

**HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**OF FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

Municipal Council of the City of Vermilion  
Municipal Complex, 685 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio 44089

**In Attendance:**      **Vermilion City Council:**  
*Monica Stark, Council at Large; Emily Skahen, Ward One; F. Loucka, Ward Two; Steve Holovacs, Ward Three; Barb Brady, Ward Four; Brian Holmes, Ward Five; Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk. Absent: Steve Herron, President of Council*

**Administration:**  
*Jim Forthofer, Mayor; Chris Howard, City Engineer; Chris Hartung, Police Chief; Amy Hendricks, Finance Director; Tony Valerius, Service Director; Chris Stempowski, Fire Chief*

**Call to Order:**      Chairman Brian Holmes, RESOLVED THAT this Health & Safety Committee comprised of the committee of the whole does now come to order.

---

**TOPIC ONE:**      **Fire Chief's Report:**

Chief Stempowski reported the department responded to 15 incidents in January. He recently put on the classroom portion of the Emergency Vehicle Drivers Training that is required by all firefighters for the big red trucks every year. They also do an obstacle and ropes course. They participated in the Mill Hollow Days Ice Affair to do an ice rescue and equipment demo. They were only able to send a limited crew due to training.

He said they applied for a grant through the State Fire Marshal's office for the reimbursement of costs that a firefighter incurred from the Lorain County Fire Academy. They also applied for an equipment grant through the State Fire Marshal's office for a total of \$15,000 in available funds.

He reported that two officers recently completed the NIMS 300 course and are anxiously awaiting to take NIMS 400 in order to remain compliant. B. Holmes noted that they have a new council person who will need to take the NIMS course online. Chief Stempowski said he would send the clerk the FEMA link to take the NIMS 700 course.

Chief Stempowski announced they had two recent retirements in the department – Frank Day served for nearly 28 years and Jay Cooper served about 20 years. He wished them the best and thanked them for their service.

**TOPIC TWO:**      **Police Chief's Report**

Brian Holmes congratulated Chief Hartung and Sergeant Holmes on completing 14 months of the Certified Law Enforcement Executive Program (CLEE). He said this is awesome for the city and thanked them both for completing this program. Chief Hartung noted that Captain Graham just started the CLEE program in January.

Chief Hartung reported the department received a \$5,400 grant from the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) to contribute toward the radio project.

He said on February 16 and 23 the Defensive Tactics training will be at the Harbortown Martial Arts Studio at 2610 Liberty Avenue from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm if Council would like to stop by.

In addition, during the week of May 18 – 22 the department will have their Range Fire Week at the Northern Ohio Tactical Training Center on Baumhart Road, which he again invited Council to stop by.

He said the city had a couple high profile incidents over the weekend. Sadly, the community had a 14-month-old pass away. An autopsy was conducted, and they are waiting for results from the Coroner. There was no trauma, so they will wait for the final ruling. There was a reported suicide on February 9, and it's been investigated as a self-inflicted gunshot wound. There are questions that remain, and they are doing a lot of data gathering into this investigation. He was not at liberty to get too much into this case, but as soon as he has resolutions and dispositions he will report back to Council.

B. Holmes adjourned the meeting after no further discussion came before the committee.

*Next Meeting: March 9, 2020 - 7pm @ the Vermilion Municipal Complex, 687 Decatur Street, Vermilion, Ohio*

*Gwen Fisher, Certified Municipal Clerk*