Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes July 16, 2012

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:40 P.M. by Chairman, Bruce Ribelin. Present were: Amy Michael, Frank Seman, Jack Ferguson, Fred Berry, Sharon Spencer and Fran Ricciardi. Also attending the meeting were Mayor Joseph Bica; Finance Director, Kim Cecora; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland and Utility Billing Supervisor, Mike Reynolds. Also attending was Nick Dudek of 328 North Prospect Street, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Ribelin said the first item on the agenda is the health task force update and they are unable to give that update this evening.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion is the car break-ins.

Ms. Spencer said she asked the matter be put on the agenda. She received a call last week from a resident on Gill Street who said there were several car break-ins, with tires slashed, on Gill Street/Vine Street area. She was very concerned about this. She sent Mayor Bica an email and she was, in turn, contacted by Captain Rarrick who very accommodating about the calls that came in and they discussed it at length. She knows the Record-Courier had printed a crime stopper article phone scams that were happening. She was hoping to do the same thing for these car break-ins; just telling the public they need to be cautious with their vehicles. Captain Rarrick said they have to realize that several of these cars were probably not locked. If you come up to an unlocked vehicle, it makes things really convenient just to reach in and take stuff. She knows they have had these problems in Ward 4. She would say that all of the wards have been impacted by this.

Ms. Michael said she knows an individual whose car was locked and her windows were smashed out of the car.

Ms. Spencer said according to Captain Rarrick, it's not really an organized gang but there are groups. He didn't really elaborate as to if they were young kids, or exactly what but he said they apprehended a few of the people who were involved in some of the break-ins. It would seem that maybe if they had something in the paper under a community watch or neighborhood watch, to give people some pointers about what they can do to protect their property. She would hate to think this is going to keep on citywide. It may impact a lot more people than it is right now.

Mr. Berry said he thinks they are going to see that it is much more than citywide. This is a nationwide issue. There was a husband and wife team who were arrested caught breaking into cars not too long ago. They were arrested, spent time in jail, they got out and picked up right where they left off. He doesn't honestly see how they are going to stop it.

Mr. Ribelin said he agrees that perhaps between the mayor and police chief, they can put an article in the paper.

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion are the participant contracts for the KSU Health Study.

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Mr. Cecora explained they talked about recouping some of the monies that weren't spent on a health commissioner and look at a health needs assessment. The question that came out of committee was, how about one of the other entities wanting to participate. They came back and have the City of Kent and Portage County participating in the study. The Portage County share will be 53% of the total cost. The Kent share will be 13%. Ravenna is about $1/3^{\rm rd}$. They did get some participation. What they are asking if they may draft agreements so they can record the revenues. This is bringing the money in from the other communities so they can move forward with the assessment. Ravenna City will also get an individual assessment out of this. The entire assessment will be \$25,000.00. The City's share will be \$8,446.00. The County's share is \$13,300.00. It will all be spelled out in the contract.

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

Mr. Ribelin said the next item on the agenda are the police and fire vehicles.

Mr. Cecora said they talked about replenishing some of the fleet. In the past they have done it by purchasing a squad every five years. They have been doing it on a lease cycle with the ambulance but the police cars, it's been about two or three years since any cruisers have been purchased. The pros and cons are that they can get into a perpetual lease deal as long as they don't lease too many of them. They are trying to reduce the cost of maintenance on these. They went into the budget commission meetings with the idea that they would look at where the capital improvement budget is, how long they want to go out on leased cruisers and how much can they afford to spend on leased cruisers. It was built into the budget under the capital reserve item for 2013 on. If they were going to execute this year, they said they would do it by ordinance. When they built the long term capital plan, an ambulance was put in every five years. They've got three cruisers rotating in on a three year cycle. They haven't done this in the past and have just purchased. Chief Adkins needs two or three cruisers, they buy them. They have been on a lease cycle with the ambulance. He'd like to see if this really works. If they can, on a four year term with the cruisers; it's a lease to own at the end; is it going to beat the maintenance costs down because they are going to continually turn them. He spoke with the officer in charge of the fleet in the Police Department. His take on it was by the time you are at the end of the fourth year, you are starting to cycle a lot of costs back into these vehicles. If every year they put \$60,000.00 in the budget it and buy, it's eventually going to catch up with them. If they look at spending \$30,000.00 a year on the lease for four vehicles; \$30,000.00 a year for lease in Fire. That's just one ambulance. He'd like to check it out and see how it works out. It stretches the cash a little bit inasmuch as two cruisers at \$30,000.00. They don't have to do it at \$60,000.00. The other side they all know, with a lease there is a longer term commitment. They have to go out four or five years, whatever they wish to do. This is not a ten year deal or anything too long. Right now, they want to replace the Explorer/Expedition in the Police Department with a truck. They think it's far more serviceable and useable. They are looking at one truck and three

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cruisers. He bundled it up and on a four year, 48 month deal, he got it in at about \$31,000-\$32,000.00 a year. That will be the cost of the lease through that cycle. At the end of that four years, they will evaluate where they are, take look at repair and maintenance and see if they wish to continue on this path or go back to the traditional method of buying.

