Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes September 10, 2012

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M. by Chairman, Bruce Ribelin. Present were: Frank Seman, Jack Ferguson, Fred Berry, Sharon Spencer and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Joseph Bica; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; Service Director, Kelly Engelhart; City Engineer, Bob Finney. Also attending was Donna Swigart of 528 East Riddle Avenue, Ravenna and Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna.

Mr. Ribelin noted that there was not a quorum present of committee members. Mr. Seman stepped in for Mr. Rainone.

Mr. Ribelin said the first item on the agenda is to discuss the school resource officer.

Mayor Bica said he is distributing a copy of the contract between the Ravenna School System and the City of Ravenna for the school resource officer. This is the same contract used previously with the school system. The only difference is that the school is paying 100% for the resource officer so the way the financial wording was done has been changed. They pay the per day charge for the officer, which would be 176 days for the year.

Mr. Ribelin said he knows the staff at the school and the building administrators are very happy to have this resource officer back. He thinks it's important that they do have someone in the buildings.

Mayor Bica said he and the service director were in the school this morning and the principal noted the difference already and they're only about a week and a half in school. It's proactive.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion is the contract with Akron Regional Air Quality Management District.

Ms. Engelhart said the health commissioner had a meeting with the Akron Regional Air Quality District. They are currently contracted with the health department to do the air quality surveillance and enforcement for the City of Ravenna. He met with them because the contract is going to be increasing significantly. Currently \$2,674.00 is being paid for this service. They are projecting that cost will go up to \$10,350.00. The good news is that the way the rate is calculated is based on the industries that are the largest emitters. The way other health districts do this is transfer that charge directly to the industries that are causing the pollution. The amendment in the contract is basically going to state that instead of the City paying the fee, the fee will be imposed directly onto the industries. She does not have that amended contract yet but she wanted to bring it to the committee. She hopes to have it by finance committee.

Mr. Seman asked who is going to notify the various industries that they'll be picking up the cost of this.

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Ms. Engelhart said Akron Air Quality District will be sending those notifications.

Mr. Finney asked if they are a division of the Ohio EPA.

Ms. Engelhart said they are run out of the Summit County Health Department. They do get funding from the Ohio EPA. That's part of the problem. Federal funding is decreasing so they are transferring the costs now onto the industries that are the pollutants. The original contract is dated 1992.

Mr. Finney said that for any commercial or industrial demolition, he requires the contractor to pull an air quality permit from this organization before he'll issue a demolition permit.

There being no further questions or comments, it was decided by those present that a tracking sheet would be submitted for Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Ribelin said that he would like to announce that there are going to be hearings on the East Main Saloon and Town Tavern, on their attempt for renewal of their licenses. The hearing will be held October 3 at 10:30 for EMS and 11:30 on that date for Town Tavern. Those hearings will be held in Council Chambers.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item on the agenda is driving while using wireless electronic communication devices. President Ricciardi passed a copy of an ordinance passed by Beachwood, Ohio prohibiting electronic texting while driving in the city of Beachwood. He asked this committee to look at it. Before this meeting, he asked Mr. Ricciardi if the State passed a texting ban that might have gone into effect at the beginning of this month.

Mr. Ricciardi said he hasn't actually compared this type of language to the State. He's not sure of any differences of contrasts or if this particular municipal legislation would be more controlling in terms of the behaviors they are seeking to eliminate or not. He thinks they need to compare that. If he hasn't already done so, maybe talk to the chief and get his opinion as to the benefit, if any, of a municipal ordinance. Often, as he said, our ordinances do mirror some state legislation. It wouldn't be unusual for that to be the case. It's just a question of whether or not it's desirable.

It was decided by those present that the issue would be held up until further information becomes available.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:40 P.M.

ATTEST:	
Clerk of Council	Bruce Ribelin, Chairman
	Public Health and Safety Committee