

THE CITY OF STREETSBORO, OHIO
SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 2024

This Safety Committee Meeting was called to order on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. by Jennifer Wagner, Chairman. Mrs. McDaniel gave an invocation and Mayor Broska led the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENT: Justin Ring, Jon Hannan, Anthony Lombardo, Lisa McDaniel, Steve Michniak, Jennifer Wagner, Marianne Glenn

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Glenn Broska, Mayor
Frank Beni, Law Director
Patricia Wain, Police Chief
Rob Reinholz, Fire Chief
Matt Miller, Finance Director
Bill Miller, Service Director
Justin Czekaj, Municipal Engineer
John Cieszkowski, Planning Director
Patrick O'Malia, Economic Development Director
Greg Mytinger, Parks and Recreation Director
Shawna Lockhart-Reese, HR Manager
Matt Coffman, IT Network Administrator
Caroline Kremer, Clerk of Council

Disposition of Minutes

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE SPECIAL SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 24, 2023 AND THE REGULAR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2023 AS WRITTEN.

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

Old Business

None.

New Business

T-7547 Support HB 321 for State Wide Special Needs Database

Chief Reinholz said the Council Clerk had provided some information that the Broadview Heights Clerk had distributed to the Clerks in the region. This was a resolution to recommend/support the state committee to develop a special needs database for emergency responders to use. They had been working on it for quite a while, but it had stalled.

Recently the Police and Fire Departments had a class on autism presented by a mother of an autistic child, and they learned a lot about how to handle situations with autistic individuals. The local departments were interested in developing a volunteer list within the CAD system to be able to get advanced information about what they might encounter on a call to help them know what to expect and to not aggravate the situation. This legislation would encourage the state committee to move a little faster to come up with a state database that would be voluntary on the parents' part so the responders would have state wide information that could benefit the patient and the family. Chief Reinholz wanted to bring this proposal from Broadview Heights to Council tonight to see if they were interested in supporting the creation of a state wide database.

Mr. Ring said he wasn't a fan of the government creating a database on citizens, but if it was voluntary and the parents would voluntarily supply the information to benefit their children, he could see the value in it. He wondered if the local list that was being considered was also voluntary. Chief Reinholz said yes; the Police or Fire Department could not enter something in the system about a person's medical situation/condition without their consent because of the HIPAA privacy laws. Based on the training session, it seemed the general consensus was that the parents wanted the safety forces to be aware of the situation.

Currently dispatch had information in the CAD system about Knox boxes, where the Fire Department connection was for the industrial locations, etc. so the responders could be better prepared for dealing with the situation when they arrived to the location because they couldn't have all those things memorized, that's why it was noted in the CAD system. Mr. Ring supported a voluntary list if parents wanted to do that to help their children, and to help the first responders deal with what could be a difficult situation.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

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

T-7548 Accept OCJS Grant for Body Worn Cameras

T-7549 Purchase Body Worn Cameras

Chief Wain said the Police Department had applied for a grant in 2023 through OCJS for new body worn cameras for the Department. She learned about two weeks ago that Streetsboro was one of about five departments in the County that received grant money. The grant was \$20,134 which would cover a full upgrade and replacement of everything the Department currently had. The Department would need to buy the cameras and accessories first and then would get reimbursed through OCJS. The upgrade would be to 4G cameras, which would provide significantly better footage than the current cameras; it would replace the docks to charge the cameras in the station and tethers to charge the cameras in the cars. These new cameras would have the capability, if they were near Wifi, to be monitored live. They would also have a GPS function, so if there was a need, an officer could be tracked.

Mr. Ring wondered if the in-car cameras were a separate system or would they be compatible with these new body worn cameras. Chief Wain confirmed they were all GETAC and when any footage

was uploaded to the system, they were all together and would all play together. You could watch the various viewpoints (front car, rear car, body cam) and sync the audio so you could hear what was going on in each. It was the same system the Department currently had; it was just an upgrade to the current level of technology. The current body worn cameras were still in really good shape, so Chief Wain hoped to be able to get some money out of them by selling them to another department.

