SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 10, 2009
5:30 P.M.

Council Committee Members: Chair Jed Morison, Ben Kessler, Mark Masser

1. Call to Order – All members present.

2. Others present: Mayor Brennan, Lou Chodosh, Beecher Hale, Bill Harvey, Larry Heiser, Bruce Langner, Jeff McClelland, Chief Rinehart, and Rick Weber.

2. Approval of Minutes for February 10, 2009 Safety Meeting.

3. Report of Chief of Police- Chief Rinehart said with the warmer weather, there has been more activity with the students. He said they had received a complaint regarding speeding on Euclaire Avenue and a study was conducted.

   Chief Rinehart announced the Police Department received notification of a possible $20,000 due to the stimulus package. He said that these funds have very strict guidelines and regulations. The police department staff will be working to find the best use for these funds that will meet all of the guidelines and requirements. Mr. Morison asked if perhaps these funds could be applied to a green initiative for the police station facility. Mr. Kessler suggested possibly looking into a Prius. The Chief said he had been conducting a research on that topic and studies show that a V-6 engine is more durable and better equipped for the amount of idling that is customary for a police cruiser. He stated some of the vehicles with V-6 engines have the same green features as the Prius. He stated he is still researching the matter and will provide that information to Mr. Kessler for his review. Mr. McClelland asked if $20,000 was the maximum amount. Chief Rinehart answered the actual amount is $20,840 and it would be the maximum. He said the stimulus funds to be applied for are based on population and crime rates for each area. Mr. McClelland agreed with Chief Rinehart that it would not be feasible to use these funds for any ongoing projects due to the fact that it would be a one time funding.

   Mr. Weber stated that he had one comment regarding the speeding on Broad Street. He had previously contacted Chief Rinehart regarding this issue and received an excellent response explaining the differences in police philosophy. He said that he would forward that email to all Council members because it certainly enlightened him. It explained how priorities are set for the Police force concerning crime patrol

versus traffic control. He agreed that it is very important for the police to be known throughout the community and be a "known" partner.

4. Progress of Police Station – Chief Rinehart stated that the construction of the new facility is continuing to progress. He said that not only is the structure up but the yellow boards and stairs as well. Anyone who goes to the site should introduce themselves to the supervisor, Mr. France.
a. Change orders – No change orders at this time. Mr. Masser stated that he is only interested if there are any large item change orders.

5. Report of Mayor/Safety Director- Mayor Brennan stated that he had met with Eloise Buker, Ph.D. who is going to be conducting a study in Bexley of all signs, traffic, and some parking restrictions on Sherwood, Francis and Pleasant Ridge etc. She is very intelligent and has volunteered to help the City.

Mr. Weber stated that there had been a sub-committee of the Tree Commission a few years ago that did a similar study. He stated that they may have records or documents that could be of assistance to Ms. Buker. Mr. Masser recalled that there was also a study done in 1990. Mr. Weber said the one he is referring to is probably the most recent one. Mr. Kessler suggested that perhaps the Master Land Use Plan Committee could meet with Ms. Bucker regarding that study. Mayor Brennan thought that would be a good idea and stated that Ms. Buker will be looking at several different areas throughout the City.

6. Discussion of Dog Ordinance
a. Should Dog Ordinance be amended to include permit process?

The majority of Council did not want to support an Ordinance which would allow an increase in the amount of dogs that Bexley residents are able to own. Mr. Masser stated that the Council members had previously put a lot of time, thought and effort into the original Ordinance. He did not understand how someone could break the law and then turn it into an emotional issue and expect the law to be changed. Mr. Morison said that he received a lot of feedback from residents, most were opposed to a change and a few were sympathetic. He said residents were certainly welcomed to bring additional information before Council but he had not received any information since the last meeting. Mr. Morison had some concerns regarding the proposed changes based on whether or not you received any complaints from the neighbors. He said it is difficult to be placed into a position where you are not happy with a neighbor and yet you don't want to cause any problems. He felt any proposal would pit neighbors against neighbors. Mayor Brennan stated that the policy in Central Ohio areas is 2 or 3 dogs maximum. He did receive some input from residents and the majority was opposed to any change. In addition, Mr. Morison stated that he did not any future change due to the increased workload as a result for the Animal Control Officer. Council was in agreement to no longer pursue any options regarding a future Ordinance request. Mr. Chodosh stated that he thought it would be wrong for Council to send out a message that residents should continue to work researching a subject that Council is not in support of. He said there was also a

misleading letter to the editor stating that the City has just started to enforce this law. Everyone that comes into Court states that they didn't know about a law. That can not be used as an excuse and the City has enforced this law all along. Mr. Chodosh stated that he was encouraging Council to take a very dim view of this permit proposal. Council members stated that any opponents are certainly welcome to submit information for review to Council but that they did not want to encourage anyone to spend a lot of time on research based on the Council's decision at this time.

7. Other Business – None.

- Next meeting –April 14, 2009

8. Adjourned: 6:05 p.m.