



COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MAY 4, 2015

Committee Members Present: Scott Pelot
 Dennis McGlone-Excused
 Danny Grether-Excused
 Dennis Pierson
 Paul Tousley
 Charlotte Whipkey
 Rick Rodgers

Also Present: Mayor Mike Zita
 Valerie Wax Carr
 Ron Messner
 Justin Markey
 Karla Richards
 Ann Campbell

The Committee Work Session convened on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Rick Rodgers, President of Council. Following a salute to the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a moment of silent prayer. Mr. Rodgers asked everyone to keep the family of Mr. Jim Mitchell-Clerk of Courts in prayers as his mother passed away this weekend. Mrs. Richards reminded everyone to please remember to lean directly into your microphones when speaking. Mrs. Richards noted she has worked with our IT Department last week and the sound has been adjusted to the best setting possible. Mr. Rodgers stated that he had asked residents watching to call or text him if they were having problems with the sound.

General Topics of Discussion:

Presentation by Norton City School Supt. Dave Dunn-School Resource Officer

Mr. Rodgers tuned the discussion over to Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn stated that several years ago he had detailed discussions with former Chief Hete. We discussed grants and the costs involved and the reason it fell through was due to the costs. Due to the shared resources with many entities, he felt this is now time to review this with a collaboration of the schools and the City of Norton. Mr. Dunn explained the details of his proposal. The school district would pay 60% of the total cost of salary and benefits incurred offset by any of the DARE grants we might receive, the remainder would be paid by the City of Norton.

Mr. Dunn explained the details of the job description, highlighting the officer would: be assigned to the school district while school was in session and provide emergency support to the City Police Department; serve as the school Dare Officer; facilitate Safety Town; and would end up being a job description created by the schools and police department. The SRO's responsibilities would focus first and foremost as a law enforcement officer to keep the peace; secondly the officer would provide law related counseling on issues relating to students and act as a link to support issues inside and outside the school environment; thirdly, serve as a law related education teacher. The officer's duties would include: patrolling all schools throughout the district; interior walk-through's; outside door inspections; briefings for concerns; maintain visibility; make arrests; provide safety advice; and have daily interactions with students to bridge the gap between youth, the community, and law enforcement. The officer would be aiding in the current problems faced by students with drugs, alcohol, increased violence, cyber crime; and human trafficking, of which Ohio relates fourth in the nation. Mr. Rodgers asked for clarification on the DARE funds and Mr. Dunn stated we would take out the DARE funds received first and then the 60/40 split. Mr. Pelot asked for the time line desired and Mr. Dunn indicated he would like to have this in place by this fall, with the Board approval as well as Council. Mr. Pelot asked if the K-9 Officer would be involved and Mr. Dunn replied no. Mr. Tousley asked about the DARE officer and if we currently have one in place. Chief Dalessandro explained that there is a DARE certified process and we have two (2) DARE officers on the force; Officer Larry Lane and himself. Chief Dalessandro stated he is looking at applying for three (3) grants, a DARE, a Dep. Of Justice and a Cops Now grant. Chief Dalessandro noted that we cannot guarantee that we will get any of these funds. Mr. Pierson asked how many problems are we having in the school with drugs and violence? Mr. Dunn stated he did not have those numbers with him; however we do have a safe school. Do we have problems, of course and we would be kidding ourselves thinking we didn't, and we focus on prevention. Mr. Pierson asked about the open enrollment and if this has affected it any and Mr. Dunn replied this has not been an issue. Mr. Pierson asked what actually has brought this forward, was it the issues like Sandy Hook School? Mr. Dunn replied yes and anything we can do to help prevent that . Mr. Pierson asked for an example how a fight is handled in the hallway? Mr. Dunn stated the students are broken up and possibly suspended and added they are looking at preventing situations, not dealing with the aftermath. Mr. Pierson asked how many security officers he would like to see in the schools and Mr. Dunn replied this is a good start and you have to define the level of security on the needs of the community. Mr. Dunn noted that Barberton has three (3) officers with enrollment of 4,500 students, Copley has one (1), and he believed Wadsworth had one although he was not positive. Mr. Dunn stated the primary focus would be at the High School with about 850 students. Chief Dalessandro stated he has toured many schools and even heard from the Chardon Schools on this issue. Chief Dalessandro stated that today alone we had four (4) serious accidents in the City and if there were an issue in the school he would have limited resources to send for help. Mr. Tousley asked if this SRO would be on call for City duties and Chief replied no as he would be assigned to the school; however, if there was an emergency, he was sure we could pull the officer out of the school if needed. Mr. Pierson stated what he understands is that the City hires this officer and the school would send us the billable hours.

