

Rutland Board of Alderman-----Committee Meeting Minutes

Public Safety Committee--Chair: Ed Larson -September 24, 2014

Convened: 5:30 p.m. Adjourned 6:35 p.m. Wednesday, September 24, 2014

Committee Members Present: Alderman Brodowski, Alderman Donoghue, Alderman Davis, Alderman Kiernan, Alderman Larson.

Alderman Present: President Allaire, Alderman Notte, Alderman Bloomer, Alderman DePoy.

Others Present: Mayor Louras, Keith Tallon-District Manager, Rutland Probation and Parole Office. Dr. Cheryl McKenzie-Director of Program Development for the Vermont Achievement Center. Public Present: Jack Roberts, Dale Robb, Dawn Hance, Jim Breton, Nicole Breton.

The Public Safety Committee met in the downstairs Conference Room of Rutland City Hall to receive an overview of plans to house a twenty bed inmate transitional housing unit at the McGree House, 30 Washington Street, in Rutland City. The Chair of the Committee, Alderman Larson, advised that this was a Public Meeting and not a Public Hearing format and an advisory format to familiarize Alderman with the Department of Corrections plans.

Alderman Larson advised that he had been informed by the Building Inspector that the planned usage of the facility met City of Rutland Zoning Bylaws Criteria under Hallway House (Page 41 of Criteria) which is a licensed home for persons on release from more restrictive custodial confinement, wherein supervision, rehabilitation, and counseling are provided to mainstream residents back into society, enabling them to live independently. Furthermore Alderman Larson advised that under Permitted Uses of the City of Rutland Bylaws, Page 27, Halfway Houses were allowed in the Court House District of the City.

President Allaire advised at the onset of the meeting that he was on the Board of Directors of Recovery House, Inc., the current owners of the property at 30 Washington Street, stating he would ask some questions concerning the planned usage of the property.

Keith Tallon was requested by the Chairman to comment on both the reasoning for the proposed transitional housing and also a planned Public Hearing that the Department of Corrections and Vermont Achievement Center planned. Tallon advised the Public Hearing would take place September 30, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nella Grimm Foxx Room of the Rutland Free Library.

Rutland City
Received On

SEP 25 2014

City of Rutland, Vermont

Mr. Tallon discussed the program model being utilized for the proposed facility, and that the Department of Corrections was providing the Vermont Achievement Center with a grant for the supportive services to be rendered to the inmates being housed in the facility. Mr. Tallon advised that this has been under discussion for several years for placement of such a facility, and there had been an extensive search for what they deemed a proper location, which would be close to the services which needed to be provided. Mr. Tallon stated the model for the program was the Mandella Model being utilized by V.A.C. at the womens program on Park Street, and emphasized that the Washington Street unit would be male only with no sex offenders on site; this being in part due to City Ordinance, as well as no non resident individuals who were convicted of dealing drugs would be housed there. Keith Tallon further advised that Corrections has taken measures to assist the Rutland City Police Department in dealing with inmate violators (parolees, probationers, etc.) by embedding a D.O.C. working at the Police Department three (3) days per week. That a program of instant email notification has been established statewide if a parolee, etc. violate 8:00 p.m. curfews or have contact with law enforcement.

Tallon further advised that camera systems will be installed, along with alarms and security will be on premise from D.O.C. twenty-four hours a day; and any inmate who departs without authority to do so would be placed on escape status. Tallon also advised that infractions may result in attachment of remote monitoring equipment to inmates as well.

Alderman Davis requested to know the number of inmates to be housed initially, and Mr. Tallon responded up to twelve (12) the first year, with ultimately twenty when the program reaches full capacity.

Dr. McKenzie stated that there is a lengthy nineteen page contract that those assigned to the facility must sign and rules to adhere to; although with over a dozen therapeutic, educational, case management, medical and other agreements which those placed into the facility must meet. Dr. McKenzie stated that grant involves hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that she has a staff of ten (10) to provide services to those residing in the home.

Keith Tallon advised that expectation of time at the facility for inmates was between six (6) to sixteen (16) months depending on the coordination of community resources, etc. Stays could last as long as twenty-four (24) months.

Mr. Tallon stated that best case scenario for opening the transitional housing facility would be November of 2014, and that a senior D.O.C. staffer locally would be in charge of security functionality.

Dr. McKenzie; when asked about outside visitation to the inmates, stated that there would be minimal visitation, with no visitors for the first thirty days (with an exception for those with little children), as those residing there must demonstrate deservedness of visitors. When visitors do arrive they will be in constant view of staffers and not allowed out of staff sight.

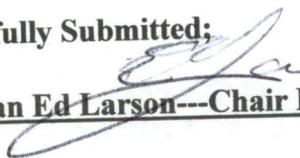
Dr. McKenzie did provide Committee Members with a daily schedule chart dictating the seven (7) day a week routines that those housed must meet, starting at 6:30 a.m. running until 10:00 p.m.

Alderman Kiernan posed the question of when the Mandella House opened and was advised that it was in February of 2013, and that the only incident recorded was one person who was placed on escape status and returned to D.O.C. with no other cases of recidivism. Alderman Kiernan also asked if the plan for Rutland City was tied in to the recent announcement by Governor Shumlin relative to changes in Corrections. Mr. Tallon advised he had not read the Governors comments as yet.

The Chair reminded those present that this was a Public Meeting requested by the Alderman to acquaint themselves with the proposal and that the report would specify no action was taken as this was for informational purposes only.

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Davis, with unanimous approval.

