

TOWN OF McCANDLESS
MINUTES – COUNCIL’S PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2016 TOWN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Committee Chairman LeDonne, with the following in attendance: Council Members Zachary, Aufman, Mertz, Powers and McKim. Others present: Town Attorney Ries, Town Manager Cordek, Public Works Superintendent Sabina, Zoning Officer/Land Use Manager Betty, Fire Marshal Stack, John Bojarski, Communications Assistant, Marie Haller, Administrative Assistant and citizens as per the sign-in sheet.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

The Committee perused the Police Chief’s report. Sargent Ryan P. Hawk attended the meeting on behalf of Chief Anderson and discussed burglaries that occurred during the beginning of August into early September. He discussed the diligence of two McCandless officers who investigated and apprehended two individuals while on patrol. Committee Chairman LeDonne and Councilwoman Powers asked Sgt. Hawk to relay Council’s gratitude to the officers for their stellar performance.

Sgt. Hawk also reported the McCandless Police Department has been addressing numerous opioid overdoses which have become a known crisis throughout the area, state and country. He assured Council the McCandless Police Officers are doing everything they can to address what has become a continuing epidemic.

NOTIFICATION
APPOINTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Committee Chairman LeDonne notified the Committee that after David DiSanti is sworn in as Chief of Police, a motion is required to appoint him as the Town’s Emergency Management Coordinator.

REVIEW OF PETITION
LINDEN AND WELLER DRIVES

The committee reviewed and discussed the petition along with the Department of Public Works accompanying report pertaining to the speed of traffic and signage at the intersection of Linden and Weller Drives. Public Works Superintendent Sabina reviewed results of a recent traffic study performed and the current signage. He suggested one possibility would be a “no thru traffic” advisory “watch children” sign. The Committee concurred and also suggested continued monitoring by police and to contact North Allegheny School District to request moving the school bus stop to another location. Mr. Sabina stated he will contact Kevin Schofield, Road and Maintenance Supervisor of North Allegheny School District to discuss the bus stop and Sgt. Hawk stated he will discuss the need for continued monitoring of this intersection with Chief Anderson. Another suggestion to create a one-way movement on Linden at Richard to Weller was rejected.

Katie Rhoten, 137 Blaze Court, discussed objections to the Department of Public Works report and the study performed. She reviewed the summary and background of the petition, citing safety issues are due to the speed of vehicles at the intersection of Linden and Weller Drives and urged Council to consider the installation of a three-way stop. She noted there are no sidewalks at this intersection and has safety concerns for the children waiting at the bus stop located at this intersection.

Tony Borres, 115 Well Drive, asked if it would be possible to prohibit right turns during specific hours and/or if school buses could be considered as an exception in this circumstance.

Mr. Sabina discussed regulations, stating signage must apply to all vehicles on the roadway and no special exception could be given to school buses only. He also explained three-way stops are permitted if plans are in place to install traffic lights at a particular intersection and in this instance traffic volumes recorded do not support the installation of a traffic light or implementation of a three-way stop. His best recommendation would be to add a "no thru traffic" and an additional "watch children" sign, as previously discussed.

Councilmember Mertz mentioned there have been additional speed and safety issues reported on various other roads in the Town, including Sunset and Valley View Roads.

STATUS UPDATE – TOWN'S ROLE TO ADDRESS OPIOID ABUSE

Town Manager Cordek provided an overview regarding information he received while attending a recent International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference. He discussed a roundtable discussion involving representatives from different regions of the country. He also discussed a recent session he attended featuring U.S. Attorney David Hickton who spoke about addressing Heroin and the Opioid Crisis. Town Manager Cordek discussed the pervasiveness of this growing epidemic in our community and reported there is a movement to heighten awareness and to bring this problem to light in which all governmental entities will play a role in providing accurate information through various media. Currently there are seven bills in the Pennsylvania Legislature to address the opioid crisis. He discussed plans to meet with School District Superintendent Scherrer and the new Police Chief to discuss the Town's role and joint cooperation to address this matter. The Town's vote will be to provide information on its various media and serve as a catalyst for other governments to do the same, including scheduling briefings for groups such as North Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG).

Councilmember Zachary shared comments regarding the Surgeon General's actions and recommendations to healthcare providers. She discussed the reduction of medications being prescribed and changes in which opioids are being administered by healthcare professionals. Council members discussed their support of educational opportunities and the dissemination of information to citizens.

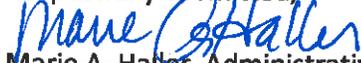
Mark Donatelli, 9753 Griffith Road, expressed his support of the McCandless Police Department and the need for the Town to provide them with the resources needed to address opioid abuse.

Officer Hawk mentioned the drug take back program and the effectiveness of removing drugs from medicine cabinets. He stated he was quite certain the police officers would be open to taking classes or attending seminars to assist them with combatting the opioid problem.

ADJOURNMENT

Safety Committee Chairman LeDonne adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie A. Haller, Administrative Assistant
Manager's Office