

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 22, 2021

The Safety Committee of Chardon City Council met on Thursday, June 22, 2021 at 5:00 PM in Conference Room A of the Chardon Municipal Center.

Christopher Grau, Chairman of Safety Committee presiding.

Members of Safety Committee present: Christopher Grau, Heather Means.

Others present: City Manager Randy Sharpe, Clerk of Council Amy Day, Finance Director Mate Rogonjic, Fire Chief Larry Gaspar, Brian Doering, Tim McKenna.

Mr. Grau called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Grau moved and Ms. Means seconded to approve the minutes of the Safety Committee from June 8, 2021. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

Regarding a renewal of the Fire Department contract, Fire Chief, Larry Gaspar, reviewed a history of the Emergency Services Formula spreadsheet that includes formulas which have been used for many years. The spreadsheet shows how much each of the 3 entities (Claridon Twp., Chardon City, Chardon Twp.) and Aquilla Village should be charged for fire and rescue service. He stated that the figures were based on property values and the number of calls in each entity using a 5-year average.

Mr. Rogonjic suggested that using square footage may be an option in future calculations.

Chief Gaspar reviewed the projected budget divided by category for the years 2022-2024.

Chief Gaspar stated that he anticipates a need for one additional 12-hour part-time staff person in each of the three years because of the increase in calls for service.

Mr. Grau asked what would happen if the additional personnel were not hired.

Chief Gaspar explained that the additional person would be available to assist with overlapping calls for service.

Chief Gaspar reviewed some apparatus replacements and health insurance cost increases.

Grant received by the Fire Department were discussed.

Chief Gaspar reviewed their plan to increase their part-time hourly rate by \$17.65/hour to \$19.00/hour in the third year of the contract. Full-time personnel start at \$42,000 and would like to be closer to \$60,000 in an attempt to keep the personnel that they have.

Chief Gaspar reviewed the costs to outfit a firefighter which total \$11,500.

Chief Gaspar reported that the Chardon Fire Department received a reduced ISO rating from 4 to 3 which will save property owners on their homeowner's insurance.

Chief Gaspar reviewed safety programs and events which they participate in.

Mr. Rogonjic reviewed a Fire and EMS Study which he prepared. He reviewed the annual revenue certified by the County Auditor for various levy scenarios including: a renewal levy, a replacement levy, and 3 different scenarios for additional millage. He recommends a new 2-mill levy for the November ballot in addition to requesting renewal of the existing 5-mill levy. This will get the City through the next contract.

Ms. Means asked what would happen if the levy were to fail.

Mr. Rogonjic stated that they would have to use the fund's reserve balance and then put a levy on the ballot in March, 2022.

Ms. Means stated that the figures provided by the Finance Director show a negative fund balance in 2025 even with a new 2.0 mill levy.

Mr. Sharpe stated that additional millage may be presented to the voters if necessary in 2024.

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Grau seconded to recommend Council put a 2-mill levy in addition to a 5-mill renewal levy for fire and ambulance services, on the November ballot. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Gaspar stated that he and the Police Chief would like to resurrect the coffee with the Chiefs in the near future. They also are looking into creating a Podcast.

Mr. Rogonjic reported that the Chardon Chamber made a donation to the John Bohl memorial fund in the amount of \$2,620.05. The funds resulted from advertisement sales from the Chardon Safety Forces magazine.

ADJOURN

Ms. Means moved and Mr. Grau seconded to adjourn. Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Attest:

AMY DAY
Clerk of Council