Mr. Dunn replied he felt it's best for the Police Dept. to handle the hiring because they know the skills and qualifications necessary. Mr. Rodgers stated that he felt there should be ongoing planning and information during the off season, and questioned if this officer would be working for the Norton Police Dept. during this time? Mr. Dunn stated the SRO would be leading in the schools emergency plan, etc. Mr. Pierson suggested a teaching license if this person would be teaching school safety. Mr. Dunn explained a licensed teacher does not need to hold the position and that this is about a shared SRO and if this does not happen, then the Board will need to address this option in another manner. Mr. Pierson asked if you have looked at hiring a part-time officer like from the Sheriff's Office? Mr. Dunn replied yes we have looked at this and the numbers are all over the place. If the Board were to do this we need to be sure we are hiring the best possible candidate as opposed to the cheapest. Mr. Pierson stated he personally felt the school should hire this candidate and if we can contribute later on then fine. He is not sure that the grant funds would even be into play since that runs from year to year; and as Chief Dalessandro stated there is no guarantee we will get this funding. Ms. Whipkey noted that currently the City is paying for the DARE grants and we get those funds into the City. Ms. Whipkey asked about what all is involved in after school activities? Mr. Dunn stated that we employ police officers for all after school activities. Mr. Dunn stated that other school districts have been successful and he noted that many others are shared positions with the cities, such as Barberton. Copley has done this with a single position at a much reduced rate. Ms. Whipkey asked what the shared percentages of these other communities are and Mr. Dunn stated most are 50/50. Ms. Whipkey stated she has concerns with the officer not being at the elementary school on any given day and some parents would be upset paying for something they don't get. Ms. Whipkey discussed the projected school year time frame of 178 days and the need for training and what time frames this may be. Chief Dalessandro explained the training for Dare was two weeks and SRO was one week. Ms. Whipkey stated she feels the school should foot more of the bill and the grant money should come our way for the City's share, it's not that we don't want our children to be safe. Mr. Rodgers asked if the Chief is up to full strength now and Chief Dalessandro stated he is currently at full strength with fourteen (14) full-time officers, however he is now down to just two (2) part-timers and would like more. Mr. Rodgers stated we are already having to provide extra manpower for next year and we have roads needing addressed, we also have a hard time for non-bargaining raises, etc; he believed the school should bear the burden. Mr. Pelot asked what the total costs are; it's all of our money and these are our children's safety we are talking about. Mr. Messner handed out the detailed cost information (see attached). Mr. Pelot stated if this officer is only working at the school during their school year, then maybe he or she could be on our roads the rest of the time. Mr. Pelot stated we all pay income tax here. Mr. Tousley asked if after the 178 days would he be on the City's payroll and Chief Dalessandro replied yes. Mr. Pierson asked if you ever considered this position to be a 1099 contracted employee? You don't always get the grant money as the Chief had previously indicated. A contracted employee would be cleaner and makes more sense financially. Mr. Dunn stated all of this would be in discussion with the Board members. Mr. Rodgers stated we need more meetings with the School and Administration. Mr. Rodgers asked how much do we get from a DARE grant usually and Chief Dalessandro stated in 2013 it was about \$10,000.00 and the other grant amounts were not available right now.