Mr. Michniak said the upgrade of the footage could use significantly more data storage. He wondered if there would be a need to upgrade the video storage system. Chief Wain said the data was stored in the cloud through GETAC and things were cycled out according to the retention schedule so she did not think more storage would be necessary. There were some cases still stored on the cloud that could be removed as the cases were closed by the courts, but she needed someone to take the time to do that task. There was an officer returning to work soon on light duty who may be able to work on that task.

The purchase of the cameras from Midwest Public Safety was the next agenda item, but she had covered that topic. Midwest Public Safety was the same company that the Department had purchased from before and were pleased with their equipment. They were the vendor for GETAC.

MOTION: TO MOVE BOTH OF THESE TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

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

T-7550 Written Mutual Aid Agreement with Aurora

Chief Wain said in 2023 Prosecutor Vigluicci asked the local agencies that typically use mutual aid with each other to have a written agreement. This agreement with Aurora had been reviewed by both police departments and both law departments over the last several months. There had been a verbal agreement for decades and Aurora had been Streetsboro's primary go-to if backup was needed. This just put into writing what the departments had always been doing.

Mr. Ring wanted to be sure the Aurora officers would not have the authority to do traffic stops or to police Streetsboro without having been requested. Chief Wain said they would only have full police authority in Streetsboro if they were requested to do mutual aid. Streetsboro called on Aurora for mutual aid a lot more often than Aurora called Streetsboro for aid. Mr. Ring didn't like contracts that were not clear and was concerned the Aurora officers would have jurisdiction in Streetsboro, but Mr. Beni confirmed it was only when their assistance was requested. Mr. Ring understood mutual aid was useful and necessary, but he wanted to be sure Streetsboro was protected by the agreement.

Mr. Hannan wondered if written agreements were needed with other surrounding communities. Chief Wain said Aurora was the main agency Streetsboro worked with so this was first; written agreements with other communities would come later. The term of the agreement was open ended. The State Patrol and the Sheriff's Department had jurisdiction in Streetsboro so any written agreements with them would need to be slightly different.

Chief Reinholz said the Fire Department was a little different and used mutual aid with every community around Streetsboro, even departments across the state. It was built into the way the departments respond to calls, even without written agreements. Just a typical housefire could have Mantua, Kent, Twinsburg, Reminderville, and Aurora join Streetsboro; it was very common. Ms. Wagner added that the responding communities were usually the ones closer to the incident that could get there quicker. They would respond whether there was a written agreement or not.

Mr. Michniak explained that there was a state statute §5502.29, that authorized cities to enter into these agreements, but it also enabled responders to just go to the other communities and all tort liability and all civil liability, and everything that happens, was to be treated as if the officer was in his own town. The statute suggested mutual aid agreements be drafted, but didn't put any restriction on them; the tort liability portion of the statute actually overrides anything that was put to the contrary in an agreement. Chief Wain added that if the Streetsboro officer went to Aurora for mutual aid, they would still have to abide by the Streetsboro policies, and any vehicle or equipment damage was handled by the Streetsboro insurance.

Mayor Broska noted that all the neighboring safety forces monitored each other's radio channel and knew if something was going down, and were always willing to send help when needed.

Mr. Hannan asked, considering the statute exists, why did Streetsboro need the written agreements? Chief Wain answered that the County Prosecutor had requested it; the police chiefs had not initiated it. Mr. Michniak felt there was a benefit to the residents to have an agreement in place to eliminate any confusion; without it, an officer might try to just use statute §5502.29 to maybe try to run traffic stops at a neighboring intersection just outside their town or normal ordinance enforcement without a mutual aid request, which was not appropriate. The written agreements do not open the City to nefarious, overzealous police operations.

MOTION: TO MOVE THIS TO TONIGHT'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.

Moved by Mr. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo. 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. Hannan, seconded by Mr. Lombardo, this meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

ATTEST:

Caroline L. Kremer, Clerk of Council

Jennifer Wagner, Chairman