

## Public Safety Committee Minutes November 1, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: B. Blue and Edna Davis.

Also present: C. Osborne – Fiscal Officer and Police Chief Stehlik.

Agenda: no additions or deletions

Minutes of September 6, 2007 were presented for approval. Chief Stehlik noted the issue with the equipment was a *system problem*, not a *software problem*. Davis moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Blue. All in favor.

### Personnel

- 1. Part-Time Dispatchers and Part-Time Officers:** Chief Stehlik the issue with hiring additional part-time dispatchers continues. Chief has interviewed a few potential dispatchers and one, Nathan Bushek, comes highly recommended from his former employers. Bushek has volunteered and worked at Hiram Police Dept. since he was 16 years old. In early 2007, Bushek began working as a dispatcher in Wilmington, N. Carolina. While there he worked with their EMS services and personally handled approximately 8,000 calls. Bushek returned to Ohio for family reasons and has decided not to return to N. Carolina. Chief Stehlik noted Hiram is closing their dispatch center due to cost. The supervisor in Wilmington stated Bushek has a great ability to handle stressful situations. Chief stated Bushek's ordinance is before council this evening. Due to Bushek's experience Chief recommends hiring Bushek at an hourly rate of \$10.50 per hour, which is .50 per hour higher than our beginning rate.

Chief stated our dispatch center recently had a shortage of dispatchers and will amend the road officers' schedules to allow them to dispatch when needed. The candidates for part-time police officers have completed several testing and the sergeants have narrowed the candidates to 3, and those candidates will be sent for more intense testing.

### Equipment

- 1. Update on new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD System)** – Chief stated our system currently isn't connected. The microwave link from our tower to the Burton water tower and then to the 800 tower. Chief stated he's negotiating a cost for connection and the most recent cost estimate from the county sheriff's department is \$235.00, and there will be no reoccurring monthly fee. Chief relayed to sheriff's department the Village shouldn't have to bear the entire cost of this connection because the Burton Police Department and the Geauga Co. Fair will also be using this connection. Chief stated even with this connection, the Village need's a backup system such as cell phone backup, T1 or cable modem back up systems. The computer technician for the police department believes a cable modem will accommodate this and is currently working with the cable company. Because the Village doesn't pay for cable service to the municipal building, the monthly fee is estimated to be approximately \$135.00 per month. The equipment should be installed Nov. 2 and should go online the following week. Chief stated all police and dispatch personnel have been trained. Once the system is operational, a representative from Spillman will be on site to help assist with any problems.

**Other**

Chief Stated Cpl. Samec reported our K-9 Officer, Rocky, was on site for practice drug sweep of a school in Portage County. During the rounds, Rocky located a drug pipe in a student's locker, which was not a part of the drill.

Alarms – Chief stated Sharon Burger informed him she has prospective buyers for the alarms and hopes to have the equipment out of our building the first of the year.

Cruisers - Routine mechanical problems with the cruisers.

Trailers – Chief stated the department isn't utilizing the trailers at this time and originally stated they wouldn't be used during the winter. One trailer was used at the WWTP during the construction of the new plant improvements. Both trailers have been winterized.

Being no further business at this time, Davis moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.