There was discussion to continue this until the next work session so more detailed numbers could be gathered. Mr. Tousley asked about the 178 days and what does this employee do on the closed days, holidays, snow days, etc? Chief Dalessandro explained he would be a full time officer and is due to receive vacation time either when the school is closed, or at other times. Mr. Rodgers asked if the School Board can afford this SRO officer and Mr. Dunn stated that is something the Board would have to answer. Mr. Rodgers asked if the Board had requested this proposal and Mr. Dunn stated they were aware he was making it. Ms. Whipkey asked if the the \$71,000 was for a full year and if this officer then works for the City the remainder of the year and what would the cost of the City be then? Mr. Messner stated that he would have to calculate this out on the increased hours for a full year. Mr. Pierson expressed concerns with possible overtime and if there is no dividing between the school/city. There has to be a contract and an equalization clause and if that SRO is getting excessive overtime how would this be handled? Chief Dalessandro stated that would be a contractual issue and he cannot see how an SRO would get any overtime. Mr. Rodgers asked about the officers working for the football games, basketball, etc. and Chief Dalessandro explained these officers are paid with 1099's and is at no cost to the City of Norton; those side jobs are not used in calculating overtime. Mr. William Paluch, 3740 Shellhart Road, Norton, Ohio, asked if we have metal detectors and cameras in our schools? Mr. Dunn replied we have cameras but no metal detectors. Mr. Paluch stated he believed we needed metal detectors along with a police officer. Mr. Jack Gainer, 3920 Wadsworth Road, Norton, Ohio, stated he feels there is some reluctance on this option and he was glad to see the school paying 60% for this SRO year around. It's like getting an officer that is on duty no matter where he is at or who he is working for at the time. The schools are a physical part of this City and the children and teachers have a right for their protection. If the schools feel this is important and needed, then you need to get together and work this out. No matter where you work in the City of Norton, you have a right to protect them. Ms. Whipkey stated earlier in the discussions, we had established that the school pays the 60% only during the school year. Mr. Gainer disagreed and that is not what was presented. It was clarified that the figures needed re-calculated for a full year. Mr. Rodgers asked Chief Dalessandro if any employees in this City or at Acme are ever not protected and Chief Dalessandro replied no.

2015 Paving Program Funding-General Discussion

Mr. Pelot stated he had discussed this with Mrs. Carr last week and the bids from the County have come back. Mrs. Carr stated that we got good prices, and we had budgeted \$550,000.00 but are about \$50,000.00 short. Mrs. Carr stated the bottom line is if we want to do Johnson Road, Gardner, Alternate #1 (Summit, McCoy Roads to the Barberton line) and Alternate #2 (Summit-Barber Road to McCoy Roads) this comes up to \$650,000.00 and we are short \$55,264.50 to be exact and suggested we move some money to cover this. Mrs. Carr noted that when preparing the Budget last year Mr. Messner saw this was coming and that we set aside \$100,000.00 in Fund #001-9000-59925 just for this purpose. Mrs. Carr stated that in addition to this, Mr. Pelot had asked where we are in the Benza road evaluation and they are about two thirds of the way done. Mrs. Carr stated she wanted to make sure about their report before spending funds for roads that they recommend something more costly.

Mrs. Carr stated she would like to see at least \$60,000.00 be transferred. Mr. Messner stated last year in the budget he had this sitting here just for the roads in case something like this came up. Mr. Messner stated he would need Councils approval for the transfer of funds. Mr. Tousley clarified about the inspection fee of about \$1,000.00 and was this per job or the overall total? Mr. White replied this is the total amount estimated by the County for two days. Mrs. Carr stated she also intends to have Mr. White out on site more this year. Mr. Pelot asked about the road reports and for Council to have a copy and also questioned the time to break ground. Mr. White stated that a full schedule has not yet been approved by the County and he anticipated this would be sometime from June to September and is based on what is best for each community. Mayor Zita stated it may be best that we are not the first on the list due to the heat and to make sure we get the proper adherence to the roads. Mrs. Carr stated that the bid was approved for Melway Paving. Mr. Rodgers stated that he hoped whoever won the bid, it wasn't their first rodeo. Mr. Tousley asked about the transfer of funds and if it included our entire wish list and Mrs. Carr replied that it did. Mr. Pierson asked about the performance bonds and Mr. White assured that would be in place. Mr. Pelot moved to place our selection with the two (2) alternates in with County paving program for 2015 on Councils next agenda, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Pelot, Whipkey, Pierson, Tousley, Rodgers
Nays: None

Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Rodgers moved to have legislation prepared for the proper transfers and funding for next weeks Council agenda, seconded by Ms. Whipkey.

Roll Call: Yeas: Rodgers, Whipkey, Pelot, Pierson, Tousley
Nays: None

Motion passed 5-0.

Zoning Inspector Position

Mr. Tousley stated the last discussion we had the Administration was still looking for candidates. Mrs. Carr stated that although she feels this area/department still needs reviewed with the building department moving to Barberton and the spring zoning issues arising. Mrs. Carr announced a part time position was appointed to Mr. Bill Braman, who is our Council officer and a Bailiff with the Barberton Municipal Court with one of his main duties is dealing with housing issues and is quite familiar in that issue area. Mrs. Carr stated she suggested there be a sixty (60) day time frame for all residents to really take a good look at their own property and get things cleaned up. We need to educate the residents with the proper tools to know what is allowed and what is not allowed. Mrs. Carr noted that this Saturday, May 9, 2015 is a large bulk pick up citywide. If you have a couch or mattress sitting in your yard, move it to the curb this Saturday and it will be collected for free.

We also need to educate and provide programs for the residents like a paint program, gardening stores to put beautification packages a discounted rates for the residents, etc. Mrs. Carr pointed out that even though Mr. Braman has not started the job yet, he has approached area businesses seeking to get discounts for citizens to improve their properties. Mrs. Carr stated right now the focus with Mr. Braman is to get the stack of complaints we have been dealing with. Mrs. Carr noted one resident got a certified letter directing them to address their issue and she felt the City has not done a good job educating the public in the past. Mr. Tousley asked if there is a title for this position. Mrs. Carr stated in the union classification there is a provision for Inspector and is at the probationary rate and is paid hourly part time. Mrs. Carr noted that this union is up next year and she would be working with this job description between now and then. Mr. Tousley thanked Mrs. Carr for all of her hard work and asked if she still needs Councils direction on the complaints. Mrs. Carr noted most of the high grass is not called in by the residents, more likely the Service Dept and most of those properties are vacant. Mr. Tousley asked if a City employee would need to document any issues and Mrs. Carr replied yes; we are looking at a more efficient method of documenting and we are looking at a door hanger system to educate the citizens, then if ignored we will do a certified letter. Mrs. Carr the door hanger is working well with the Service Department. Mr. Rodgers asked what are the ramifications of a certified letter not being addressed, and Mr. Markey stated it depends on the violation and is dependent on ordinance. Mrs. Carr stated it can go all the way to a misdemeanor depending on what type of violation this is. Mr. Rodgers stated he has two (2) hot issues in his neighborhood and one is on Clubside Drive. Mr. Rodgers stated the 60 day warning to the residents will take up most of the summer and these people have to live next door to these messes during this time. Mrs. Carr stated that the Clubside resident has been warned before and she feels the 60 days does not apply to them and in the past issues have not been stressed strongly enough. Mr. Rodgers discussed the current situation on the cider mill. Mrs. Carr stated that she has been working with the property owner and he has plans to make other improvements by July. Mrs. Carr noted some debris has been removed the severity of the cracks in the back wall need to be addressed. Mrs. Carr stated we do not have a structural engineer here and she will be working with Barberton on this matter as the structural integrity needs to be reviewed. Mrs. Carr stated she would provide Council with a time lime and would continue to work with this owner. Mrs. Carr asked Council if they feel someone is already in the so called pipe line with violations they would only have the 10 days to comply. Mr. Pierson stated if there is no paper trail the history of complaints, then the 10 days should not apply. Mrs. Carr stated that most of what she is seeing so far is that the complaints are mostly phone calls. Mr. Pelot asked if this was an issue with the Police Dept. union and Mrs. Carr replied no. Mr. Pierson asked if Mr. Braman's bailiff job changes due to elections next year, is it intended for him to become a full time inspector, and Mrs. Carr replied that discussion never even came up. There was discussion on the zoning code and the property maintenance code which we do not have. Mrs. Carr urged the residents to use common sense when looking at their properties and let us know if there is something you need help with and we will see if there are programs out there to help the residents. There was discussion about the job details and hourly rate and Mrs. Carr stated the rate is \$18.73 during the probationary period.

