

Committee on Public Safety

Councilor Maureen T. Carney, Chair

Councilor Jesse M. Adams

Councilor William H. Dwight

Councilor David A. Murphy

Committee on Public Safety **Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building** **212 Main Street, Northampton, MA**

Meeting Agenda

December 17, 2015

Note: This meeting will take place as announced during the City Council Meeting.

1. Meeting Called To Order
 - 1.I. Members Present/Absent
2. Public Comment
3. Approve Minutes Of Previous Meetings
 - Minutes of July 6, 2015
 - Minutes of August 3, 2015
 - Minutes of October 5, 2015
 - Minutes of November 2, 2015
 - Minutes of December 14, 2015*

*Note: Minutes of 12/14 will not be available at the time of this meeting notice posting.
Councilors will be sent an e-mail containing the minutes once they are written.

Documents: [PUBLICSAFETYMINUTESJULY_6_2015.PDF](#),
[PUBLICSAFETYAUGUST_3_2015.PDF](#), [PUBLICSAFETYMEETINGMINTUES-10-05-2015.PDF](#), [PUBLICSAFETYMINUTESNOVEMBER-2-2015.PDF](#)

4. New Business

Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.
5. Adjourn

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Meeting Minutes

7/6/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting
2. New Business

None
3. Members Present/Absent
Present at the meeting were Councilor Carney (Chair), Councilor Murphy, and Councilor Dwight. Councilor Adams was absent.
4. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
Councilor Carney announced that the meeting would be video and audio taped.
5. Public Comment
None.
6. Approval Of Meeting Minutes
Councilor Dwight moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 1, 2015; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Adams).
7. Departmental Presentations

7.1. Presentation By The Public Health Department

Merridith O'Leary was on hand to give a presentation about the Public Health Department's number one pressing issue that they are dealing with: opioid addiction.

A \$550,000 grant was awarded to the Public Health Dept. from DPH Bureau of Substance Abuse. It is five year grant; the majority of the money will be used to fund a full-time coordinator position to assess the opioid and heroin addiction issue in Hampshire County, identify partners, build capacity, and come up with reduction strategies to reduce the opioid deaths.

The program is called "Hampshire Hope"; the grant was originally written to support 7 communities,

however, because of the DA's office involvement, the program will be far more reaching in Hampshire County. Hampshire HOPE is a collaboration of individuals, health care organizations, community groups, social services agencies, government agencies, local health departments, Office of Northwestern DA, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and others who have joined together in a comprehensive effort to reduce and prevent opioid use and abuse in Hampshire County.

The first step was to look at the number of deaths as a result of opioid overdose and evaluate the statistics associated with those deaths, such as where the death occurred, what the specific drug was that caused the death, etc. The death information sources came from the Mass State Police and the Dept. of Public Health. The two sources are not always consistent. DPH reports all OD fatalities, where Mass State Police reports only people who are dead upon arrival, die during transport, or die within 48 hours of admittance to Emergency Room or Inpatient.

Director O'Leary shared information about the Number of Unintentional Opioid Overdose Deaths by County in Massachusetts for the years 2000 - 2014. Ms. O'Leary explained that one of the reasons for the rise in addiction is due to the misuse of prescription drugs. One of the strategies used to prevent misuse is a community drug roundup program. There is also a prescription monitoring program in Massachusetts; 49 states have a monitoring program, however, many states do not coordinate or share information allowing a prescription drug abuser to go undetected until it is too late. Director O'Leary explained that the heroin of today has a higher efficiency rate than the heroin of the 1970's.

As a task force Hampshire Hope has come up with a resource guide and a brochure to spread community awareness. They have also developed an index sized leaflet that explains about the Good Samaritan Law. The goal is to let everyone know that the Good Samaritan Law protects witnesses of an overdose who call for help. They are also working to get NARCAN more readily available to the public. NARCAN is a drug that reverses the effects of a narcotic. The cost for NARCAN has more than doubled, however, it is now available without a prescription. It is not the type of substance that can be administered by the overdosed patient.

