  - Obtaining quotes for architectural drawings and construction costs.
  - Chief will give an overview at the next Council Meeting.
- **School Zone Project Upgrade**
  - Contractor is waiting on parts
  - Service Department cleaned and prepped control cabinets for upgrade.
  - Project should be completed by mid-August.
- **PD Solar Project**
  - No updates at this time
  - Waiting for a meeting with the contactor.
- **ADP Transition**
  - Chief is addressing multiple tech issues related to the transition.
    - Village phone system access was severed after transition.
    - Phone system vendor confirmed and partially restored access.
    - Chief can no longer remote into database and is locked out.
  - Police department is currently working with the State of Ohio DPS converting to new system. As a result, PD has not yet transitioned to Village Cloud as of today.
- **Gurney School Traffic Issues**
  - The committee was advised of ongoing issues at Gurney Elementary School regarding traffic in general and speeding during restricted hours. Chief plans to install speed readouts on each school zone flasher mast to display driver's speeds.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:47 a.m.



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### SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD (9:15 delayed start)

- **Update – Stolen Vehicles**
  - The committee was updated on the status of the stolen vehicle reports within the village. A reminder to secure vehicles was sent in the form of an Eblast and social media along with an upcoming article in the Chagrin Valley Times.
  
- **Community Programs**
  - The committee was advised of the upcoming Touch -a-Truck event on 7/14/2024.
  
- **PD Garage Project**
  - The committee was advised of the approximate costs of the architect. Chief will seek approval to accept a quote at the next Council Meeting to proceed with Architectural Drawings. A recommendation was made to upgrade the Police Building's electric service from 100 amps to 200 amps.
  
- **School Zone Project Upgrade**
  - New equipment arrived. Install waiting on scheduling.
  
- **Update on Intersection Traffic Cameras**
  - Waiting on Service Department to schedule to run lines to the traffic light.
  - Running communications lines with generator feed to intersection.

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:49 a.m.



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### SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. @ SRPD

- **Golf Carts, Micro Mobility Devices, Etc.**
  - Chief reports an increase in complaints regarding juveniles operating motorized vehicles and concerns with Golf Carts, which has prompted discussions on restrictions and updates to the ORC.
  - Solicitor will prepare a proposed new chapter of the Villages Ordinances and a proposed update to Chapter 476 to address the aforementioned issues.
  - Safety will review the proposed changes and present them to Council in the near future.
  
- **PD Garage Project**
  - Boring of underground Electric Service conduit was completed. Waiting on quotes for the electrical connection and upgrades to current panel.
  - Architectural drawings received and being reviewed.
  - Next phase of the project will be to engage:
    - ABR
    - Planning
  
- **School Zone Project Upgrade**
  - Equipment has been installed and programming completed by Chief.
  
- **Update on Intersection Traffic Cameras**
  - Service Department will be installing underground cable next week.
  
- **Old Business**
  - Discussion regarding the moratorium related to recreational marijuana. Safety will recommend action to make it permanent.
  
- **New Business**
  - Chief requested committee to consider a part-time police clerk. The police department has managed without a clerk for approximately 15 years as the tasks were delegated to the members of the department. Adding this position would be a considerable benefit to the department as it would allow officers to spend less time in the office on clerical work and more time on the road. A job description was forwarded to the H.R. Committee for consideration.
  - Below is a list of surrounding jurisdictions and their staffing levels which includes their police department clerks:





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### Hunting Valley PD

11 Full-time Officers

4 Part-time Officers

1 Full-time Secretary/Clerk

### Chagrin Falls PD

15 Full-time Officers

1 Full-time SSO

2 Full Time Clerks

### Moreland Hills PD

16 Full-time Officers

2 Part-time Officers

1 Full-time Clerk

2 Part-time Clerks

### Gates Mills PD

12 Full-time Officers

4 Part-time Officers

1 Part-time Clerk (MWF)

### South Russell PD

10 Full-time Officers

1 Full-time SSO

4 Part-time Officers

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:01 a.m.