Future & Current Sewer Planning

Mr. Pierson stated we had talked in the past of not expanding sewers to anything other than Nash Heights. Mr. Rodgers stated that any projects that are in process now we should identify and continue. Mr. Rodgers stated he wants the Administration to come to Council with any thoughts of any future projects before they look to anyone else. Mr. Rodgers stated we need to define the Nash Heights area again, the location of the pump station, and to advise the engineering firm on what Council decides; it's time we set the course and follow it. Mr. Pelot agreed on the idea of future expansions but cautioned what is discussed on the floor, especially when it comes to economic development so we do not give people an unfair advantage. Mr. Pierson stated he felt Mr. Rodgers intent is that any plans or expansions come from Council and we decide if it's worthy or wise to move forward. We need to redefine the boundary of Nash Heights in compliance with the EPA requirement. Mrs. Carr stated as far as the engineering must come to Council because there is a \$10,000.00 limit Administration may spend and she cannot see getting any engineering for that amount. Mrs. Carr stated she is working with Mr. Markey on an itemized list of about 25 questions for Council to address and define in detail so that we get these ironed out and get it right for the bid process. Mr. Rodgers stated that he wants this done ASAP and a special meeting would be needed for this, in addition to the discussion with the EPA. Mr. Markey stated that the EPA is asking for a solid up to date time line for this project. Mrs. Carr stated without answers to her detailed issues we cannot provide the EPA or the engineers with a corrected time line and we all need to be on the same page. Mr. Rodgers pointed out that he believed if Council and the Administration were of one mind on the project, it would move a lot smoother and Council needs to set that direction so we are not going back and forth all the time. Ms. Whipkey asked about discussing where we are on the principal forgiveness issue. Mr. Rodgers explained that last Thursday we spoke with the EPA on this matter. They felt that applying for it could delay the project and enough people in Nash Heights would not qualify and they are still concerned about our delays. We chose not to participate in this battle, and we will not pursue that option this year. Mr. Rodgers asked if the funding that was applied for in 2016 is not everything? Mr. Markey stated he understands you apply for your entire loan funds going into 2016 for the total loan amount. Mrs. Carr stated we have nominated for this project for 2015, which is a placeholder. Mr. Messner has to certify that the funds would be available before we are award a contract. Ms. Whipkey agreed on what she heard from the EPA and even if we could, it was stated that next year it's likely even less dollars will be available. Mr. Pierson stated that their numbers were based on census numbers not on a study of the area in question and many people would be under \$35,000.00. Mrs. Carr explained the detailed report by Mr. White (see attached) and the County is showing 19% under \$35,000.00 looking at by block. Mr. Pierson stated monies to be saved should be considered pursued if the cost of doing so was appropriate and this is something we should always look at for future reference. Mr. Rodgers stated that none of this matter at this point, this project is in process. Mr. Rodgers stated he promised if there is another project, we will get it right from the very start. It was not blaming anyone as he believed we were all over whelmed by this. Mr. Messner stated that with some of the poorest communities, we would be even farther down on the list to be eligible. Mr. Rodgers assured the next time we are going to go for all of it.

