



Ravenna City Council
Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023

The public meeting was held in person in City Council Chambers.

Council present: Council President Andrew Kluge, Amy Michael, Rob Kairis, Paul Moskun, Cheryl Wood, Tim Calfee, Christina West

Also attending the meeting: Mayor Frank Seman; Police Chief, Jeff Wallis; Fire Chief, Mark Chapple; Finance Director, Brian Huff; Service Director, Kay Dubinsky; City Engineer, Bob Finney; Council Clerk, Chelsea Gregor, Arasin Hughes, Amy Adams, Bill Barber, Lou Dudek, Larry Silenius, Cliff Soudil, John McFarland and Diane Smith

The Public Health and Safety Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:18 P.M. by Chairperson, Amy Michael.

The first item was the SAFER Grant.

Chief Chapple stated that the SAFER grant opened that day to apply for. He asked Council what will happen if the Fire Department does not receive the grant for additional fire personnel. Chief Chapple explained that it would be 9 months until new personnel could be hired if the grant were awarded and that 10% of staffing would be an addition of two new firefighters. He expressed his concern of still adding additional personnel if the grant is not received.

Mayor Seman stated that there have been two added personnel additions to the Fire Department in the last two years and that adding three new firefighters would cost the City approximately \$400,000 per year. He said that the City is in a good financial situation but there are still unknowns for the future. Mayor Seman stated that the Fire Department provides a good service and that the Chief is sticking up for the firefighters, but he would have to look at the funding carefully to see if hiring additional personnel is feasible.

- The item was moved forward.

The second item was the Ohio EMS Grant.

Chief Chapple stated that the item is to apply for funding for miscellaneous Fire Department equipment. He said that there is no match required and that they have received approximately \$3,500 in the past.

- The item was moved forward.

The third item was the Safety Intervention Grant.

Chief Chapple stated that the item is to receive funding to purchase two stair chairs and a Lucas device at an estimated cost of \$22,000.

- The item was moved forward.

The fourth item was a BWC Grant.

Chief Chapple stated that he would like to apply for the remainder of a \$15,000 max grant that the Fire Department applied for in 2018. He said that \$1,300 is left out of the \$15,000 and he would utilize the funds to purchase Nomex hoods and gloves.

- The item was moved forward.

Management Update

Mayor Seman stated that the need for additional firefighters has been discussed and that it will need to be looked at closer.

Mayor Seman stated that the Coleman office has moved out of the Phoenix Block building but the Bean and the Baker will remain in the building. He said that he is unsure where they relocated to and is unsure if that will affect the needs of people downtown.

Ms. Michael stated that there was a fire that broke out at Woodlands when an outlet arched and that there is water damage as a result.

Ms. Michael thanked Chief Chapple for his work applying for grants for the Fire Department.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Council

**Amy Michael, Chairperson
Public Health and Safety Committee**