

**Ravenna City Council Public Health and Safety Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2019**

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by Andrew Kluge, Chairman. Present were: Amy Michael, Bruce Ribelin, Scott Rainone, Paul Moskun, Matt Harper, Rob Kairis and Joe Bica. . Also attending the meeting were Mayor Frank Seman; Finance Director, Kimble Cecora; Director of Public Service, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Police Chief Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Geoffrey Cleveland; Human Resources Director, Heather Richkowski; Larry Silenius of 123 North Walnut Street, Ravenna, Ohio; Clifford Soudil of 434 Woodland Street, Ravenna, Ohio and Tim Calfee of 910 Murray Avenue, Ravenna, Ohio.

Mr. Kluge said the only item on the agenda is the MARCs radio system.

Chief Cleveland said the top dollar could shave \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 off the top. They are looking at incorporating the radios from the Police Department. They haven't had a chance to evaluate those yet but if those are used, it could shave about \$30,000.00 off the price. The model of radio they are looking at could come in at another \$20,000.00 under that price.

Mr. Kluge said that he received a spreadsheet from Chief Cleveland. The total price they are looking at is \$108,050.00. Those are portable radios.

Chief Cleveland said he has quotes from vendors that are dated now. One is for one model radio that Kent is using and another is from the model of radio Streetsboro and Aurora are using, which is less. They haven't had both of those radios in their hands yet.

Ms. Michael said the original figure is \$108,050.00?

Mr. Kluge said that figure is for 24 portable radios and seven mobile radios and five pagers.

Ms. Michael said the Police Department has radios that could be used. If they could use those, what would the price be?

Chief Cleveland maybe it could be up to \$30,000.00 off the price.

Ms. Michael asked if the Police are currently using those radios.

Chief Wallis responded in the affirmative, also stating, after being asked, that they do work.

Chief Cleveland said they haven't had the chance to look at and evaluate them. Each radio will cost between \$200.00 and \$300.00 to put it into service. These radios are from five to 20 years old.

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Ms. Michael asked if the Police Department is currently using the radios, why would they have to put additional money into them; wouldn't they already be up and running? Do they have to change something on them?

Chief Cleveland said they would need to check the antennas, new batteries, pouches, programming and they would need monthly service fees. The batteries themselves are about \$150.00.

Mr. Kluge asked if there is a scenario where Chief Cleveland thinks those 18 radios would work and they could use them now and then roll out slowly getting new radios over time.

Chief Cleveland said they could do that or do they want to in light of the fact that they will be spending this money anyway. They haven't evaluated any of them and they're not leaning one way or the other yet.

Mr. Ribelin said he's not adverse to spending money, but they also have the radios Chief Wallis was able to get from the Turnpike and he certainly would like them to be evaluated to see if they work before buying all new radios. Maybe some of the radios are better than others, work better and they have to buy some new radios along with that, then that's where he is at on the issue.

Chief Cleveland said they are in the same place. The intent is to use the equipment that is made available to them if it is workable for them.

Ms. Michael asked where the number of 24 comes from for the number of radios.

Chief Cleveland said each member has a radio assigned to their person. They keep those radios with them at all times.

Mr. Cecora asked if the six would just be additional.

Chief Cleveland responded those would be spare radios. The way they have been forced to operate, one man has to monitor two channels at a time. They would like to have spares. His thought is they have 18 radios, if they find the PD radios are useful and are useable as frontline radios, they will probably take ten of them and make them in the frontline and keep the other eight just to swap them out instead of trying to repair those ten. This model of radio is no longer in production so they are going to be difficult to have them repaired or serviced. They have been out of production since 2013. They will take the radios not in service, swap them out as these radios become no longer useful.

Mr. Cecora asked then they are talking about 14 new radios, ten old ones in circulation, plus ten of the old ones as backup.

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Chief Cleveland responded in the affirmative. They hope to be ready for the MARCs system to be fully operational by June. The township is on the same timeline.

There being no questions or comments, it was decided by those present that the issue would be referred to the Committee of the Whole for further action, pending further evaluation of the radios by the Fire Department employees.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

Andrew Kluge, Chairman
Public Health and Safety Committee