Mr. Tousley added that this was not just the EPA's opinion but a representative from DEFA as well. Ms. Whipkey noted there were at least two others from DEFA and Mrs. Carr stated there actually three (3) members from DEFA and they are the ones that analyze and distribute the funds. Mr. Rodgers discussed a recent editorial in the papers from a Norton resident questioning him and other Council members that agreed with him on the County package plant and sewer line purchase. Mr. Rodgers stated that because one deal for Norton is not good, does not mean that the next deal will be better. It's all about getting the best deal for the citizens of Norton. Mr. Rodgers stated he would have some reflections to the Mayors letter that he would address next week during the Committee of the Whole.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Whipkey has asked again for the Administration to let the Boards and Commissions be aware that we have the two positions on the MAD. Ms. Whipkey stated that she would like to really get that out there and noted that the pay is \$50.00 per meeting. Mrs. Carr stated that she would work on getting this out there again and maybe even to City employees. Ms. Whipkey stated candidates had to live in Norton, be an active voter, and she would like to see more of a Board or Commission member. Ms. Whipkey believed that a full-time City employee could be viewed as being influenced by their employer by some people and preferred to keep away from that situation. Mayor Zita stated its always difficult getting our vacancies on these Boards & Commissions and it is getting harder.

New Business:

There was none.

Topics for the next Work Session:

SRO

Oriana House Agreement for 2015

CRA-Definition Review.

Public Comment-Agenda and Non Agenda Items:

Mr. William Paluch, 3740 Shellhart Road, Norton, Ohio, clarified that those people that earn less than \$24,000.00 if these people cannot qualify for assistance? Mr. Rodgers stated that there could be some programs available once we get to this point, but the across the board principle forgiveness is not available. Mr. Messner stated we would be looking at CDBG funds at this time. Mr. Paluch stated even residents making \$70,000.00 to \$90,000.00 a year will have a hard time to come up with the \$3,000.00 to connect, and asked if there is any way to reduce these cost? Mr. Rodgers stated that any cost relating to the project such as assessment costs and fees are not set until the project is built, completed and costs are determined. Mr. Markey confirmed the actual assessment amount is set after the final construction costs come in and is passed by Council. Mr. Rodgers added we were talking a couple of years down the road and the \$3,000 out of pocket was in addition to the monies for actually tying in.

Ms. Audrey Kornacki, 3008 Dutt Road, Norton, Ohio, discussed the swamp area along St. Rt. 21 and questioned what kind of businesses are looking to attract at this area?

Mrs. Carr stated that there are some developers who have looked at this area of development. Mrs. Kornacki stated that if they have that kind of money to develop in swampland; they should foot the sewer bill themselves, not the residents. Mrs. Kornacki stated last week she really paid attention to Mrs. Carr's comments and she appreciates what she is looking at. Mrs. Kornacki stated she felt the residents for the most part moved here because of the country life. Mrs. Kornacki stated she lived in a city for a while and she did not like it. When we moved into Norton she and her husband worked hard on their property, they paid for a septic system and they have it cleaned as required. Educate the residents and we will not have these problems, if they need help and it's available they just don't know where to go to. It's fantastic with the efforts to educate on other issues, but we need to focus on this now. Mrs. Kornacki discussed the SRO funds, and the school tax is $\frac{3}{4}$ of our property taxes. Mrs. Kornacki stated the big higher ups and Superintendents are making \$100,000 a year and its time to take a pay cut.

Mr. Rodgers discussed the CRA and that their property taxes are not coming in now because they are not there.

Public Updates:

Mayor reminded everyone of the Celtic-Beltane festival in the Park, (see attached)

Mrs. Carr reminded everyone on the Saturday Bulk Pickup (see attached)

Adjourn

There being no other business to come before the Committee Work Session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

Rick Rodgers, President of Council

NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE NOT VERBATIM

****ORIGINAL SIGNED AND APPROVED MINUTES ARE ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL.****

All Committee Meetings will be held at the Norton Safety Administration Building, unless otherwise noted.