**Joint Finance and Safety Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 12, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Village Hall**

**Present:** Finance Chairman Berger, Safety Chairman Canton, Council Member Galicki,  
Police Chief Rizzo, Mayor Koons, Fiscal Officer

The Mayor explained that the Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) Executive Committee met on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and the recommendation was for 32 different units to take half of the administrative costs. \$22,184.72 is the total cost divided in half for each community. The total cost for administration is \$709,911.02 and this was divided by 32 entities. He explained how the communities are grouped into channels for police and fire. The change that is occurring is due to inequalities that occurred when new groups joined CVD. For Gates Mills, Woodmere, Moreland Hills, Hunting Valley, and Bentleyville, costs are going down, but when it comes to South Russell, the costs are going up 48% or \$28,752, which is the big change. It is just equalizing what was done. He asked the Chief to explain the Village's history with CVD. The Chief said over the years, there have been minor fluctuations. In 2024, it is \$59,000. He expressed confusion about how the Village ended up with a 48% increase. In examining the activity on the channel #6, with the exception of Chagrin Falls Township and Bentleyville, South Russell has the third least amount of calls on that channel. The Chief asked CVD for clarification about why the Village was seeing an increase when everyone else on the channel who had more call volume than the Village decreased. He did not get an answer and did not understand if it is because of the new formula that was created and perhaps the Village was paying much less than it should have. The decrease he noted in the other communities on the channel totaled about \$98,100. The total number of increases equals about \$103,000. He wondered if there was a model that evenly applied a smaller increase, which would be a much easier pill to swallow. He did not understand how they landed on South Russell for one of the biggest increases. The Fiscal Officer asked if call volume was taken into account. The Mayor stated that call volume was part of the formula. The Chief observed that on the first version of the formula, the admin costs were \$44,369.44 per agency. They cut that in half and made it 50%. They took the balance and formulated it into the percentage of call volume that each agency had. In looking at the Village's call volume, the only municipalities lower are Bentleyville and Chagrin Falls Township. He did not understand the logic. He asked CVD to double check the numbers and formula, and he verified that this was the model that was being proposed. It is his understanding that this proposal will be taken to all the mayors next month for a final decision. The Mayor said that would occur next Wednesday. The Chief asked the Mayor if he thought it would pass with all 32 of the communities. The Mayor said he thought it would pass because it was the best effort to make it fair. There are some glitches, to include South Russell. They will have to go back and look at some individual situations, but the best thing will be for the communities to get it approved so budgets can be made. 2025 will be spent correcting some issues that may come up. He added that this has always been the best possible use of the Village's money. They have

looked long and hard at different cities and found that it is not exclusively call volume. It will pass and then there will be adjustments made. Perhaps the Village had been underpaying.

The Chief explained that in 2013 – 2015, it is what it was. As CVD continued to grow and other communities were included, deals were worked just to get them to come over and now they are paying the price for the acquisitions. Another thing that plays into the mix is that CVD purchased a new software program that they were convinced was the solution to everyone's problems, but some of the agencies declined to go with the program due to its complexities, to include South Russell and Euclid. The program cost CVD quite a few million dollars and that has a substantial impact. He asked if taking a three-year approach to this could be considered instead of going from \$59,000 to \$88,000? The Mayor said it had not been proposed and that there was a time crunch since budget numbers are needed and this was the best they could come up with. A lot of people are happy with it. He concluded that this would be a pretty good solution to get us into 2025 and then take another look at it. The process has been going on for months.

Canton asked if it was a majority vote. The Mayor concurred and said each community has one vote. Canton thought it would make more sense to base the charges on the call volume. There was discussion about the history and how the situation came to be. The Fiscal Officer recalled that the Village was assured in the beginning with CVD that over time as more agencies joined, the costs would come down or at least not increase. The Chief agreed and added that the argument is that over time, the Village had saved a lot of money.

Berger asked if there were any complaints about the quality of service, and the Chief said no. Berger concluded that this was strictly a financial consideration. He understood that there may have been inequities, but Council is responsible to the people of South Russell. A 48% increase is untenable. They can discuss what can be done to change the proposal that has been presented, or they can talk about other options. Canton asked if CVD had a monopoly. Berger explained that the Village can go back to Geauga County Dispatch, which costs the Village nothing. There are other complications, but that would be a way to save \$88,000. The Chief explained that Chagrin Valley Fire Department (CVFD) is still dispatched by CVD. Even if the police pulled out of CVD, the Village would be paying about \$69,000 for fire only with this model, which would still be an increase to what is currently being paid. The only way to get out completely would be to have the Village's fire contract with Bainbridge or Russell Township. Canton asked which of the two fire departments has the best staff, equipment, etc. The Chief said that Bainbridge would be his first thought since they are well staffed. But the Village would also have to consider response time. Canton asked when the CVFD contract ended, and the Chief explained it was at the end of 2025. The Fiscal Officer added that the projected budget for 2025 for CVFD is \$531,000.

