

**Safety & Service Committee Meeting
August 11, 2020**

Board Members Present

Beth Gillman
Pat Hovis
Margaret Phillips, Chairman

Board Members Not Present

(none)

Community Members/Others

Kent Johnson, Fire Chief
Rob Hickman, Police Chief
Gabe Below
Jerry Tarolli
Larry Holman

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., City Park Shelter House

Review of minutes: Approved as provided to the committee

Old Business- None

New Business: Chief Rob Hickman

1. Vehicle #177, which is a 2010 Dodge Charger with 94,392 miles was taken out-of-service on June 18th, 2020. The vehicle suffered catastrophic engine problems, which would have required an engine replacement at a cost of \$7,000.00. The vehicle was actually a spare vehicle, which was utilized by officers when their assigned vehicle was in for service and that of the Reserve Officers. This vehicle, once all equipment is removed will be sold on Gov.Deals.com along with old #178, which is a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria.
2. Due to COVID-19, we were able to capitalize on some building renovations within the department. These renovations were completed by departmental employees and look forward to you being able to visit to observe the upgrades in person.
3. Our interview and conference rooms has been upgraded and should be completed this week with the iRecord System for audio/video to assist us with our caseload.

4. Vehicle maintenance costs comparison;

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	
May	\$3,226.23	\$1,127.39	
June	\$2,224.90	\$5,476.19	<i>this is increase is attributed to \$4,144.50 in equipment for the new 2020 and 2018 Ford Explorers as to equipment lighting for officer safety.</i>
July	\$5,805.17	\$2,608.83	

New Business: Chief Kent Johnson:

COVID 19 has brought some very interesting challenges to us with regard to Fire and Rescue. When the “lockdowns” started in March, we were already in go mode with protocols and such due to watching our Medical Director’s reports, CDC and Ohio EMS. We were actually ahead of the announcement by about 20 days.

The symptoms of COVID 19 are so wide spread that we are forced to treat everyone as POSTIVE for COVID. When we get the call and treat the patient, it could be 3 to 8 days for the test results to come back, hence we are infected unless we prepare before going in with our PPE.

Our PPE for all calls consists of P100 Respirators, Safety Glasses, Disposable Gown, and Gloves. Each Patient we pick up has a surgical mask placed on their face before we load them in the squad. If the call warrants it due to aerosol treatments or more Critical care such as CPR, we wear a full-face shield that covers our face and neck completely for the Duty squad members and the support crews were a simple splash face shield. Please note all members in the HOT zone with the patient are in full PPE.

Early on we realized that PPE was going to be critical and we started purchasing Gowns, Surgical Masks, P100 Respirators, N95 Masks, Gloves, Face Shield and of course disinfectants to clean the squads and the station. We also purchased 2 UV-C lights for disinfecting the patient compartments of the squads along with uniforms and gear worn by the staff. Thru donations, we secured 2 Nexxum Air Purifiers that are mounted in our transport squad and our duty squad. They clean the air while the squads are sitting. We have also installed high power negative ventilation in the Patient compartment for changing the air about 10 times an hour. Air movement is a key part in COVID precautions.

The above with stringent protocols for station cleaning, staff monitoring, extra uniforms and good hygiene practices have kept out staff COVID free since the beginning. We are very proud of how our staff has handled themselves in the Pandemic.

With regards to PPE Costs:

Gowns:	\$3.75. each	(2 minimum used every run)
Surgical Masks	\$.75 each	(2 minimum used every run)
Gloves:	\$1.00 each	(8 minimum used every run)
Face shields Reusable:	\$46:00 each	(16 in stock)
Face shields Disposable	\$12:50 each	(2 uses, 24 in stock)
Safety Goggles:	\$9:00 each	(reusable 25 in stock)
P100 Respirators	\$46.00 each	(reusable 40 issued to staff)

With regards to number of COVID runs, as mentioned before we have to treat everyone we touch as being positive for COVID. We are usually the first to come into contact with them and even with Health Department records and Dispatch issues, we do not know who is and who isn't COVID positive until after the fact.

We have had run 910 runs, treated 747 of those runs as COVID Probable and knowingly handled to date 65 as confirmed positive cases (some handled multiple times).

Out of the possible COVID calls, 4004 pieces of PPE were used. With that being said, Fire and Rescue has spent over \$15,000.00 out of the 227 account for PPE and disinfectants. An additional \$4,100.00 dollars was spent by the Firefighters Association Inc. for PPE and Air Purifications systems. We are currently building a PPE order for the next wave. Estimated cost will be \$17,000.00 due to price increases and expedited manufacturing.

Now onto the LifePak 15 Cardio Monitors with Capnography.

Each patient showing reparatory symptoms, cardiac symptoms or unresponsive along with other symptoms must be hooked up to a Cardiac Monitor for patient care. It will also benefit us with all patients due to the fact that it records and is able to transmit all vital signs to the receiving hospitals. Any patient showing signs of respiratory issues or on oxygen should be hooked up to a monitor that has Capnography. Capnography shows the levels of O2 and CO2 which is critical in care. This is important to diagnose early on for better hospital preparation and care.

Another key benefit to Port Clinton Fire and Rescue is that the information from the LifePak 15 can be transmitted to our reporting software which will make our reports more accurate on vitals which will help us is billing and collections. The more information provided assists in establishing ALS 1 calls or ALS 2 call which generate more revenue.

We currently have 1 LifePak 15 with Capnography and 1 LifePak 12 with Capnography. The other Lifepak 12 does not have Capnography. In 2021, we will be mandated to have Capnography on all squads. As you are aware, we are running 4 squads. One Duty Squad (911) with the LifePak 15 with Capnography, One Transport Squad with a LifePak 12 with capnography, one backup ALS Squad with a LifePak 12 no capnography and a BLS squad with and AED. The LifePak 12's were purchased used when we started and are over 20 years old. This was done to save upfront startup costs.

We were notified recently that the company will no longer supply parts or service to those units.

We are consistently running all 4 squads monthly if not weekly at one time.

The need for 2 of these units is very apparent due to the number of calls we are receiving and how many are being treated as ALS Critical Care and probable COVID. We need the Capnography to continue our excellent service and improved care to the constituents we serve. Cost of these units are \$32,000.00 each and cared for properly will last for 20 years as the LifePak 12's have. There may be a trade in value for the one LifePak 12 without Capnography when 2 are purchased.

In viewing the big picture of Fire And Rescue, we have remained independent from the General fund for a very long time. Prudent spending allowed us to start up a successful Rescue EMS service without any General Fund Money and maintain it for well over a year. Our increased run volume due to the pandemic justifies the purchase of these units from the CARES funds and will not put any more stress on the Fire Levy 227 account. New units will need purchased soon regardless.

We would greatly appreciate your support in purchasing these units from the CARES money.

Public Comment/ Discussion

Chief Johnson discussed the need for some of the CARES money based on the number of fire and EMS calls. All personnel are prepared for all police or fire or EMS calls as each call is an unknown problem. Costs are going up on equipment, PPEs especially. Equipment is on hand for a 45- to 60-day need presently. Police and Fire departments buy with thoughts of the other departs in the city. Property tax will be down \$40,000 this year. The revenue regarding townships are down as well which affects the City. Levy renewal was discussed for November 2021.

Adjourn

Ms. Hovis moved to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. - seconded by Mrs. Gillman. All agreed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Margaret Phillips
Chairman