

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 2020

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, February 10, 2020 at 7:04 p.m. by Chuck Kocisko, Chairman.

PRESENT: Jon Hannan, Mike Lampa, John Ruediger, Justin Ring, Chuck Kocisko, Jennifer Wagner

ABSENT: Julie Field [joined at 7:05 p.m.]

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Darin Powers, Police Chief
Don Bobek, Fire Captain
Jenny Esarey, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Joe Ciuni, City Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Melissa Procop, Mayor's Administrative Assistant
Tom Bellish, Buckeye Energy Brokers
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

MOTION: TO EXCUSE MRS. FIELD.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mr. Hannan. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2020 AS PRESENTED.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded Mr. Ruediger. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Old Business

None.

[Mrs. Field joined the meeting at 7:05 p.m.]

New Business

T-6788 Purchase Three Police Cruisers

Chief Powers said they'd had a replacement rotation schedule for the cruisers for many years now and purchased three new cruisers each year. There were 9 marked patrol cars in the police fleet, not including the K-9 vehicles, so they tried to rotate them yearly to keep fresh cars in the fleet. So this year he was requesting three 2020 Ford SUVs to add to the fleet and to take three cars out of the fleet. Lebanon Ford held the state contract so Streetsboro wished to purchase from Lebanon Ford. Classic had not been able to meet the pricing level.

The total cost for three cars was \$97,119 with all the preferred options the Police Department needed. The Department would also use Hall Public Safety as the upfitter to install the aftermarket equipment (lights, sirens, partitions, etc.) The 2020 SUVs were new designs so some of the aftermarket equipment could not be transferred over. Graphic Expressions, who recently moved out of town, did all the graphics. The Department would change the graphics for 2020 which would actually cost a little less than last year; the total for graphics would be \$2,659.77. Chief Powers said he would like to trade in the three vehicles that would be taken out of the fleet this year to Lebanon Ford. The trade-in price quoted by Lebanon Ford (\$9,500 per car) depended on the eventually mileage and condition of the cars at the time of the trade in. It would take about three months to get the new cars. The Department had budget for these three new cars and one new administrative vehicle this year, but the type of administrative car they were interest in was not available, so they would review the budget and car options for the administrative car later in the year.

Mr. Ring asked what would happen with the old equipment that could not be transferred to the new cars. Chief Powers said it was the center console where they mounted their radios and siren controls that no longer fit, so those pieces would have no value and most likely become scrap.

Mr. Ruediger understood there was a rotation program, but he felt these vehicles to be traded out were low mileage with about 75,000-80,000 miles expected at trade-in. Mr. Ruediger had a 2015 vehicle in his own fleet with about 224,000 miles. Mr. Ruediger thought the police vehicles were well maintained, and other communities had much older vehicles, so he wanted to do a four year rotation schedule through 2031. He thought that could save the City over \$512,000 during that time frame. He thought the City had vehicles it was not getting the full life out of. He thought these cars had a lot more life to them and the City could benefit financially by going to a four year rotation schedule.

Mrs. Field said she remembered a similar discussion from a few years ago and it was discussed that the mileage on a police car was different than the mileage on a civilian's car. Chief Powers expanded on the differences: the patrol officers did hard acceleration and hard braking; they ran to emergency calls daily; there were not many high speed chases, but they did run to emergency calls/crash scenes; and the cars idled a lot. At about 80,000 miles the cars starting costing more for maintenance and becoming less safe to drive because the suspension and the steering started to loosen up. Chief Powers said the City was trying to provide the officers with the safest and most reliable equipment they could to do their jobs. Other departments did have higher mileage cars but they also had to put a lot more money into maintenance for their vehicles and their officers were not driving good equipment like the Streetsboro officers had. He said they were just trying to provide the best possible equipment to the

officers that did the job for Streetsboro. That's why they started the three cars a year rotation schedule about 2003. Since then the maintenance costs had been kept low and the officers had the best equipment possible.