Three strategies that Hampshire Hope will address during its first year are:

1. Too many 8 - 12th graders have misused prescription opioid, the gateway drug to heroin.
2. Too many people are addicted to heroin and opioids.
3. Not enough people are entering into drug rehab programs.

Councilor Murphy asked whether there was any growing concern about mosquitos. Last year the virus disease numbers were very low. This was contrary to what was expected due to the previous year's occurrences. Director O'Leary is trying to establish a mosquito control district. The state does do testing, however, not in the western part of the state. In the western part of the state there are 7 communities that belong to a mosquito control district. Northampton is not part of any district; DPH promised to come out and set traps, however, they came during the fall when the mosquito population is diminished. The Public Health Department was also told that they could not continue surveillance in our area. Ms. O'Leary is talking with other communities to form a Pioneer Valley mosquito control district. The state is saying that the effort will need to go through legislation and could drag on. Northampton lost its licensed pesticide applicator when Mr. Fred Pirog retired from the Public Works Department. There will be issues around treating wetlands and catch basins. So the Public Health Dept. is trying to figure out what it would take to become part of a mosquito control district. Right now it looks like to cost to Northampton will be \$70,000. As part of the network, our community would receive an assessment of wet land areas, any type of treatment necessary, and community outreach education. If there is a real public health emergency, the network would cover the outbreak.

An alternative to joining a control district is to have UMASS do the testing. They have the equipment that was given to them by DPH in 2002. The students can set the traps. The DPH has said they do not want this do be done.

It is Director O'Leary's understanding that the Mayor is in favor of becoming part of a misquoto control district and is willing to write a letter of intent stating his position. Councilor Dwight asked if a letter from the Committee on Public Safety would help; Director O'Leary responded, "Absolutely". Director O'Leary will send boiler plate language to the committee.

Regarding ticks, Director O'Leary suggested that more testing needs to be done of intact ticks. Dr. Rich will subsidize the testing of a tick for four diseases. The department is focusing on prevention. She does not believe curtailing outdoor events is the answer. Rather, she believes, public education is important.

8. Adjourn

At 5:50 pm, Councilor Dwight moved to adjourn; Councilor Murphy seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor Adams).

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Meeting Minutes

8/3/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting

1.I. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting

At 5:10 p.m. Councilor Carney called the meeting to order.

1.II. Members Present/Absent

Present were Councilors Maureen Carney and David Murphy. Councilors Jesse Adams and Bill Dwight were absent.

1.III. Public Comment

None.

2. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

2.I. Minutes Of July 6, 2015

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

3. Departmental Presentations

3.I. Building Department Presentation

Building Commissioner Louis Hasbrouck indicated that there are 8% fewer permits this year versus the same time last year. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 Commissioner Hasbrouck reports that there are 3,558 permits issued representing \$530,465.34 fees collected for various building, electrical, gas, plumbing, sheetmetal and zoning permit application fees.

Three significant house fires happened this year; there are plans for one of the three houses to be demolished. Inquiries from contractors about demolition have been received for both of the other structures.

Regarding Shaws Motel, the owner asked questions about what could be done at the site. The "yellow house" may be used in the future. The motel building demolition has been discussed with the owner.

Regarding Emerson Way and Beaver Brook, Commissioner Hasbrouck explained that there are a steady number of permits coming in for both of those locations for single family dwellings. Commissioner Hasbrouck indicated that most of the permits are for smaller sized square foot buildings; Councilor Murphy indicated that this may be due to home owners wanting to be more energy efficient.

Commissioner Hasbrouck indicated that he was pleased to see the appointments of Chief Nichols and Chief Kasper. He has worked with both individuals in the past and looks forward to working with both individuals in the future.

