

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. in Conference Room A of the McFarland Municipal Center by Chairperson Adrian.

Committee Members Present: Trustees Jerry Adrian and Tom Mooney, and citizen members Kathy Lyons, Ken Machtan..

Committee Member Absent: Sandy Bakk, Barbara Zabawa, and Rich Staley

Staff Present: Charles DiPiazza, Emergency Management Director; Fire/Rescue Chief Chris Dennis; Pauline Boness, Community Development Director; and Tom Innes, Clerk.

Others Present: Mark Roffers (MD Roffers Consulting).

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mark Roffers of MD Roffers Consulting spoke to the committee regarding the renewal of the Village's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan, by State statute, must be renewed every 10 years. The Plan acts as guide for future land use and development for the Village.

According to Roffers, the new Plan will be developed in three stages. The first stage consisted of gathering background information and data about the village [information that was included in the PSC packet]. The second phase, which was nearing completion, concentrated on local participation. This phase consisted of meeting with community organizations, Village committees, as well as a community survey to gather information for development of the new plan. The third and final stage would be to develop a draft a plan document of policies and recommendations. Completion of the third phase is expected to be in early 2017. Roffers was meeting with the PSC as part of the second phase of the plan development.

Roffers asked the committee for their thoughts and concerns from a Public Safety perspective. Items for consideration from the committee included the following:

- The need for a secondary business district away from Highway 51
- The return of a medical clinic to the Village
- Growth of Village services and economic base
- A movement to make McFarland more pedestrian friendly
- Greater links to public transportation
- The need for more senior services

Adrian also felt that there needs attention to paid to space availability for the Village to expand. Roffers stated that the plan would include both ideas for new expansion as well as development of areas already in the Village.

Lyons suggested that McFarland should capitalize on its proximity to the lake especially access to the water.

Mooney suggested that there needs to be improvement in the ability for pedestrians and bicyclists' ability to cross highway 51, either by an elevated crosswalk, underpass, or pedestrian islands.

Chief Dennis noted that there would likely be a staffing impact in the coming years in regards to an increase in population, the aging of this population, and the trend of more community care.

3. STAFF REPORTS.

- a. **Fire/EMS Department.** Chief Dennis reported that the Fire/Rescue pizza delivery was a success in both terms of funds raised as well as positive community outreach.

With recent changes in DANECOM, Dennis is concerned that the decrease in radio channels and the location of radio towers could make local emergency and general radio traffic more difficult. Dennis feels establishing a local McFarland channel could serve as a necessary back-up if either if there are several major incidents that require heavy county radio traffic or if there are any expected problems in the operation of DANECOM. In referencing his board report, Dennis is negotiating the purchasing of equipment from the Blooming Grove Fire Department. Dennis stated that worst case cost would be \$25,000, with the hope that end costs would be closer to \$20,000. In working with Chief Sherven and Financial Director Kelsy Boyd, there could be money available from the \$75,000 budgeted for building safety and security. No additional costs, other than equipment replacement, should be needed after the channel is implemented. **Motion** by Mooney, seconded by Lyons and carried 4-0 by acclamation that the Public Safety Committee recommend to the Village Board to move forward with the implementation of the local tactical radio channel as presented by Chief Dennis with the associated costs being transferred from money that has already been budgeted for building security.

Continuing work on the apparatus bay exhaust removal system is being determined by pending grant approval. Dennis would like to begin a step process that exhaust removal from the bay would begin when a vehicle engine is started. Operation cost would likely begin at a cost of \$5,000.

Dennis reported that a full-time EMT had resigned to work at another service. The Village Board did give approval to fill the open position.

The 2015 Ambulance will be going in for repair the first part of August for damage that occurred in the University of Wisconsin Hospital parking lot. The ambulance is still in operation and costs should be covered by insurance.

- b. **Police Department.** Chief Sherven was not present at the meeting. No report was presented.
- c. **Emergency Management.** Chuck Di Piazza submitted the Emergency Management report. Di Piazza. Di Piazza reported that the next Emergency Management meeting would be Thursday, July 28th at 2:00 p.m.

Warning sirens all to be operational and functioning properly.

Di Piazza is continuing to work with Chief Sherven on the Emergency Response Plan protocols.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

- a. Review and possible approval of the draft Minutes of the June 8th, 2016 meeting. **Motion** by Machtan, seconded by Mooney carried 4-0 by acclamation to approve the draft Minutes of the June 8th, 2016 meeting.

5. **BUSINESS.**

- a. **Initial discussion regarding the request for installation of flashing lights at the crosswalk in front of the McFarland High School on Farwell Street.** Adrian reported that Jeff Mahoney, from the McFarland School District, requested a flashing light at the crosswalk on Farwell Street, in front of the McFarland High School. The item will further be discussed in upcoming PSC meetings so Adrian requested that Committee members pay particular attention to the area when driving on that street.

Moving the current lights that are presently placed on Farwell Street on both ends of the High School, closer together was proposed.

Since Farwell street is scheduled for construction in 2018, Adrian suggested concentrating on an interim solution since any light placement would likely have to be removed when the roadwork is begun. The committee thought the removal of parking stalls that are currently directly before the crosswalk, could improve visibility.

- b. **Follow up regarding June operator license hearings.** Adrian reported that in meeting with the Village Clerk, it was decided that there needed to be a review of procedure in regards to Beverage Operator License renewal, in particular, applicants with one offense. A sub-committee of Committee Members Adrian and Mooney, Police Chief Sherven, and Village Clerk Cassandra Suettinger, formed and met to review statutes and discuss policy.

From the meeting of the sub-committee the following was recorded: "At the meeting on June 15, 2016, we discussed clarifying the policy on which offenses should constitute recommendation for approval/denial. Village ordinance 11-74(c) outlines the basis for granting denial." Adrian also read from the Village Ordinance that states

"An application may be denied based upon the applicant's arrest and conviction record if the applicant has been convicted of a felony (unless duly pardoned) or if the applicant has habitually been a law offender. For purposes of this licensing procedure, "habitually been a law offender" is generally considered to be an arrest or conviction of at least two offenses which are substantially related to the licensed activity within the five years immediately preceding the license application. Because a license is a privilege, the issuance of which is a right granted solely to the Village Board, the Village Board reserves the right to consider the severity, and facts and circumstances of the offense when making the determination to grant, deny or not renew a license. Further, the Village Board, at its discretion, may, based upon an arrest or conviction record of two or more offenses that are substantially related to the licensed activity within the five years immediately preceding, act to suspend such license for a period of one year or more."

The consensus of the sub-committee was if the applicant had a felony, the license could be denied; the applicant has two substantially related offenses within the previous five years, and only those applicants with convictions should be brought to the PFC, the license can be denied; or if applicants omit information on their application for a license, their license can be denied.

Applicants with one related offense will be granted a license with the condition they are to notify the Village within 30 days of any additional convictions. If a second offense occurs the applicant will appear before the Public Safety Committee for possible denial.

Members of the PSC agreed that this should be the procedure moving forward.

For the two previous applicants that appeared before the PSC Committee in June, both were mailed a letter that informed them that although their license had been approved, they must inform the Village of the outcome of their pending trial and that failure to do so could result in the denial of their license.

6. **ADJOURNMENT. Motion** by Machtan, second by Mooney and carried 4-0 by acclamation to adjourn the July 13, 2016 meeting of the Public Safety Committee at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Innes, Clerk