

**VILLAGE OF BALTIMORE
SPECIAL APPOINTED COMMITTEE
FIRING RANGE DISCUSSION
SEPTEMBER 27, 2017
6:30 PM**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Council President Mohler at 6:35pm.

ROLL CALL:

APPOINTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Dwayne Mohler, Chuck Keller, Bob Hankison, and Jim Hochradel

Also in Attendance: VA Teri Wise, Police Chief Mike Tussey, Fiscal Officer Brian Bibler, Council members Tony House, and Mike Hamilton

Council President shared some housekeeping rules. We need to keep this orderly. There will not be a final decision tonight because anything the Committee decides has to go before full Council whose next meeting is October 9th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: None – This is the first meeting of this specially appointed committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Keller made the motion to amend the Agenda to add that the meeting shall not last more than 2 hours. Hankinson seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion to amend the Agenda was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Keller made a motion to approve the amended Agenda and Hankison seconded. The motion to approve the amended Agenda was approved by a 4-0 vote.

PURPOSE OF MEETING STATEMENT:

- *The Village of Baltimore Council has appointed a special purpose committee to specifically discuss the issue of the Baltimore Firing Range*
- *The intent of this public meeting of this special committee is to discuss the topic of the Firing Range further.*
- *This Committee's target timeline to complete its purpose is on or before Monday, October 9, 2017.*

VISITORS: Ernie Mock, Rusty Mock, Michele Stitzlein, Jerry Ayers, Sally Ayers, Karen Santore, Don Santore, Dick Weaver, John Donley, Judy Orr Rastatter, Jill Hoshor, Donna Fisher, Greg Fisher, David Donley, Jerry Mock, Bob Kalish, Charles Prince.

Each person addressing the Committee will have 5 minutes to speak the same as during a Council meeting. All visitors will be listened to and then what direction we want to go can be determined.

DISCUSSION:

- Ernie Mock, Fairfield County Resident – Just wanted to thank you for the meeting.
- Rusty Mock – Members of the Committee had asked him to look into cleanup of the lead bullets if the range is closed. He contacted the Ohio EPA. They sent him best management practices for lead at outdoor shooting ranges. He printed pertinent sections.
- The EPA inspected the range earlier this year and found no hazardous conditions exist. There are several options.
 - **Closing Option 1**
Shut it down and leave the backstop as is. Do not clean it up.
Certain conditions that would trigger a mandated cleanup are: selling or developing the property or the EPA determines there is an immediate health risk.
Neither the EPA nor Rusty would recommend Option 1.
 - **Closing Option 2**
Shut it down and start a separate fund to set aside money over time for the cleanup of the backstop when you have the funds available...
The EPA said they have done this before.
 - **Closing Option 3**
Clean up site right away.
Once done we call EPA

-
- **Cleanup Option 1**
Dig up all the dirt with the bullets in it, put it in 5 gallon drums and ship it to a hazardous waste disposal site.
Estimated cost \$55,000.00
 - **Cleanup Option 2**
Clean the bullets out of the dirt using a screening machine. The bullets will be recycled and dirt used for reclamation.
Estimated cost \$10,000.00

He prefers Cleanup Option 2. He is willing to work with the Village so that the potential cost would be zero. He is still waiting on responses from the EPA in order to determine if that is possible.

Once the lead is removed the EPA needs to be contacted to do an inspection and close the site out so that everyone knows the lead has been remediated.

- Michelle Stitzlein – She shared her thoughts. The range is not safe for 2017, it is a 1950's shooting range. Continuous upgrades are expensive which would cost the Village of Baltimore a lot of money over time. This is a good opportunity to provide the Police access to a better location. The range is not state of the art.
- Jerry Ayers, Baltimore Resident – He wanted to thank Council for taking charge of the situation. He said he is experienced at raising funds. He feels the range needs to be shut down and the lead removed.
- Sally Ayers – No comment.

- Karen Santore – The majority of people want to see it go away. If it can't be made to go away, improvements are needed and would cost more money. Consider making improvements if it is kept open and consider the cost of those improvements. She appreciates the efforts to come to the table and talk about the issue.
- Don Santore – No comment.
- Dick Weaver – Will speak later.
- John Donley – We own farm adjacent and we are opposed to the range and its future existence. Clean up probably would be more than \$55,000.00. Do away with it.
- Judy Orr Rastatter – Are there sniper guns and rifles being used? The Chief answered her question about the types of guns being used at the range.
- Jill Hoshor – Where do snipers shoot into the berm or is there a separate area to the north? The Chief answered that there is an area to the north that the snipers would utilize.
- Donna Fisher – Thank you to Council and everyone that is here. She was awakened at 8:30 this morning by the noise. She is concerned about semi-automatic and automatic weapon fire.
- Greg Fisher – He wanted to know if both the rifle and pistol ranges are being considered for shut down. Council President Mohler said the discussion is for both. Can you justify putting money into something that is so controversial? He is for cleaning the lead out of the dirt.

Hochradel wanted to confirm that the dirt left after screening out the lead would stay on site. He was told that it has to.

- David Donley – Commented about trees with bullet holes in them. He wants the range shut down.
- Jerry Mock – He stated that he has provided pictures / evidence. This is not a vendetta; he believes that things just got out of control. Talked about safety as he has for the past year. He said it is an unsafe gun range and an attractive nuisance that needs shut down.

Hochradel wants to know the cost to have the Police to qualify elsewhere. Chief Tussey talked about proposed places and possible costs. Hochradel presented some information about two local ranges.

Keller would like more cost figures for the options before he can make a decision. If it would be restricted to qualifying just our officers, that would limit the use of the range to four days a year. He understands everyone's position; he just wants to take everything into consideration.

There was discussion about the Village's liability and trespassing at the range.

The Chief offered his opinion that the Police qualify elsewhere. His recommendation cost wise and for the good of the Village is to close the range and possibly eventually turn it into a park.

- Richard Weaver said that the people do not want it. The cost of certifying officers elsewhere is negligible. This could all have been avoided through open communication.

Hankinson said the Sheriff provides us services such as dispatching for free. In exchange for that, we let them use the range. Now that they have a different place the range is used a lot less. He wondered about shooting at Township ranges.

Mohler understands everybody's concerns.

Hochradel made a motion to Council that the Committee recommends to close the gun range. Hankinson seconded the motion. There needs to be options to present by the next Council meeting. We need to make sure that the requirements are followed.

Keller wants to know an accurate cost to close the range. He also wants to know the cost for training. He wants the information in writing, not just hearsay.

Motion was made by Hochradel and 2nd by Hankinson to take to Council a recommendation to close the range.

The motion passed by a 3-1 vote.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The minutes of the meeting will be available for review by the public at the Village office located at 103 W. Market St., Baltimore, Ohio or on the Village website: www.baltimoreohio.org.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S)

No other meetings were deemed necessary by the committee at this time.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting and all were in favor by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Dwayne Mohler, Council President