- Mr. Ribelin asked if Mr. Cecora thinks the lease on the ambulance was worthwhile.
- Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative noting they are well over \$175,000.00 each. Chief Cleveland got a good trade-in deal on this. It used to be \$125,000.00 would buy you an ambulance. Not any more. It's pretty expensive. They have been leasing that. The last round they leased and it worked out pretty well.
- Mr. Cecora said that he thinks everybody knows that streetscape is about done. Honeywell is coming on board. There is a revenue side to that.
 - Ms. Michael asked when they would start seeing a revenue for the dispatch center.
- Mr. Cecora responded that they are seeing a revenue right now but that revenue is currently being used to pay off the debt. Right now, what they have done, for the duration of those bond anticipation notes, or the debt they are holding and carrying on that dispatch renovation, receipts go directly into paying down the debt. That way it's not going to stretch out the capital improvement fund any more than it should.
 - Mr. Ricciardi asked if that was the whole fleet, a truck and three units.
 - Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative.
 - Mr. Ricciardi noted then they aren't talking about bringing other units on line.
- Mr. Cecora said that's not the entire fleet. That's just what they can afford to replace right now. If they had their druthers, Chief Adkins wanted to do seven cars and a truck to the tune of around \$240,000.00. He had to pare it down.
- Mr. Berry noted that they also wanted to get away from the white automobiles and get back to the traditional black and whites.
- Mr. Cecora said that was correct and that they are staying with the Chargers, Chrysler products, six cylinders.
- Mr. Ricciardi said they are still going to have maintenance costs in terms of the other vehicles that aren't coming in.
 - Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative.
 - Mr. Ribelin said that will be on a rotation basis.

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Mr. Cecora responded said they will turn out the really old ones that are hitting them for repairs. It's been built into the budget. He wants to make sure the committee understands the game plan and how it fits into the budget.

Mr. Ricciardi asked if they anticipate, at some point down the road, leasing all the units.

Mr. Cecora said it would be nice to try it. Right now, the money is out there at 2.7% on the lease which is a pretty good value. It all depends on the cash flow situation and where they are positioned four and five years from now. \$30,000.00 a year is a pilot. They are going to see how it works. If it really proves they are beating the maintenance costs down and all of a sudden, vehicle maintenance has diminished significantly, they can look to reinvest capital dollars. The plan is to save money on the operations side of the general fund, where they are struggling.

Ms. Michael asked if the vehicles would be serviced by the people they are leasing the vehicles from.

Mr. Cecora responded in the negative. He said there is a dealer in Southern Ohio with great state pricing. The vehicles are serviceable anywhere. The only exposure they have is in year four. But according to the officer, year five is when those repairs really start piling up. He's not saying they won't have basic routine maintenance. Hopefully, the big ticket items though, they can do away with. They have budgeted around \$30,000.00 a year for Police Vehicle Maintenance.

Ms. Michael asked if there isn't a city employee at the Street Garage who does vehicle maintenance.

- Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative stating that includes what Bob Leindecker does.
- Mr. Berry asked if they are talking about the basic police cruiser.
- Mr. Cecora responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Berry noted then all of the items they approved previously, they would still be looking at the improvements being made to the automobiles.

Mayor Bica said the only thing that is not included would be the rocket device in the trunk for the wireless connection. That is all included. The light bar, decals, etc.

Mr. Cecora said the one caveat to this is Chief Adkins wanted to upgrade some video cameras in the cars. He asked if it was essential to the new vehicles and Chief Adkins said he would like to put them in. There was \$35,000.00 put into the budget per year. This lease came in at \$30,000.00. There is enough over the life of the lease to carry the cost of the upgraded video equipment. He will be working with Chief Adkins on that to get that into the budgeted amount.

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He wanted to make sure they knew it wasn't with the equipment package. He doesn't want to come back and surprise them. They can get it in but only because the cost of the lease came down significantly.

Ms. Michael asked if these replace vehicle that don't have the video equipment.

Mr. Cecora said there are three vehicles that don't have updated technology right now. Those are the ones being turned in. The others already have the new technology. He spoke with Chief Cleveland who got a pretty good deal and rather than try to sell the old ambulance outright, they are going to trade it in and roll it up into the lease.

Mr. Berry asked if they move forward with the sharing of services discussions will that affect it.

Mr. Cecora said they are going to need one either way. They will need a new vehicle anyway. It's giving them all kinds of problems. Whether or not there are melded services in the future, it is a necessary piece of equipment to serve either the City or the region.

Mayor Bica said where they would really question it is if it were something like a new pumper and if it made sense to purchase it at this time and what is that overall value if they do blend services. The ambulance is something that they absolutely, desperately need. It's the highest used piece of equipment they have.

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

Mr. Ribelin said the next item for discussion is the fire hose in the fire department.

Chief Cleveland said there are a number of hoses that have failed and hose sections that have failed the yearly post-testing. They put those irreparable sections up for auction. Those hoses need to be replaced to have adequate water supply for fires. They are requesting \$5,000.00 from the capital improvement fund. That will not put them back where they were but it will get them by. They will look at it at the end of the year to see where they are at with supplies and materials out of their operating funds and perhaps get more hose.

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

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:07 P.M.

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