The Mayor suggested that they should vote for the CVD proposal to get started for 2025, which would give the Village a year to consider alternatives. Berger clarified that the Mayor was

suggesting that the Village vote for it today and ‘trust me’, we will make this right at some point in the future. He did not know how you do business that way. Galicki added that it is disturbing that the Chief could not get an explanation as to what was behind the increase for the Village. The Chief pointed out that with the second version of the plan, it appears that the Village is in line with the other call counts, but somehow, the Village is one of the most negatively impacted communities. Canton observed that there was no distinction between the communities based on affluence. The Chief explained that if the model was strictly based on call volume, a large municipality like Euclid would be charged \$3 million and would leave the group. The Chief discussed some of the other elements of the formula and concluded that it is terribly complex.

The Fiscal Officer asked about the software to which the Chief referred and verified it had been approved by the Council of Government (COG) but was not being used by some of the communities.

The potential for additional future increases was discussed, to include considering the impact of larger communities leaving the group. Berger proposed approaching CVFD and expressing the Village’s dissatisfaction with the CVD increase and the potential for the Village to seek other services with both CVFD and CVD. Galicki noted that the Village is one of the only municipalities with the flexibility to leave because Geauga County Dispatch is an option. Many of the others are connected to Cuyahoga County and would have to go back to having their own dispatch.

The Fiscal Officer clarified with the Chief and Mayor that the CVD is an annual contract.

Galicki asked the Chief to provide a history of the Village with CVD and the original benefits. The Chief explained that Geauga County did not have technical advances when CVD was created. They have since updated their system and are more equal to CVD. To change over would involve a software change, but not equipment change so there would be no expenses. The radio system is already the same.

Galicki asked if any of the other municipalities involved in the change are balking, and the Chief said Chagrin Falls Township is suffering the most. The Chief asked the Mayor if he knew of other communities that were unhappy, and the Mayor said that the vote with the Executive Committee was 4 to 3. The Chief asked who this consisted of, and the Mayor explained it was Solon, Euclid, South Russell, and Independence that voted for it. Canton verified the Mayor was on the committee, and Galicki observed that the Mayor was the determining vote. The Mayor agreed, and Galicki observed that he could have voted the other way. Canton asked the Mayor what his thought process was in voting as he did, and the Mayor said it was because it is September, and this is the best effort that their people have been able to develop, and they should go with it knowing that there is a year to look back. He knew Highland Hills was screwed up and maybe South Russell was too, and they can go back and correct it. Canton asked what the next step would have been had the vote been different. The Mayor thought there would have just been a percentage increase for everybody, like a 7% increase and then they would worry about it

in 2025. Berger said that 7% sounded really good compared to 48%. The Mayor said he was just pulling that out of the cloud. Berger continued that even if it were 10%, it still sounded better than 48%. Given what was presented, Galicki asked the Mayor what his determining factor was to vote as he did. The Mayor said it was to get it to move on and have a decision made now because it was better for most communities.

Galicki was concerned about the lack of explanation of how CVD arrived at the figure it did for South Russell. He thought it seemed evasive. There was further discussion about the elements of the formula and admin costs. Berger did not like the flat admin fee but noted that this was what they were proposing, and he did not think there would be a flexible proposal. The Mayor said they were very willing to find something to help 32 different units and this was the best at this time. The Chief observed that in looking at the spreadsheet, the costs of 17 municipalities will be dropping. 14 will be increasing, and of those 14, some are small increases. If those communities decide to take it, it brings the vote closer to half. Berger asked if there were concerns that Euclid would leave CVD because of the proposed increase, and the Mayor said no that it was still a good deal for them. The biggest complaint was from John Finley of Chagrin Falls Township because they are facing a 966% increase. Berger expressed sympathy for them, but stressed his focus was with the Village of South Russell. The Mayor thought the original six was out of whack in terms of Chagrin Falls Township and South Russell and needed to be looked at. Berger questioned whether the Village would have gone with CVD in the first place had they known the numbers were not correct in 2013, and the Chief explained that the numbers were right. Berger pointed out that the Mayor was saying that the pricing was out of whack from the beginning and that the Village had been underpaying. The Mayor said that 11 years ago, it looked like a good deal.

