

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, May 11, 2020

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, May 11, 2020 at 7:55 p.m. by Chuck Kocisko, Chairman.

PRESENT: Chuck Kocisko, John Ruediger, Jon Hannan, Julie Field, Justin Ring, Jennifer Wagner, Mike Lampa [all by Zoom video conferencing]

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: [by Zoom video conferencing:]  
Glenn Broska, Mayor  
Frank Beni, Law Director  
Darin Power, Police Chief  
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief  
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  
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

**Disposition of Minutes**

**MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE REGULAR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2020 AS WRITTEN.**

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

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Discussion of Testing of the Coronavirus**

Mr. Kocisko changed the order of the agenda items and then came back to this item.

**T-6840 Resolution to Apply and Accept FEMA Funds**

Ms. Esarey said the City had received information through Portage County that this program was available. The City needed authorization from Council to apply for FEMA monies for reimbursement

of money spent for expenses directly related to the coronavirus/COVID-19. It would be 75% reimbursement of the costs expended in relation to dealing with COVID-19 issues, like the additional weekly biohazard cleaning of City buildings. Payroll was not included as of now as a reimbursable expense especially if it had already been part of the 2020 budget, but maybe extra payroll might be included; things may change. Ms. Esarey mentioned that the City had already spent about \$8,500-\$8,600 so far for which it could get reimbursed. She planned to continue to keep track of the COVID-19 related expenses.

Mr. Ring asked, even if general payroll was not included, would overtime or any of the additional 80 hours of time off that was granted to the City staff to use for quarantine due to the coronavirus be reimbursable. Ms. Esarey said there was not much overtime related to the coronavirus yet, in fact the total overtime had actually gone down a bit. The FMLA and other time off awarded were from separate governmental actions and the City was receiving the federal tax benefit from those already. The extra 80 hours of time off given to the staff due to the pandemic was not an allowable expense that could be submitted to FEMA. If the program changed and those hours became an allowable expense, they were already recorded and trackable in the payroll system and could be submitted later. She added that the Fire Department had already received some stimulus money, and the City was working to make sure it could get all the money it was eligible for.

Mrs. Field wanted to confirm this was grant money that would not need to be paid back and there were no strings attached. Ms. Esarey said at this time there were no strings attached; the City just had to count whatever money was received as part of the annual single audit. Every year the City had to confirm it was either above or below the \$750,000 threshold. If the City was over \$750,000 in receipt of federal funds, there would need to be an extra layer of audit (called a single audit).

**MOTION: TO FORWARD T-6840 TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.**

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

Discussion of Testing of the Coronavirus

Mr. Kocisko said this had been talked about a month or so ago. At that time he had asked the Police and Fire chiefs what was being done about handling the coronavirus issue. Now he would like to review again what the Police and Fire Departments were doing regarding the virus and if there had been any changes in their procedures. Mr. Kocisko wanted to bring this up again for the public to know what was happening and that the safety forces were doing their best to be proactive to protect themselves and protect the citizens.

Chief Powers said there had not been many changes since last month except all the officers were now wearing face coverings when interacting with the public and within the Police Department. They had N95 masks they wore when dealing with someone they knew or suspected had the virus. He had talked to Kevin Grimm at the Fire Department regarding antibody testing for first responders, but there was no further information on that. Now that offices and restaurants were to be opening next week there would be more traffic and more traffic control issues. He said the officers were still going out to do their job every day. Mr. Kocisko asked if the officers had other protective gear if needed. Chief

Powers answered that the only clothing the officers had was their regular uniform, gloves, the face masks or N95 masks, or face shields if needed that were donated to the department recently. There was hand sanitizer in all the patrol cars and all over the Police Department. So far it was going OK for the Police Department.

Chief Reinholz said on March 15, 2020 everyone started to be a lot more careful. About 25-30 years ago when HIV/AIDS started the EMTs started to wear gloves for all procedures; prior to that they did not. With COVID-19 they started also wearing N95 masks to every squad call. They all had been issued goggles to wear too. The EMTs gowned up for nursing homes, dialysis centers, or if dispatch learned the patients were on a cruise, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if they had a fever or any other symptoms. The EMTs tried to have the patients meet them at the door if possible, and then they put a surgical mask on each patient right away. They also try to limit exposure by only having two people enter the house instead of those on the squad and those that came in a chase car. At the hospital they sanitize and decontaminate the ambulance before returning to the station. Every weekend, along with the other City buildings, the station was sprayed and decontaminated. The Fire Department had its own sprayer and cleaned the vehicles and station often. When the staff reported to work, their temperatures were taken each time. They've eliminated non-emergency interaction with the public, but the fire trucks did do a drive by of a 6-year's old house for his birthday. They also joined a parade around University Hospitals Portage Medical Center last Friday with other departments to show their support to the hospital staff. He added that they try to keep in touch with the public through social media updates.

Chief Reinholz reported that two firefighters had been ill but they both tested negative for COVID-19. Chief Reinholz explained the testing process for first responders and said UH wanted to change from the swab tests to the antibody blood tests. He said the firefighters were trying to limit their exposure but there had been a lot of cases the crews had responded to, especially at the nursing homes, but as long as they wore the PPE and disinfected the squad afterwards they had all been OK so far. He said there had been excellent support from the public with donations of masks, gowns and also food. He mentioned that the run volume was down recently because of less vehicle traffic and less MVAs, but there were still medical emergencies, in fact there was a heart attack patient recently and the medics used the Lucas machine and got her back and she was to be discharged from the hospital.

Mr. Kocisko said the reason he wanted to bring this up again was because he understood there were a lot of people that watched the Council meetings online and he wanted them to know what Streetsboro was doing to be proactive to protect the public and our own staff, not just hear what the Governor of Ohio was saying. Mr. Kocisko said he'd like everyone to be able to be tested, especially the first responders, all the people in nursing homes, jails, schools and grocery stores, but that wasn't a reality yet; maybe we'll get to where one day we could each do the tests at home. But for now not everyone that wanted a test could have one at this point. He thought it was important to get testing available. He felt it was important to bring these issues up and he emphasized that it seemed Streetsboro was being proactive and doing the best it could at this point.

Chief Reinholz said the people that probably needed tested were the most vulnerable people like the prisoners and nursing home patients, but just because someone tested negative today didn't mean they

won't be positive tomorrow. He was satisfied that if someone was exposed they could get tested right away and have the results within 24 hours. He also added that just because someone might have antibodies they didn't know if that meant the person couldn't still get it again and people shouldn't feel they could lower their guard and stop taking precautions. There were different kinds of testing too and some may not be as accurate, so he didn't feel everyone had to be tested. If someone wasn't feeling well they should be able to get a test so they could quarantine if necessary to keep from spreading the virus to family or others. He said we all just need to continue to be careful.

Mr. Kocisko asked how the Fire Department would handle it if a firefighter did test positive. Chief Reinholz said they could have to quarantine a whole shift and use other firefighters on overtime to cover the shift, so that's why they practiced social distancing in the fire station and even in the field as much as possible along with other precautions. It was still not sure when someone was contagious and could spread the virus: they may be asymptomatic with no fever or other symptoms, so that's why there was an abundance of precautions.

Mr. Kocisko was glad the Police and Fire Departments were being proactive and he appreciated talking about this publicly.

**Citizens' Comments**

None had been received.

**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 Mr. Hannan, this meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

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Chuck Kocisko, Chairman