



# 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

March 19, 2026 at 3:15 p.m. @ SRPD

#### Staffing

One full-time position remains open, previously held by Ed Svoboda. Nick DiMaria, who was recently sworn in as a part-time officer, will be evaluated over the next month for potential promotion to the full-time role. If his performance does not meet expectations, an additional qualified external candidate is available for consideration.

#### 2026 Projects Update (Technology and Infrastructure)

The department is working toward transitioning from the current Voice over IP system to a new provider. This change is expected to result in an estimated monthly savings of approximately \$500 for internet services and PRI system.

The fiber network upgrade in the PD has been completed, significantly improving internet speeds to approximately 900 megabits per second for both upload and download, which has enhanced the performance of video uploads from body cameras and in-car systems.

The police department radio antenna system will be relocated to the tornado siren pole at an estimated cost of \$1,500, with coordination efforts reducing installation expenses.

A network switch replacement is planned in the PD at a cost of approximately \$2,500, which falls within the current budget.

The Village Hall microphone upgrade remains in progress pending receipt of necessary parts. The Village Phone System project is in progress as well.

#### Old Business:

GovDeals Auctions - Due to advancements in electronic banking, the need for vehicle use by administrative staff has decreased. Two administrative vehicles, model years 2017 and 2018, along with other surplus including a salt truck, will be auctioned through GovDeals. Estimated returns are projected between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per cruiser. All items are currently listed on the GovDeals website which can be found at [www.govdeals.com/southrussell](http://www.govdeals.com/southrussell).



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### **New Business:**

Community Programs and Events - The Cops and Kids Fishing Event is scheduled for May 31, 2026, at Lake Louise from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. An open house is being planned for July or August, with a preference for a Sunday date. The third-grade seatbelt safety program at Gurney School will also take place in May.

Discussion regarding potential return of a bike patrol program, as several newly hired officers may have an interest in bike patrol operations. Existing equipment remains available but will require servicing prior to deployment.

The committee also discussed the proposed building addition project for 2027. Preliminary cost estimates previously identified at approximately \$115,000 may need to be adjusted to a range of \$140,000 to \$150,000 due to rising construction costs. The proposed project would include connecting the existing building to the garage via a hallway, adding two full restroom facilities with shower capabilities, and improving overall functionality of the space. Additional improvements may include gradual replacement of existing flooring with more durable materials to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Speed concerns on Bell Road were reviewed after the most recent Pedestrian & Bike Transport Committee Meeting. Current data indicates that the average vehicle speed is approximately 37 miles per hour for westbound traffic approaching the park, suggesting that public perception of speeding exceeds actual conditions. The existing speed box has proven effective in reducing speeds. An additional speed box, costing approximately \$3,900, will be purchased and installed for eastbound traffic east of Country Estates. The department is also considering providing public access to speed data to improve transparency and awareness.

The House Watch Program was discussed and explained in detail to the committee. The department continues to conduct physical property checks each day, including inspection of doors and windows, with additional drive-by checks conducted during other shifts. The program experiences increased demand during holidays such as spring break. The house watch program remains highly valued by residents and is considered an important community service.

Committee meeting schedule was discussed. Summer meeting preferences were discussed, with Thursdays at 9:00 AM identified as the preferred time. It was noted that meetings may be canceled if there is no substantive business to address, with matters handled individually as needed. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2026, at 3:15 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:57 p.m.