

**VILLAGE OF CHAGRIN FALLS
SAFETY COMMITTEE
November 5, 2013**

Members present: Lutz, Evans, Newell
Also present: Mayor Brick, Himes, Zugan, Alunni, Edwards

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Janna Lutz.

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE CONTRACT (CHAGRIN FALLS SUBURBAN
VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION)**

Chief Zugan explained the specifics of the three-year contract. He said there is going to be a zero percent increase for the first year of this contract, a two percent increase in the second year of the contract, and a three percent increase in the third year of the contract.

Mr. Himes mentioned that their contracts are always contingent on the fact that all the communities sign. If one community were to back out it changes their numbers. It has really never been a problem before.

Moved by Mrs. Evans, seconded by Mrs. Lutz that we accept the EMS Contract as presented by Chief Zugan. Carried. Ayes: Lutz, Evans, Newell. Nays: None.

FIRE ALARM ORDINANCE

Chief Zugan said since we last met in November of 2012 we have had more fires with the same result, no smoke/fire detection system involved. The fire at Blue Cottage was called in as a motion detector alarm to the police who responded and walked around the building. Since they didn't see anything they left. The alarm company called the owner who responded, a half hour later. He opened the door and the building was full of smoke. Jekyll's Kitchen did have an alarm system but it was so old, not up to date, and not up to code. The fire burned for thirty minutes before it burned through the roof and that is when a passerby noticed it and notified us. The Joey's Restaurant fire took twenty minutes or so before the fire department was notified because employees tried to fight it and there was no fire alarm system. Caravan Splendors, dispatch was notified of a burglar alarm, because of glass breaking due to the fire. The result was that the fire department's response was delayed because they did not have a fire alarm. The Citadel fire was called in as an odor of smoke coming from the second floor. The fire alarm in this case was dismantled. Unfortunately there was a fatality. If it was up to code, as soon as someone takes that battery out it sends a signal to the alarm panel that it is being tampered with. For the Diblasi's fire people on the second floor saw smoke coming up through the floor.

Mrs. Lutz asked how much it would cost to install a fire alarm system? Fire Marshall Jim Alunni said for her building about \$7,000 but \$5,000 of that is the panel, which she could share with

everybody else in that entire strip of businesses. The wireless detector, installed, is \$300. Once it is installed it is the cost of a battery every year. If they went with phone lines for monitoring they would need two phone lines. A phone line is \$28 per month and if you have wireless GSM dialer it would be about \$70 per month. If they shared a panel they would only need to pay one monitoring fee for the entire strip of businesses.

Chief Zupan said we would like to see Council back us on getting some type of legislation enacted for some type of early fire detection system for buildings. With five major fire losses within two years we cannot afford another one. Our known options right now are:

1. Require fire alarms to be installed when a building files for a State of Ohio building permit. The drawbacks to that idea are the fact that much construction goes on behind closed doors in our village. It is often discovered during annual inspections far past the time when it was completed. Also, if we promote cost sharing between building and business owners they will rarely, if ever, be on the same time line. Some buildings will never pull a permit so they will never have a fire alarm. That not only affects them but their surrounding neighbors.
2. Require fire alarms to be installed within an allotted time period. This would require all occupants to have fire alarms systems installed by a predetermined time line. This would cover all buildings required and promote cost sharing.
3. The Village of Chagrin Falls purchases the fire alarm system equipment and tax the occupants for its use. The advantage here is that all equipment can be specified by the Fire Prevention Bureau. The costs would be lower by buying in bulk. We can ensure that the systems are implemented and properly maintained. The cost for equipment and installation would be made up in the first few years.

Mrs. Evans said she would endorse having some legislation right away that they require fire alarms to be installed when a building files for a State of Ohio building permit. Then they can look into doing more stringent things. Mrs. Lutz said since this wireless system is so much less expensive maybe it would be easier to implement.

Mr. Newell suggested that they talk to some of the building owners and see if they would be willing to have a quote provided to them and encourage them to do it voluntarily without any kind of ordinance or any kind of mandate.

It was agreed that they will work on writing some legislation. This will be discussed further.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Janna Lutz, Chairman
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