Chief Powers clarified that there were 9 patrol cars shared by the patrol officers, 2 K-9 vehicles solely used by the K-9 officers, and several unmarked administrative vehicles the Chief, Lieutenants, detective and others used, and an SRO vehicle. The three year rotation schedule was just for the 9 patrol vehicles.

Mr. Kocisko said many years ago the City bought 7 cars at one time, then they all broke down and needed replaced at the same time which was extremely expensive. Then about 2003 he had helped convince Council to buy three each year to keep them all in good condition and not have such a big expense at one time. Mr. Kocisko thought it was a good plan and kept the officers a lot safer and kept the repair costs down.

The cars to be traded in were 2017 cars. Mr. Lampa asked how much the maintenance costs were for these cars. Bobby Spence, the Service Department chief mechanic, did not have that information with him tonight. Mr. Lampa felt cars were made a lot better now and lasted longer than they did years ago. He thought a 2017 vehicle with 70,000 miles was like a new car. He had 30,000 on his own 2018 car and didn't expect to need a new car next year.

Chief Powers explained that it wasn't about getting new cars with new features, it was because the police patrol cars deteriorated in a short amount of time. He invited Council Members to take a ride in a patrol car to see the usage and the condition of the cars. Residential cars were used differently and lasted longer. The patrol cars' steering and suspension loosened up a lot over three years because the patrol officers responded to emergency calls and often accelerated hard and braked hard and made 3-point turns in their rush to get where they needed to be. The Department wanted to replace these cars in order to keep good equipment in the officers' hands. Chief Powers was concerned that if the Department got out of this rotation schedule it would be detrimental to the officers and greatly increase the maintenance costs. He felt 100,000 miles on a police car was like 200,000 miles on a personal car. He said he had always been proud of the department for having some of the best, safest equipment for the officers to do their jobs; that's why they bought new cars every three years.

Mr. Ruediger thought the City could put new brakes and a new suspension on the cars for the \$50,000 savings of not buying new cars. He wanted to ride in a patrol car to see for himself. Chief Powers said he was adamant about keeping to the current rotation schedule. He was afraid that if they did not, they would end up having patrol cars with 125,000+ miles and those cars would be in the repair shop all the time and not be as safe and as reliable as they have had.

Mr. Miller agreed with keeping the 3 year rotation schedule. He felt it had been beneficial. He noted that when one vehicle was in the repair shop, the next vehicle ended up doing double time and the wear got even worse and it would end up costing the City too much money. He added that the safety of the officers should be a priority to everyone, so he strongly supported keeping the current rotation schedule.

Bobby Spence, the City's chief mechanic, spoke from the audience. He said he worked on the patrol cars and all the City's vehicles. He said the patrol cars had a very stiff suspension, like a pickup truck not a personal car, because they were made to corner, therefore, after three years they literally shook themselves apart. Sometimes the contacts on the HVAC electrical controls broke because the cars shook so much and since the HVAC system on the Fords was one unit it cost about \$600 to replace. He listed the various items that went bad on these cars over about three year because the cars literally shook themselves apart, especially over some of Streetsboro's rough roads. He added the idle time when the cars sat with lights and other electrical features running at accident scenes, etc. added to the wear to make a patrol car with 75,000 miles similar to a personal car with 200,000 miles. Mr. Spence supported keeping the three-year rotation schedule because it would save on the maintenance. Sometimes the cars could not be repaired in-house and had to go to the dealer, especially for some software issues, so that was even more expensive.

Ms. Wagner commented that the patrol officers had a very difficult job and having an older car break down on the way to a call or a domestic situation was detrimental, so they really needed dependable equipment to get where they needed to go quickly.

MOTION: TO FORWARD TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING AS EMERGENCY LEGISLATION.

Moved by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field. Upon voice vote, **motion carried.**

Citizens' Comments

None.

Announcements

A Service Committee Meeting will immediately follow this meeting.

There being no further business to be addressed by this committee, and upon motion by Mr. Ruediger, seconded by Mrs. Field, this meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Chuck Kocisko, Chairman