Galicki acknowledged the Mayor's concern for the greater good for other communities. If the Village were put in a position to increase taxes to support this, the argument would be that South Russell would be seeing an increase, but it would benefit all these other communities and make it fairer. Would this be something the voters would buy into? He thought Chagrin Falls Township was doing the right thing by being vocal. The Chief pointed out that Chagrin Falls had no other options, and this could break them.

Canton brought up the implications of property revaluation and tax increases. Galicki noted the compensation package for dispatchers was \$95,000, which was more than some police and fire.

Berger asked if this was a matter of a vote to recommend to Council to accept the proposal. The Fiscal Officer advised that there would be no Council meeting prior the CVD members voting on the proposal unless Council held a special meeting. Canton concluded that the Village would be stuck with it for a year and had that time to make other decisions. Berger questioned whether the Village was stuck with it for a year. The Village can go back to CVD and say the Village does not accept this and they should come up with a better answer. Berger further stated that Council should have had the vote to ask the Mayor to vote according to Council's wish before the last

Executive meeting. He thought Council would have gone the other way. As representatives of this Village, Council has a responsibility to the people here. His vote is no, he did not accept the proposal.

The Fiscal Officer explained that when she and the Chief went to the CVD meeting a couple of weeks ago when a different formula version was presented, prior to the Executive Committee vote, there were enough vocal people that it was not accepted, and a new version was developed. It is now up to the mayors to decide whether to accept it, and if it is not accepted, then another plan will need to be developed. If it passes, the Village would be stuck with it.

The Chief suggested that a plan that allowed the communities to ease into the increase might be beneficial.

The Mayor thought the Village was stuck with it for six months. The Fiscal Officer asked for clarification, and the Mayor explained that if the Village were to leave CVD, it would have to provide a six-month notice. The Fiscal Officer said that it is not about leaving CVD. She explained that currently, the Executive Committee passed the version that will be presented to the group. If the overall group passes it, then the Village is stuck for a year and Council can then choose what will be done. The alternative is that the group will not pass it and then the Finance Committee of COG must come back with another option. The Mayor thought they would come back with a percentage to get through 2025. Berger reiterated that this would provide a year to have discussions with Bainbridge about fire services. If the Mayor said it would be a 7-10% increase, he would live with that. Then again, Bainbridge could say they would charge \$1 million per year for services. Berger concluded that the Village should push back against the 48% increase. Canton suggested negotiating with CVFD to subtract a portion of the increase from the current contract price. The Fiscal Officer explained that those are two different entities. Right now, the options are to accept the proposal or not accept it. There is the option of holding a Special Council meeting to discuss the recommendation of the Safety and Finance Committees.

Canton felt that it is important for the voters to know that this increase is being shoved down the Village's throat and not surprise them with the increase. Galicki agreed with Berger, but wished he knew for sure what the alternative would be to the proposal if it did not pass. He did not think the Village received an adequate explanation. With Council's responsibility to the taxpayers, he took issue with telling them that the Village voted for the increase because it was fairer to other people. The Chief proposed having the CVD director attend a special meeting so Council can ask for clarification.

Galicki stated that most of the increased costs proposed for the Village and for Chagrin Falls Township are the administrative costs. This may be the factor that is off because it cannot be justified with call volume or other formulaic ways. However, this has not been articulated to the Village.

Berger suggested a Special Council meeting to discuss the matter with the CVD Director. He added that the Village's dispatch and Fire/EMS services options can also be conveyed to CVD. The Mayor proposed having the six Chagrin Valley entities come for a presentation. The Chief pointed out that these other municipalities are not affected. Berger stated it is an open meeting and all are welcome, but it is a South Russell issue since it is the residents who are paying. Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. was proposed for a meeting.

Berger further offered that a phase in of a certain percentage increase per year over four years would be entertained. The Fiscal Officer reviewed how CVFD did this.