A clean up is planned for the former Honda site. The proposal suggests that the land will be able to be used for any purpose after the clean-up. The location is in the entry way business district and the table of use is quite extensive for that location.

4. New Business

None

5. Adjourn

At 5:30 pm Councilor Carney adjourned the meeting. No vote taken was taken to adjourn due to lack of a quorum.

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Meeting Minutes

10/5/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting
2. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
Councilor Adams announced that the meeting would be audio and video recorded.
3. Members Present/Absent

Present were: Councilors Dwight and Adams. Councilor Adams chaired the meeting

Councilor Carney and Councilor Murphy were absent.

4. Public Comment

Louise Martindell of 198 Nonotuck Street spoke about two accidents at that location in the past three months.

For both accidents, cars were traveling westbound on Nonotuck Street. Causes include speeding and construction. To avoid construction, cars are traveling into eastbound lanes.

The first accident was due to a drunk driver in combination with excessive speed. The second accident happened when the driver, traveling at a high rate of speed, lost control after swerving to avoid traffic cones in the construction zone.

Many neighbors are concerned about the issue. Residents request emergency measures and ask for immediate remedy such as: temporary speedbump; more frequent police control; speed monitoring

DPW signs and cones are constantly getting hit. A temporary speed limit, perhaps 20 miles per hour was suggested by the resident. The primary concern is where Maple St. intersects with Nonotuck Street.

Councilor Dwight explained that the authority of Council is limited; we can make requests and make issues known, but the Council does not have the authority to demand administrative measures.

Councilor Klein presented the issue at the Public Works Committee of the City Council ; it is her understanding that there is precedence where emergency measures have been taken.

5. Approval Of Meeting Minutes

5.1. Meeting Minutes Of July 6, 2015 And August 3, 2015

Minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

6. Discussion Regarding Nonotuck Street (See Above)

7. Departmental Presentations

7.1. Presentation By Northampton Police Department

Chief Kasper spoke about recent promotions within the department. She has actively worked to fill special assignment positions, including "Drug Recognition Experts". The department currently has two DRE's on staff; they will be adding one more.

Northampton High School has added School Resource Officer Josh Wallace as a result of a 15-month grant received by the Exec. Office of Public Safety & Security. He is a Crisis Intervention Team member.

Three officers are wrapping up field training; 7 are currently in the Police Academy; this will make department fully-staffed.

Chief Kasper talked about President Obama's executive order to establish a task force to look at policing in the 21st century. Its mission was to identify best policing practices; the task force's final report was released in May. The report identified 62 recommendations; 91 action items. Many recommendations are already being done. Some recommendations are fairly easy to implement. The department's work is on-going.

The Chief has identified 25 goals for the department. The list is posted internally. They include: research possibility of national accreditation; e-citations; addition of community services ; employee fitness program; firing range; oui roadblocks; taking department photo, etc.

The department has implemented new police detail software that is web-based. Time of the records bureau has been freed up as a result of the new methods.

Three officers will be patrolling Florence and downtown as community outreach officers. Two are already part of the bike patrol unit; they will maintain their regular patrol duties, but will be assigned to the same geographical area when on duty.

The department has updated its website with the help of Webtactics of Easthampton.

The department has recently updated its promotion policy. The policy is on line.

On Oct. 20 at the Walter Salvo House a police officer will be on hand for a "coffee hour with cops"; a new initiative that will be on-going in the community.

The Chief is continuing to work on the area heroin problem and prescription drug problem; she is involved with the Hampshire Hope Committee that focuses on these important community concerns.

The Chief talked about an inter-agency communication and response plan; the goal is to have a plan in place for large scale events. Open communication is key.

The department has a new fingerprint scanner that it has installed.

8. New Business

None

9. Adjourn

Councilor Dwight moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm; Councilor Adams seconded the meeting. The meeting was adjourned on a voice vote of 2 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent (Councilors Carney and Murphy).

