

From: Sharon Davis [mailto:sharon.davis@vnahsr.org]
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2023 9:42 AM
To: Tracy Kapusta <tracyk@rutlandcity.org>
Subject: Public Safety

Public Safety

Met: 9/12/2023 at 5: 30pm

Topics: Camping on city property, Panhandling and reestablishing the Board of Health .

Committee members present: Alderman Tadio, McClure and Chair Davis

Others present: Mayor Doenges, City Attorney Megan LaChance Pres. Talbott, Alderman Barbagallo, Officer Chris Rose , Richard Ley , Mark Foley and Tammy Duclous from the Open Door Mission.

The discussion surrounding the camping in city/ private property what number are we facing now and what issues are being caused by the homeless sleeping downtown and in city parks. Can we develop an ordinance that will prohibit this behavior? The Mayor and City Attorney spoke about what we can and cannot do. If we relocate the homeless from these areas we must provide them with a place to go. The ACLU has challenged many communities already on this issue and the City Attorney will research to date what communities have an ordinance and if it has been challenged. What is the States responsibility was discussed and what role will they play? Mark Foley spoke of the impact on the downtown as people were going to work, shopping, farmers market opening and people rising from their tent. Is this the image we want for our residents and visitors? Tammy Duclous spoke that the mission has 51 beds and they are full to date. In an emergency situation they can use their dining area to accommodate more beds . This issue will remain in committee.

Panhandling: Provides the same challenges to regulate due to the ACLU. The City Attorney will investigate our options to control this activity.

Board of Health: The City Attorney provided the committee with a handout stating by charter the Board of Health is made up of the Health officer and 3 persons appointed by the Mayor . The Board of Health is to enforce all of the laws and ordinances related to public health. This includes all laws for Rutland but State and Federal as well.

I did find with the help of the clerks office the ordinance which was established or recodified in 1996 with the boards duties and responsibilities.

The committee will have to see what is appropriate duties for the board of health as they exist now . A motion was made to allow the Mayor to appoint 3 members to the Board of Health with names to be approved by the board and I so move.

This issue will remain in committee and we adjourned at 6:15 pm

Submitted to the Board
Sharon Davis, chair

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