

VILLAGE OF CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS
PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING
March 20, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Mayor Bacci called the meeting to order, Clerk Unger called the roll. Those present were Mayor Bacci, members Matt Sokolich, Dave Volek, Shireen Mitchell, and Todd Bloam. Also present: Law Director Heather Vlasik, Building Commissioner Norm Casini, and Village Engineer Todd Sciano.

MINUTES:

Mr. Volek moved, seconded by Mr. Bloam to approve the minutes of February 20, 2013. All voting aye, none opposed; motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor made the statement that this will be an informational meeting instead of a formal business meeting. No formal action will be necessary.

Mr. Casini, the Building Commissioner gave the details concerning the gun range along Rt. 77 on North East Ohio Regional Sewer District property. Mr. Casini stated that a variance was not necessary due to the law department's review of the Codified Ordinances. Mr. Casini then introduced Mr. Todd Cox of the Sheriff's office to explain in detail the gun range.

Mr. Todd Cox spoke on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, giving a quick detail of the range, and what it would be used for. Sheriff Cox told the board that he was a 13 year veteran of the Sheriff's Office, and he would be in charge of the proposed range. He then asked if there were any questions.

Mrs. Mitchell asked where the current range was located. Sheriffs Cox said it was currently at the Justice Center. It is 35 years old, and needs updating. The Sheriff's Office has approximately 400 current deputies, and they have a need for a new range that would be centrally located and available to any Police group.

Sherriff Cox replied that there will be 30 stalls, but only 5 will be used at one time. They went over the size of the weapons that would be used, and the kind of targets that will be used. He explained that the range will have 8 foot berms and the backstop will be 30 feet. At the gate there will be a daily log, and the gate will be manned 24/7.

Mr. Bloam asked if it would be open year round. Sheriff Cox replied, yes. He also explained that this location was picked because it was centrally located and it is an area free from any residents.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if the bullets would be recycled. Sherriff Cox explained that yes they would be. There will be a rubber background that is soft and it will contain the bullets being shot. They will then be able to take the rubber away and replace it with new rubber and recycle the bullets.

Mrs. Mitchell also asked who uses the range. Sherriff Cox explained that anyone in the police force in Cuyahoga County will be eligible to use it, and if they were asked by another law enforcement agency outside of the County, they would also be able to use the range. There will be a fee in order to use the range, but Cuyahoga Heights will never have to pay the fee since we are the host community. The ratio of range officers to shooters will be 1:5.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if sound was going to be a concern. Sherriff Cox replied that we are not exceeding the sound levels of normal street noise. This will not be a disturbance to anyone.

Mr. Volek stated that he uses a rubber base at his range, but he has to travel to Garrettsville to shoot. The Mayor said that our guys have to go to Bellevue for SEB, which is a regional tactical team. Mr. Volek also asked about the building structure. Sheriff Cox explained that it would be a pole barn design with classrooms, bathrooms, showers, and an armory to service weapons and storage. He also said that no guns will be stored in the building. The Mayor stated that anything done in that area will be an upgrade to the land.

Mrs. Mitchell asked about the time schedule for getting it up and running. Sherriff Cox said that they would like to get it out to bid as soon as possible. They would like to begin on the 1st or second of April and finish by the end of April. They will then make continuous upgrades over the next 2-3 years. He was asked if they were buying or leasing the property. They will be leasing the property for a term of 30 years for one dollar.

Mrs. Mitchell asked the Mayor if we could do some shooting now in order to see what the noise will sound like. The Mayor replied that he would try to accommodate her request sometime this week.

Sherriff Cox wanted to reiterate that the area is very safe, and someone will be there 24/7 for monitoring. He also stated that they will use a temporary trailer until they can build the new buildings.

Wherefore there is no more business in front of the Board, Mrs. Mitchell made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Volek seconded it. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Meeting ended at 6:35 pm.