

Richfield Village Safety Committee

Minutes of the March 31, 2022 Meeting

Called to order at 6:30 p.m. March 31, 2022, RFD Conference Room

Roll call: Present - Jeff Stoppenhagen, Bobbie Beshara Absent – Rick Hudak

Guests: Mayor Wheeler, Chief Seifert, Chief Swanson, AC Pfister, Officers Totten & Randolph

POLICE

Officer Totten presented the ideas of reimplementing the K9 unit within RPD.

1. The types of dogs that could be used, along with the pros and cons for each was outlined.
2. The rationale for having a K9 unit was explained.
 - A. The dog's sense of smell can be implemented during traffic stops for drugs
 - B. Richfield's location with 2 interstates and the turnpike along with being between 2 major metro centers.
 - C. A transient population and the trucking companies.
 - D. Both YRC and FedEx felt they would use the K9 if available to them.
 - E. Public Relations possibilities including school events and use with the local assisted living facilities.
3. Training is 4-6 weeks (lodging and food is included) initially and refresher training for life is part of the cost.
4. The State requires 16 hours of training a month, usually done as 8 hours with other handlers and 8 hours alone.

There were 3 incidents in the last 2 years where a K9 unit would have been helpful. In 2 cases the suspect escaped while RPD waited for another department to bring a K9 unit in. The 3rd incident could have ended faster if a dog could have been used to find the suspect hiding in his house.

A dedicated K9 patrol unit would be necessary. This would have a containment area in the back for the dog and a separate area for a prisoner. There are 2 options for a vehicle, an Explorer at around \$43,000 and a Tahoe at \$45,000 - \$50,000. Either option would require the containment area at around \$30,000.

We discussed using one of the Explorers in the queue for 2022 and getting more miles out of an existing unit for patrol to make the total cost more palatable. Total cost if new vehicle is needed – Explorer - \$95,000, the Tahoe would be \$95,000 - \$99,000. Using one of the Explorers on order would save \$43,000 - \$50,000.

A K9 Patrol Kit would be necessary at \$675 - \$725 depending on the level we chose. Dr. Fogel will supply veterinary care at no cost to the Village, as he did with the last dog.

Council President Beshara will add this topic to the 4/13/22 Council work session.

Officer Randolph reviewed the Child Passenger Safety Program. He and Officer Totten went thru a 4 day, 30 hour training session to get a certification to properly evaluate and install child car seat installation.

The Child Passenger Safety Program is partnered with NHTSA, National Child Passenger Safety Board and Safe Kids Worldwide. Their training is valid from 3/4/22 until 3/4/24. Chief Seifert indicated at least one member of FD had the certification as well.

It takes 2 people about 30 minutes to evaluate & properly install a car seat. Appointments can be made with the PD and they would like to offer the service at community events like Community Day and Safety Town.

The main purpose is to promote safety, education and community engagement. There was no cost to the Village for the training and this will be provided to the community at no cost.

Chief Swanson reviewed the status of painting, carpet and new furniture installation.

FIRE

Chief Seifert reviewed the Capital Budget items.

1. Painting is done and looks great.
2. The Firehouse timekeeping is no longer going to be supported by the State and we need to move to a new timekeeping program. First Due is a new program we're looking at; it combines 2 current systems into one. The combination can save us money by not having to pay separate annual fees. The initial cost for First Due is \$10,800 (we have \$11,000 in the budget) and an annual fee of \$7,500.

Chief Seifert said the FD was using the 2022 maintenance budget quickly with multiple instances of unplanned maintenance. Council may be asked for an increase if the trend continues. 2021 finished below budget and the 2022 budget was reduced.

Chief Seifert went over how adding staffing on shift would reduce overtime, it would increase the budget by \$210,000 but would reduce OT by \$147,000. Two people accounted for 42% of the OT, the other 10 combined made up the other 58%.

The current FD members have asked for adding additional staffing and the Chief concurs. In 2021 we had 158 back-to-back calls; the additional staffing would help with those calls.

As of 3/31/22 we're up 20 runs from the same time in 2021.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 6/30/2022 at 6:30 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