The Chief presented a five-year Axon agreement for body and in-car cameras combined with cloud service for \$26,000 per year. After the fifth year when a new contract is signed, the body camera amount doubles to \$196,000 for the next five years because the quote he received is an acquisition quote since they are new in the game. Berger noted this was a 50% increase. The Chief continued that the second option would be to go through CVD as the distributor. There would be one-time costs of about \$69,880 and then a subscription fee of \$8,295 per year. This equates to \$395 per device. Over a five-year period, the recurring costs is \$43,000. The final quote is from Motorola Direct. It is a five-year plan. The body cameras are \$14,900 per year and \$2,440 per year. The five-year total would be about \$141,000. The best deal would be with CVD, with the second option being Motorola. Berger asked about the life expectancy of the equipment and the Chief responded five to seven years. With the CVD model, Berger verified that new equipment would need to be purchased after five to seven years, and the Chief concurred. This would be another \$75,000. Berger observed that CVD would be \$21,000 per year. Axon would be \$26,000 per year, and Berger asked who would own the equipment. The Chief said that the Village would and explained that with both Motorola and Axon, the Village would get an automatic refresh of equipment after five years. The only difference with CVD is that the Village would have to pay for the equipment up front where the other vendors are financing it over the life of the contract. Given the current issues with CVD, Berger asked how this contract ties in, and the Chief explained that if the Village left CVD, it would redirect its uploads to Motorola instead of CVD. The Village would not have a contract with CVD and would be free to go anywhere for cloud storage. The annual subscription cost would then be with Motorola. It would cost \$20,000 for licenses. Motorola's cloud fees are substantially more than CVD. Berger asked when a decision needed to be made. The Chief thought it would be early next year, and Berger concluded that by that time the CVD issue would have been decided. The Chief proposed that the Village go with CVD and said it would be an easy switch if the Village left CVD. Berger noted that it would be necessary to put a line item in the budget for the equipment. Berger asked if there was an option to purchase the equipment upfront with Motorola and then just have the subscription fee. The Chief did not know, but reminded the committee that after five years the equipment was refreshed. If the equipment was still in good shape at the end of five years, the Village could continue with just the server license with Motorola. The Chief offered that all the agreements offer a five-year warranty on the equipment.

The current equipment, which the department has had for six years, is having issues. Berger concluded that a decision could be deferred but should be brought up in the budgeting process. Berger proposed putting \$70,000 in the budget for equipment and \$10,000 for subscriptions on an annual basis for five years. It will have to be revised if they go with a different plan.

Berger adjourned the joint meeting at 10:31 a.m.





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### **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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Michael J. Rizzo

## Police Department

5205 Chillicothe Road, South Russell, Ohio 44022

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

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)



# Village of South Russell

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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.



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### **SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**November 6, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. @ SRPD**

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

Chief updated the committee regarding concerns for allowing golf carts to cross intersections of higher speeds. Chief was instructed to follow up with Solicitor.

#### **Gurney Traffic Update**

At the October 17<sup>th</sup> Safety Committee Meeting, the Mayor felt there was a traffic condition at Gurney School which appeared to indicate difficulty for school busses exiting onto Bell Road at dismissal. The Chief did a follow up with Bus Garage and Gurney Staff who reported having no specific complaints or issues exiting the campus. Officers will continue to monitor the conditions.

#### **Chagrin Boosters Turkey Trot**

A representative will be attending next Council Meeting requesting permission to hold the Annual Turkey Trot 5k in South Russell on Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

#### **Transition to Geauga County**

Chief reported that the police department has transitioned to the Geauga County Records Management System (RMS) and it is currently working as expected.

Chief acknowledged Council's desire to ask the executive committee for an exception in the current contract, but it is unknown at this time when that meeting could take place. Furthermore, the Chief reported that in his discussions with Director Dicicco, it was stated that if the committee makes an exception for one municipality, they will need to do it for all municipalities. There are 18 municipalities that will be seeing an increase in 2025, totaling approximately \$1.6 million dollars.

The Chief further stated that we should, in fact, make the attempt to ask for an exception, however, the proposal to transition to Geauga County should move forward regardless of the decision of the executive committee. The maximum cost billable to SRV for 2025 is just over \$40k unless the executive committee agrees to make an exception. In an effort to ease the burden of the \$40k impact to the Village, the Chief is offering to remove video system upgrade from 2025 budget which would free up approximately \$46k

Councilman Canton inquired if the agencies that are currently served by Geauga County Dispatch are satisfied with the level of service being provided. The Chief stated that four of the seven agencies that are served by Geauga closed their own dispatch centers several years ago and are still currently being served by Geauga, Chardon was the most recent closure which occurred in 2023.



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The Chief requested the Safety Committee to consider a motion at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting to initiate the transition to Geauga County Dispatch effective December 1, 2024, to allow sufficient time for transition and operational changes. The Safety Committee agreed that it would be in the best interest of the Village to move forward with the proposal.

**Old Business - None**

**New Business - None**

Meeting Adjourned at: 3:37 p.m.