



MINUTES

LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 11, 2016

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Joel Thrift, District IV
Mr. Reg Dexter, District V

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee met at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney David Root and Elizabeth G. Hulse, Clerk to Council present.

Press: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, notice of the meeting, date, time, place of meeting and agenda were posted on the bulletin board at the County Administrative Offices, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC, and the County Council website [www.oconeese.com/council]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Ray Chandler / Anderson Independent & Dick Mangrum – WGOG Radio.

Call to Order Chairman McCall called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dexter, approved 3 – 0 to approve the June 28, 2016 minutes as presented.

New Business:

School Safety / Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed the committee regarding citizen's requests and his plans to add additional School Resource Officers [SRO] in the elementary schools in Oconee County after the tragic school shooting that took place in Townville, SC, in September 2016. The Sheriff outlined the current SRO's working in the schools noting placement and funding source as follows:

- 3 High Schools: School District of Oconee [SDOC] reimburses the county for these officers
- 3 Middle Schools: SDOC reimburses the county for these officers
- 10 Elementary Schools:
 - County funds one SRO who travels between the schools weekly
 - Officer used as SRO for behavioral issues, drug prevention and mentoring for students
 - Funding: First Year Cost for SRO = \$90,000, Subsequent Years - \$50-55,000

Sheriff Crenshaw noted that the SDOC board met on Monday, October 10, 2016 for a workshop meeting and addressed school safety; noting that they will recommend to the full board for approval adding two additional SRO's to cover the elementary schools as follows:

- Westminster Area: Fair Oak, Westminster & Orchard Park Elementary
- Seneca Area: Ravenel, Blue Ridge & North Side Elementary
- Walhalla/Salem Area: Keowee, Tamassee-Salem, James M. Brown & Walhalla Elementary

Sheriff Crenshaw stated that if passed there would be three officers working as SRO's in Oconee County elementary schools; noting that if the SDOC and County wish an officer in every school this still leaves a need for seven additional officers. He stated he was not asking for approval for these positions at this meeting but requested that Council take the matter under consideration for the upcoming budget cycle.

Lengthy discussion followed with various opinions offered.

The Committee took the matter under consideration with no action at this time.

Radio Communication Between Agencies

Sheriff Crenshaw noted that there are communication issues between law enforcement and public safety agencies that need to be addressed to facilitate coordinated efforts. He noted that a new system would likely be in the \$700-\$750,000 range. Discussion followed.

The Committee took the matter under consideration with no action at this time.

Methamphetamine Investigator Grant Opportunity

Sheriff Crenshaw noted that his department has the opportunity to apply for a grant to add a methamphetamine investigator to his department. He noted that the grant would fund the position at 90% for three years and after that time Oconee County would fully fund the position. Mr. Moulder noted that this type of grant requires that the officer position be funded by the county for several years after the grant runs out as a condition of receiving the grant.

Mr. Thrift made a motion, seconded by Mr. McCall to recommend the Sheriff's Office to apply for the methamphetamine investigator grant noting that Oconee County will have a 10% match for the first three years and bring the matter to Council for approval of award.

Mr. Dexter voiced concerns that a funding source for a new position in the Sheriff's Department is not identified as part of the request. Additional discussion followed.

Mr. Thrift called for the vote. The motion passed 2 - 1 [Mr. Dexter opposed].

Firehouse Bathroom Issues

Mr. Moulder along with Chief Charlie King addressed the committee noting that the issue related to obtaining a DHEC permit for a bathroom at the new Whetstone Fire Substation have been resolved as the family donating the land for the station have also granted an easement to place a well on a portion of adjacent land that will meet DHEC guidelines.

Other Business:

Noise Ordinance / Mr. Chad Rawlings

Mr. Rawlings, Superior Sound, was unable to attend the meeting due to a conflict; therefore, Mr. McCall deferred this matter to a future meeting.

Fall Creek Park Update

Mr. McCall noted that citizens who wished to address this matter were not in attendance at the meeting; therefore, he deferred this matter to a future meeting.

Fire Boats on Lakes

Chief Charlie King addressed the Committee noting that the boats have passed their seaworthiness testing on the Mississippi River and are currently being outfitted for delivery.

Adjourn:

Mr. Dexter made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth G. Hulse
Clerk to Council