



# 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

January 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. @ SRVH

Members present: Council Members Canton, Cavanagh, Alexander, and Chief Michael Rizzo.

#### PD Internet Upgrade

Chief reported to the committee that the internet connection required an upgrade as the current speeds would not support the new cloud-based video systems. The committee agreed to the proposal and will be addressed at the next Council Meeting. The topic was also discussed and agreed to the proposal at the Administration and Technology Committee.

#### Staffing

Chief gave an update on staffing and made a recommendation to promote Sergeant Nick DiVita to the vacant Lieutenant's position. Chief also addressed the topic at the Human Resources Committee. A copy of Sergeant DiVita's credentials was sent to both committees for review. Committee Member Alexander noted that Sergeant DiVita's credentials were impressive. It was further stated that Sergeant DiVita has been fulfilling the responsibilities since last June and has done a superior job. Safety / H.R. will move to appoint at the next Council Meeting.

Chief reported that the PD is continuing the process to fill the vacant patrol positions and will request a special meeting in the coming weeks for the purpose of conducting interviews.

#### 2026 Projects:

Chief gave an overview of projects for 2026 and future projects. The most significant project for 2026, the upgrade of the department's In-car and Body Worn Camera project was described to the committee. Other topics discussed were IT Vendor options, Village Phone System Upgrade, S.R. 306 Traffic Study, and the future expansion of the Police Building.

#### Old Business:

**New Cruiser** - After discussion, the committee will be presenting legislation to purchase the new cruiser at the next Council Meeting.

**Phase II of video system project (In-car systems)** – The committee will be presenting legislation to purchase the In-car video camera systems at the next Council Meeting.



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### **New Business:**

1. Discussion on reduction of speed limit on Bell from Chagrin to S.R. 306 (Councilman Bell)  
The Chief will engage the appropriate entity to gather information needed to proceed with the possibility of lowering the speed limit.
2. Councilman Canton will request a formal appointment as the new representative to the Chagrin Valley Fire Department. The responsibility is currently held by the prior chair of the Safety Committee, Councilman Bell.
3. Council Member Alexander requested discussion regarding additional crosswalks along Bell Road and at State Route 306. The committee agreed to postpone crosswalk discussions until after the determination of the trail project / levy discussions.
4. Chief reported to the committee that Engineer Haibach sent him a detour plan for Hemlock Culvert Project. The committee agreed that the proposed plan was not acceptable as the detoured traffic was routed to Fairview Road. Numerous complaints were received during the Walters Road Project which directly affected traffic conditions on Fairview. Chief later contacted Engineer Haibach and advised recommended an alternative route. (Bell to 306 and Hemlock to Music). The Engineer confirmed and advised the contactor immediately via email. Chief will also send a geofenced text message Monday to the residents who will be likely affected.
5. Councilman Canton held discussion requesting input regarding future Safety Committee meetings. It was decided that the 2026 Safety Committee meeting schedule will be as follows:

**5:30 p.m. preceding the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting of the month at the Police Department.**

**The next Safety Committee Meeting will be February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.**

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:06 a.m.