Respectfully Submitted;


Alderman Ed Larson---Chair Public Safety Committee

09/24/2014

Attachments;

1. Letter from D.O.C. to B.O.A. dated September 8, 2014 (two pages)
2. Copy Page 41, Page 27, City of Rutland Zoning Bylaws

Department of Corrections

Probation & Parole
92 State Street
P.O. Box 175
Rutland, VT 05702

[phone] 802-786-5808
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Agency 0

September 8, 2014

Rutland City Board of Aldermen

52 Washington Street

Rutland, VT. 05702

*Public Safety
Orleans - County*

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen,

I would like to advise you that the Vermont Achievement Center has received a grant from the Department of Corrections to operate a twenty bed transitional housing program with support services in the city of Rutland to serve offenders being released from incarceration to Rutland furlough via the Marble Valley Correctional facility.

I am writing you this notice after seeking advice concerning proper protocol. It was respectfully recommended that you receive notice prior to any public announcement concerning the project.

Dr. Cheryl McKenzie Director of Program Development for VAC and I considered a number of locations within the city for this program. It is after an extensive search that we have received preliminary approval from the Department of Corrections to enter into a feasibility grant process with ReHouse Inc. and the Vermont Achievement Center. The selected property for the transitional program is the McGee House on 30 Washington Ave.

This letter is to advise you that Dr. McKenzie and I will give an update on the offender housing program's feasibility grant process on Thursday September, 11, 2014 during the monthly meeting of the Project Vision. We will announce that the present McGee House is the selected site.

In deference to requirements established by the Mayor we will begin a process to plan and a scheduled public meeting (s) within the city to present the proposed Transitional Housing program design and implementation guidelines.

If you as a Board of Aldermen would like an in person presentation on this proposal from me or Dr. McKenzie in advance of the public meeting we would be happy to attend one of your scheduled meetings.



I thank you for your consideration of this important proposal to provide structured housing and supportive services for offenders reentering the community. Please be assured that public safety will be our most predominant consideration in the operational planning phase that precedes implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Tallon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith Tallon, District Manager, Rutland Probation and Parole office

Cc: Mayor Christopher Louras

(B) The area and dimensions for the CH zone shall be:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Minimum lot size | 6,000 | |
| 2. | Minimum frontage | 50 ft. | |
| 3. | | | Minimum setbacks |
| | a. | Front | 10 ft. |
| | b. | Side | 10 ft. |
| | c. | Rear | 20% of lot, min 20 ft - max 50 ft |
| 4. | Maximum building height | 40 ft. | |
| 5. | Minimum building width | 20 ft. | |

Notwithstanding §31-501 Definitions, Building, for purposes of determining minimum building width, porches, decks, garages, sheds shall not be included in determining width.

(C) Permitted Uses

1. Single Family Dwelling
2. Two Family Dwelling. For each additional dwelling unit, there shall be an additional 1000 square feet added to the minimum lot size.
3. Day Care - Home
4. Municipal uses
5. Retail Store
6. Office
7. Medical Clinic
8. Church and Church Uses
9. School and School Uses
10. Community Facility
11. Bed and Breakfast
12. Funeral Home
13. Day Care - Small
14. Day Care - Large
15. Clubs
16. Indoor Recreation
17. Halfway house

(D) Accessory Uses

1. Accessory uses customarily incidental to a permitted use are permitted on the same lot. Accessory structures shall not be used for dwelling purposes.
2. A detached accessory structure may be placed on the rear or side lot line provided that the written consent of abutting property owner or owners is obtained for such location of the building/structure; otherwise it shall be placed not nearer than five (5) feet to any side or rear lot line except on corner lot, the side yard shall be 10 feet on the road side. Notice of placement of the detached accessory structure together with a copy of the written consent of the abutting property owner, when required, shall be filed with the zoning administrators office.

(E) Design Criteria

1. Physical elements such as yards, fences, screening, entrance drives, landscaping, accessory buildings and on site parking areas shall be similar to or compatible

Living Unit	A room or group of rooms located within a dwelling forming a habitable one family.
Floor Area	Sum of the gross horizontal area of the floors of a building, exclu basement floor areas. Measurements shall be taken from the inter faces.
Frontage	The length of any one property line of a premise which property l a legally accessible right-of-way.
Funeral Home	A building used for preparing the deceased for burial or cremation.
Gallery	An institution whose primary purpose is the exhibition of paintings, sculpt photography which is handcrafted. As an ancillary purpose, the sa exhibited items may be arranged on a commission basis.
Halfway House	A licensed home for persons on release from more restrictive custodial confinement or initially placed in lieu of such more restrictive cust confinement, wherein supervision, rehabilitation, and counseling a provided to mainstream residents back into society, enabling them independently.
Hospital	An institution specializing in giving clinical, temporary and emerg services of a medical or surgical nature to human patients and relat support facilities and may include overnight care facilities.
Hotel/Inn	A facility offering transient lodging accommodations on a daily rat general public and may provide additional services, such as restaur meeting rooms, and recreational facilities.
Light Industry	A use engaged in the manufacture, predominantly from previously prepared materials, of finished products or parts, including processing, fabric assembly, treatment, packaging, incidental storage, sales, and distri of such products, but excluding basic industrial processing.
Lot	A platted parcel of land intended to be separately owned, developed otherwise used as a unit.
Lot Size	Total area within the property lines excluding any part thereof lying within the boundaries of an existing or proposed street.
Medical Clinic	A non-residential office building used by members of the medical profession the diagnosis and out-patient treatment of human ailments which do include overnight care facilities.
Mobile Home Park	Any parcel of land under single or common ownership or control wh contains, or is designed, laid out, or adapted to accommodate more th