



MINUTES
LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH &
WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 10, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Wayne McCall, Chairman, District II
Mr. Julian Davis, District IV
Mr. Glenn Hart, District V

The Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare Committee scheduled at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers, 415 South Pine Street, Walhalla, SC with all Committee Members present, County Administrator Scott Moulder, County Attorney David Root, and Katie D. Smith, Clerk to Council present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Emergency Services: Chief Charlie King

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.oconeesc.com/council]. In addition it was made available to the newspapers, radio stations, television stations and concerned citizens.

Member of the press present: Dick Mangrum / WGOG & Norm Cannada / Daily Journal.

Call to Order

Mr. McCall called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hart, approved 3 – 0 to approve the January 9, 2018 minutes as presented.

Presentation to Increase School Safety – Sheriff Mike Crenshaw

Sheriff Crenshaw addressed the Committee regarding school safety highlighting the following to include but not limited to:

- Discussions between Oconee County Sheriff's Office & School District of Oconee County concerning school safety
- School Shootings
- School Resource Officer [SRO] in every school
- 10 Elementary Schools, 3 Middle Schools, 3 High Schools
- Middle Schools and High Schools are covered with one SRO
- Have 3 SRO's for the 10 Elementary Schools
- Additional 7 SRO's to be at a bare minimum
- Additional need at the campuses of Tri-County Tech Campus and Hamilton Career Center
- Code Academy and Adult Education will be moving into the current Career Center and this may be a consideration as well

- Take an additional step to help stop school shootings other than an SRO
- Possibly arming certain school personnel
- Minimum of 60 hours of advanced firearm training, psychological examination, weapon retention, basic first aid, etc. in order to carry
- Would not be a concealed weapons permit class
- After initial training, personnel would be required to qualify twice per year with their weapon
- Signs would be at every school indicating an SRO and armed personnel is on site
- Applied for grant funding to pay for all equipment to implement program
- At some point, may be beneficial for Council to authorize a County employee at Pine Street to carry concealed
- Armed School Alliance Program [ASAP]; partnership between Oconee County Sheriff's Office and the School District of Oconee County

Mr. Davis thanked Sheriff Crenshaw for what he and his staff do for the County and also for the SRO's. He noted the additional steps to stop the violence is identifying the potential child and have additional training or preventive training and help get them back into school. Further, he noted the kids become separated at a young age and they never get back with their classmates. Finally, he noted he is not a big fan of additional guns in the school but will commit pushing forward SRO's to complete this process. Discussion continued.

Mr. Hart asked how much it would cost per SRO. Sheriff Crenshaw noted the first year cost is approximately \$95,000, which includes salary, fringe, benefits, vehicle, equipment, etc. Second year and beyond would cost approximately \$50,000 per SRO.

Additional discussion continued.

Sheriff Crenshaw also updated the Committee regarding the coca plant production and that cocaine production is on the increase. Fentanyl, which is a very dangerous opioid, is being synthetically produced in China and other means to get here is to ship it. Drug cartels in Mexico have fentanyl factories and Sheriff Crenshaw noted they anticipate an even bigger epidemic in the United States. Additionally, he noted the need for uniformed patrol safety is as important as SRO's as we move forward. Discussion continued.

Mr. Davis asked is there a way to hold defendant's more accountable when they get arrested multiple times for the same crime and what is the long term plan the Sheriff's Office is pushing for to keep these people away a little longer. Sheriff Crenshaw noted he is working with the Solicitor's Office and Magistrate Offices and has asked for them to try and identify the "worst of the worst". With Mr. Moulder's approval, Sheriff Crenshaw noted they were in agreement to apply for a four person specialized unit grant and is 100% payment for three years, but do not know if the grant will get approved. Discussion continued.

The Committee took no action on this matter.

Update on Law Enforcement Cleanup Efforts

Mr. Moulder updated the Committee noting the cleanup has been complete. The building has been stripped down, cleaned out and ready for construction. Architectural plans have been completed and are waiting on contractor bids to come in. He has sent the plans to the

adjuster for the insurance company for review. Architecture cost estimates well exceeded what the insurance company has estimated that they will pay out for the damage and rebuild. Further, he noted he has denied payment at this time until the bids come in and has requested a preliminary conference with the adjuster, architect, and contractor to review the cost estimates the insurance company has presented. Discussion continued.

The Committee took no action on this matter.

Presentation of Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Chief Charlie King

Chief Charlie King, Emergency Services, along with Mr. Bob Little, Zone Fire Management Officer, Mr. Steve Moore, Incident Management Team, & Mr. Bill Wiley, Upstate Fire Wise Coordinator, addressed the Committee utilizing a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Community Wildfire Protection Plan” [copy filed with these minutes] highlighting the following:

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan [CWPP]
- Pinnacle Fire – no structures lost, no loss of life; largest fire in recorded history in the Upstate of South Carolina
- Fires occur every day across South Carolina
- 11,000 notifications called in for Oconee County in 2015
- Wildland Urban Interface [WUI] Area
- Growth
- Fire Resistant construction
- Fire Type
- Fire Regime Condition Class
- Fire Behavior Prediction System
- Community Protection Zones
- Goals and Objectives & CWPP Action Plan

Mr. Wiley noted the Firewise Recognition program does require a committee or council to manage the risk reduction efforts. He noted it does not have to be a named subdivision but must have an organization, which is a requirement from the national organization. Mr. Steve Moore noted they encourage the communities to have a Firewise Committee. Discussion continued.

Mr. Davis noted the amount of fire departments in Oconee County covers approximately 90% of a 5 mile radius of protection of structures and is far better than the majority of counties. He thanked Chief King and staff for their hard work and for the training that is provided.

The Committee took no action on this matter.

Mr. McCall noted he wanted to schedule an additional Law Enforcement, Public Safety, Health & Welfare meeting to address the remaining topics on the agenda.

Other Business

None at this meeting.

New Business:

None at this meeting.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hart made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katie D. Smith
Clerk to Council