



## **RICHFIELD VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2018  
6:30 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL:** Domanick, Healey, Lanford, Lyons and Wheeler. **ABSENT:** Hudak and Kahoe.  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mayor Beshara, Service Director Papp, Finance Director Turk.

### **Visit to Fire Department**

Chief McLean talked about the culture of the fire department, and how it is to be focused on safety, leadership and accountability. He said Lt. Bob Jones would be retiring after 35 years, so the department will need to replace him as a lieutenant and in his full-time position.

Lt. Jason Purkey said he has been Richfield's full-time fire inspector for two years. Richfield has 282 buildings with 360 occupants. He also conducts inspections for foster-care families, large tents, new construction and food trucks.

Lt. Eric Ellis is the Fire Training Officer, running sessions on Wednesday nights. Richfield cooperates on training with Brecksville. RJRD president Bob Becker was pleased with the new grass-fire truck, on which the crew was recently trained. Ellis also said the department now uses web-based scheduling instead of pagers.

Firemedic Kevin Urban demonstrated the new breathing apparatus. One advantage over the old units is the batteries do not have to be replaced. Another is the improved speaker system so the wearer can be understood more clearly.

Lt. Mike Lester began to talk about EMS, but he was interrupted by a call to a hit-skip accident on Pearl Road. McLean stepped in and said department members get 86 of EMS education annually.

hours?

Lester returned and discussed the department's relationship with University Hospitals. Dr. Dare comes to Richfield for the 5K run and the Sweet Corn Challenge. UH has given the department a good amount of equipment, including an automated CPR machine.



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Council was supposed to look at the new ambulance, but it had been dispatched to the accident scene. It is smaller than the previous vehicle, but it is comfortable and spacious. The department shopped around but ended up staying with the Horton company out of Columbus.

McLean said the department has 11 full-time and 20 part-time employees. Lt. Bruce Butler said the Richfield community needs more CPR instructors.

The chief said hometown boy Cory Tesmer would graduate soon to become a paramedic. McLean said the department needs to fill the assistant fire chief position.

Council took a look at the grass-fire truck in the garage.

### **Humphrey Road culvert**

#### First Readings:

#### **RESOLUTION 56-2018**

Offered by All of Council

#### **A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CAVANAUGH BUILDING CORPORATION FOR THE REPAIR OF THE HUMPHREY ROAD CULVERT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Papp said the culvert is in bad shape and the road is closed. Cavanaugh had the lowest bid, as the alternate bid with the reinforced concrete pipe was the same as its base bid.

Robert Glover of Mill Road asked if the berm would be wider. Papp said it would have better support.

### **Mayor's salary**

Gorman read Councilman Hudak's letter regarding the mayor's salary. Hudak stated that the mayor should be paid on the level of a department head. "Running an entity which now has



about 115 employees and an annual budget approaching 26 million dollars (including the capital commitments), without a properly compensated head administrator, is ludicrous,” he wrote.

Wheeler and Healey said the mayor’s salary should not be changed. Domanick said if it had to be reduced, it should be reduced to \$65,000. Lanford said the Richfield mayor’s job should be compared with that of communities with a similar number of full-time employees.

Beshara said the mayor’s salary is fair and that the job keeps getting bigger. Lyons said it was interesting that the proposed legislation (Ord. 44-2018) addressed the mayor’s salary and not that of Council.

Beshara noted that the mayor’s job is not classified as part-time or full-time. Wheeler said that if Richfield does not have a full-time mayor, other negative things can happen. Beshara reminded Council that Domanick had mentioned that a mayor could donate a portion of his or her salary back to the village.

Lanford said a switch to a city manager could have a greater initial expense but could result in savings in other areas.

#### **Insurance discussion**

Wheeler said employees are participating significantly at 12 percent, and the village is “really digging” to keep premiums under control. Turk said the village is also trying to control the cost of prescriptions.

For example, according to Wheeler, the village is able to put employees who need special medications on a separate plan from the rest of the pool, saving between \$7,000 and \$27,000.

Lyons adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeff Gorman  
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons  
Council President