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Meeting Minutes

11/2/2015 - Minutes

1. Activate NCTV Camera To Record Meeting
2. Announcement Of Audio/Video Recording Of Meeting
Councilor Carney called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Councilor Carney announced that the meeting would be video taped.
3. Members Present/Absent
Present were Councilors Carney and Murphy. Councilors Adams and Spector were absent.
4. Public Comment
None
5. Approval Of Meeting Minutes
 - 5.I. Minutes Of July 6, 2015, August 3, 2015, And October 5, 2015
The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.
6. Departmental Presentations
 - 6.I. Department Update By Northampton Fire Rescue

Chief Nichols gave an overall summary regarding the status of the department:

The Chief reported that promotional tests were done in July; recent promotions happened as a result of those exams. Regarding the department's budget, two employees are currently out on long term leave; the department currently has 2 vacancies; two retirements are anticipated in January. The Capital Plan was submitted--included in the capital plan are SCBreathing Apparatus (SCBA) upgrades and command vehicle & ambulance replacements. The Chief also reported that the department will be conducting public education as a result of a grant.

Northampton S.A.F.E. is a dedicated group of 18 Educators trained to meet the standards and objectives put forth by the Dept. of Fire Services. The program has the potential to reach over 2,700 school students and 3,800 seniors.

Firefighter Stollmeyer gave an overview of what the public education will be. The department receives a grant each year (about \$7,000 this year) to fund education programs aimed at training the public on fire prevention. The initiative will include a student training component for students in grades k-12. This training is aimed at teaching youngsters the dangers of fire and the hazards of smoking. There is also a senior citizen training component aimed at the teaching fire dangers, hazards of smoking, and fall prevention. The grant funded program began two years ago and was originally funded through the cigarette tax. The training programs are lead by Firefighter Stollmeyer and Captain Dave Murrett and is overseen by Deputy Chief Vanasse.

Chief Nichols reports that the department is also focusing on employee health and wellness. Steps have been taken to train staff on the importance of staying physically fit, including conducting in-house seminars on various health related topics. Fitness professionals have been brought in to help in the training.

Assistant Chief Davin gave an update regarding operational issues:

The department's current rescue truck is in the process of being replaced; a new truck is being built by Pierce Fire Apparatus and should be delivered in the next couple of weeks; the old one will be sold. The new unit can tow the department's boat and hazmat trailer; it is equipped with a backup camera, hitch, and will have the ability to increase illumination capacity.

Asst. Chief Davine also reports that professional development is on-going in the department. All Deputy Chiefs are trained highest level for their position.

The department's Station Alerting System is in the process of being upgraded-the current one is original to the building and it is aging and less dependent. Currently the system uses a Verizon phone line.

The new system will be built by Purvis as a state-of-the-art system. It will run by the city's fiber network and will be more energy efficient. Northampton will be one of the first departments using an automated dispatch system (other than Boston and Foxboro). The backup for the city's fiber loop will be copper lines. The dispatch center can override the system to allow use of the department radios if necessary. A huge concern with the current system is that the software for current system is no longer supported and the department can no longer get parts.

Deputy Chief Garriepy gave an update about department statistics:

The department recently switched billing agencies. The transition has resulted in a dip in the number of bills processed. The dept. will be back on track; no loss in revenue is expected.

The department recently underwent an ambulance inspection by the State. DC Garriepy is pleased to report that the ambulances passed the inspection due in large part to the efforts of the entire crew.

Dashboard - monthly trending statistics were reviewed. DC Garriepy talked about the major indicators. The data shows that the department experiences just about an equal amount of calls requiring Advanced Life Support (ALS-51%) as they do Basic Life Support (BLS-49%).

7. New Business
None

8. Adjourn

At 6:00 pm Councilor Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor Carney seconded the motion. the motion was approved on a voice vote of 2 yes, 0 no, 2 absent (Councilors Adams and Dwight).

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