Village of South Russell
Police Department
5205 Chillicothe Road, South Russell, Ohio 44022

Chief of Police
Michael J. Rizzo

Phone: 440-338-6700
Dispatch: 440-247-7321

SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 26, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. @ SRPD

Approval of Minutes
Minutes of the May 13, 2026 Safety Committee Meeting were approved as amended to correct the date of the meeting.

Golf Cart Ordinance
The Chief reported a conflict in the Village's golf cart ordinance. Previous revisions aligned the ordinance with Ohio law by allowing golf carts on roadways with speed limits of 35 mph or less; however, Bell Road remained listed as a restricted roadway. The committee supported removing Bell Road from the restricted list while keeping Chillicothe Road prohibited. The Solicitor will prepare the ordinance amendment for Council consideration. The Chief also reviewed golf cart registration, inspection, and licensing requirements and reminded the committee that operators must possess a valid driver's license when operating on public roadways.

E-Bikes and Mini Bikes
The committee discussed concerns regarding the increasing use of e-bikes, e-scooters, and modified minibikes in residential neighborhoods. The Chief explained that current Ohio law regulates e-bikes similarly to bicycles and recommended continuing education and enforcement under existing laws rather than adopting new local regulations at this time. The committee agreed to continue monitoring complaints and revisit the issue if conditions warrant.

Upcoming Community Events
The committee reviewed the Mayor’s proposed America 250 celebration, with discussion centered on the overnight camping portion of the event. Members expressed concerns regarding supervision, liability, public safety, and the logistics of allowing overnight camping if the event were open to the general public. The committee requested clarification regarding participant eligibility and recommended limiting camping to organized Scout groups with designated adult supervision, a defined camping area, and appropriate restrictions.

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Old Business – Village Hall Renovation

The Chief provided an update on the Village Hall renovation and office relocation project. Work includes relocating the IT room, replacing outdated wiring, improving lighting, removing old insulation, and correcting maintenance issues discovered during demolition. Contractors are expected to begin construction at the end of July, with completion anticipated in approximately one month. Administrative offices and the Building Department will relocate to the renovated space, creating a more efficient centralized operation with expanded public service capabilities. Plans also include improved records storage, dedicated workspace for reviewing building plans, and preservation of historical Village records in a secure, climate-controlled environment. The committee discussed evaluating the new office arrangement for approximately one year before determining future use of the former Building Department offices. The Chief also noted that future implementation of online permitting is expected to reduce in-person traffic and improve customer service.

Old Business – PD Staffing

The Chief reported that recruitment for full-time police officers continues to be challenging due to a limited pool of qualified applicants throughout the region. Additional recruitment advertisements will be placed in a broader geographic area in an effort to attract more candidates. The Chief explained that recent probationary employees were determined not to be suitable for continued employment and emphasized the importance of maintaining hiring standards rather than filling vacancies quickly. He expressed confidence in the department's current personnel and stated that recruitment efforts will continue until qualified candidates are identified.

New Business

None

The next Safety Committee Meeting was set for Friday, July 17th at 9:00 a.m.
(Later changed to Special Council Meeting to conduct interviews.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.