



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 MINUTES May 15, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. @ SRPD

2026 Budget

NOTE: Some updated figures were received after the Safety Meeting and are listed below.

BWC Video Project

The Chief referenced several budgetary items for consideration in 2026. The largest impact in the PD budget will be the Body Worn Camera / In-Car Video Project. Two quotes have been obtained that range from \$118k to 142k for a five-year service.

Motorola:

\$45,268 Year #1 (2026)

\$24,100 per year after (2027-2030)

Axon:

\$23,600 annually (2026-2030)

Chagrin Valley Dispatch

The Chief received an estimate from CVD Finance Director Andrew Recker who advised that we should budget for a minimum 5% increase which would equate to approximately \$50,310 which will be a decrease from around \$90,000 after switching PD dispatching to Geauga County.

Vehicle Maintenance

The Street Commissioner advised that he intends to have routine maintenance done by our local dealership instead of a street department employee as they will come on site to complete the service maintenance and it would be less expensive than the hourly rate of the employee. The request would be an additional estimated \$4k-\$5k.

Council Chambers (Village Hall Expense)

A proposal to upgrade the Council Chambers microphone system was obtained but the project was put on hold until Council could have some further discussions. We are waiting for an updated quote but the project should be around \$10k.

Proposed PD Addition

The Mayor requested the Chief obtain an estimate for a proposed addition to the police building for 2026 which would contain two (2) ADA restrooms with a shower and some additional storage areas. Still waiting on estimates.

Chagrin Valley Fire

Councilman Galicki has been in communications with Chief Zupan to determine the amount of the contract renewal for fire and EMS services to the Village. It was later determined that an informational meeting on the topic would not be held until June 24th, which would not allow us to complete the tax budget in time. The Police Chief contacted Chief Zupan and received an approximate amount for 2026.

The current year's expenditure for Chagrin Valley Fire is approximately \$531,000. The chief was advised to figure a 15% increase which equates to \$79,650 for a total of approximately \$610,000.



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Village Park

The Chief advised the committee that signs were recently posted again reminding residents that dogs must always be on a leash while visiting the park.

The Chief and Street Commissioner determined that a security camera should be installed at the Village Park to monitor the new restroom. The Chief recommended that we install a system which will allow cameras to be directed at the restrooms, parking lot, pavilion, and playground areas. The proposal was approved by the committee. The system will cost approximately \$500 and the funds were determined to be in the budget.

Safety Improvements (State Route 306)

The Chief indicated he would like Council to consider a reduction of the speed limit within the Village due to increased vehicular and pedestrian traffic over the past several years. The Safety Committee agreed that a reduction from 45 MPH to 35 MPH was reasonable. Other jurisdictions along S.R. 306 have similar reductions such as Bainbridge and Chester Township, where vehicular and pedestrian traffic increases as you approach the center of those townships. Engineer Haibach was engaged to determine the process for making such a request and advised that a traffic survey would need to be conducted to initiate the project. It was later determined that the traffic survey should cost approximately \$12k. Safety Committee will engage Council for further discussion.

Old Business

The Chief gave an update on the crosswalk project. As of 5/15, the concrete work was completed and the Service Department assisted in the final grading of the areas around the newly poured concrete. Pavement markings are scheduled for next week. (See photos on last page)

The Drone Vehicle Garage has been progressing with the following items remaining:

1. Gas main connection
2. Water line connections
3. Concrete apron
4. Final grading and Landscaping (To be completed by the Street Department)

New Business

Ohio Collaborative

The Chief reported that Lt. Pock and Christy Troyer have been working closely with the Ohio Collaborative to re-certify the South Russell Police Department. The department is now in compliance with Ohio Collaborative's accreditation process and certification is completed. Thanks to Todd and Christy for all their hard work.

Police Department Sign

The chief reported the sign in front of the police building was rapidly deteriorating. A quote was obtained for \$1050 to replace the existing sign and the funding was in the budget to do so. The committee approved the purchase and the sign was replaced. (See photos on last page)



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New Equipment Purchase

Over the past few years, there have been a number of requests by the building department to obtain evidentiary aerial photos in zoning violations throughout the Village. In the past, we've used the VEG owned equipment to assist in obtaining these photos along with other situations where we needed aerial views during the course of regular duty situations.

The Chief proposed that the police department purchase a drone specifically to be used for Village business. The approximate cost would have been about \$2,500 and would be taken from the New Equipment line item in the current budget.

After consulting with the UAS Commander, Sgt. Nick Divita about the proposed purchase, he donated a new drone valued at approximately \$10k with the assistance of an unnamed family member. Drones were also donated to eight other VEG agencies.

The Chief contacted the solicitor for guidance in accepting the donated equipment. Based on the Solicitor's recommendation, safety is authorized to accept the donation by motion at Monday's Meeting. See ORC provided by the Solicitor below.

715.01 General powers of municipal corporations.

Each municipal corporation is a body politic and corporate, which shall have perpetual succession, may use a common seal, sue and be sued, and acquire property by purchase, gift, devise, appropriation, lease, or lease with the privilege of purchase, for any authorized municipal purpose, and may hold, manage, and control such property and make any rules and regulations, by ordinance or resolution, required to fully carry out the provisions of any conveyance, deed, or will, in relation to any gift or bequest, or the provisions of any lease by which property may be acquired.

Safety Committee Action Items

1. Motion to accept donation of Drone and accessories.

Upcoming Community Events

Cops & Kids Fishing 2025 - June 22nd 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Lake Louise

Kids Day & Open House - July 27th 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at South Russell PD



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Crosswalk Photos



PD Sign Photos

