PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Kiawah Island Municipal Center
Council Chambers
May 13, 2015; 2:00 PM

MINUTES

I. **Call to Order: Mr. Weaver called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.**

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published, and posted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.

IV. **Roll Call:**

Present: Craig Weaver, Chairman
Joe Pezzullo
Jack Regan
Yvonne Johnstone
Bill Thomae

Absent: Marilyn Larach

Also Present: Capt. Martin Charleston County Sheriff's Office
Administrative Chief Gavin Gilcrease, St. Johns Fire District
Deputy Chief Millican, Charleston County EMS
Rusty Lameo, TOKI

V. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Public Safety Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2015

Mr. Thomae made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Pezzullo and was unanimously passed.

B. Public Safety Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2015

Mr. Regan made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomae and was unanimously passed.

C. Public Safety Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2015

Mr. Pezzullo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomae and was unanimously passed.

VI. **Citizen Comments:**

None

VII. Old Business:

A. Emergency medical response discussions - update

Mr. Weaver indicated that there have been discussions with the Fire District and Charleston County EMS relative to emergency medical response times. Committee Members, Mr. Thomae, Dr. Larach and Ms. Johnstone have been engaged in the discussions and working through the issues along with communicating the concerns and perceptions of the Community. Mr. Weaver stated he perceived a willingness by both entities to work through those issues.

Mr. Weaver reported that County EMS is preparing recommendations for its next year's budget which could include some operational changes that may favorably impact their level of community response. He noted the recommendations could not be made public at this time since they have not been presented to their Council. Mr. Weaver stated that the recommended changes were based on the needs of outlying areas. He was encouraged by the County's recognition of a problem and changes made would be a step forward but would not completely resolve the issue.

B. PSSi Public Safety Director recommendation – update

Mr. Weaver stated the PSSi recommendation for the Town to establish Public Safety Director Position was included in the Town's FY 15-16 Budget. During review of the budget he expressed his reservations for a need to establish that position. After following up with the Committee and a number of key personnel, he indicated that there was a lack support or a clear understanding if there was enough of a support value to merit the position. Mr. Weaver also noted with the resignation of Ms. Rucker it seemed the need for the position should be a decision for the new Administrator. He stated that Council agreed and removed the Public Safety Director recommendation from the budget for now with the suggestion for a future need to cultivate a clearer Public Safety roll on the staff level.

VIII. New Business:

A. Funding of St. John's Fire District EMS training

Mr. Weaver reported that the St. John's Fire District submitted an application to the SATAX Committee to request $500,000.00 in funding for Advance Life Support Proposal. The application was not approved for funding by the SATAX Committee. The decision was made by the Town to support the District by make a funding contribution to the project. Chief Walz revised the application to request support for a project that would focus on upgrading the training level of the Kiawah based firefighters from EMS Basic to EMS Advanced. Mr. Weaver recommended that $50,000.00 be reserved for a future specific request from the District that was reviewed by the Public Safety Committee and recommended to the Ways and Means

Committee and Council for approval. He requested any member questions or concerns be conveyed to the St. John's Fire District.

B. Review of Police coverage

1) 1st Quarter Deputy coverage and activity

Mr. Weaver began the discussion by noting that of the past several months the focus on the Committee had been on EMS and Fire related topics. He requested that Sheriff's Office give a report on the service approach or coverage model and activities on Kiawah. He indicated that Capt. Martin and Lt. Brokaw coordinate the program on Kiawah and Freshfields and have been working very hard on the coverage scheduling.

Captain Martin discussed the Towns monthly report including a breakdown of the Warnings and Citations Issued, Arrests and Accidents on the Island during the first quarter of 2015.
Accidents/Incidents on Island:

January

Accident – K.I. Parkway
Petit Larceny – Cobby Creek Ln
Accident – Green Dolphin Way
Accident – K.I. Parkway
Accident – Sanctuary

February

Osprey Club House – Petit Larceny – Arrest
Accident – Parkway and SeaMarsh
Traffic Stop – Arrest – Bench Warrant
Trespassing Report – Seaforest Dr
Accident – Betsy Kerrison
Alarm – Flyway – Open Door
Alarm – Rhetts Bluff – Open Door
Accident – Seabrook Isle Rd
Sanctuary – Disturbance
Alarm – Open Door
Accident – Ocean Course Dr
Accident – Dunlin Court

March

Accident – Betsy Kerrison/Hope Plant.
Domestic – Pinebarron Lane
Injured Person – Gallinule Court
Prop. Damage – K.I. Parkway
Accident – Ocean Course Golf Club
Theft – Ocean Course Drive
Disturbance – Live Oak
Alarm/Open Door – Surfsong
Theft – Seaforest
Theft – Sanctuary
EMS Refusal – Sanctuary
Civil Report – Creekwatch

Mr. Weaver noted that there were a number of events but from a police aspect there was not a significant problem on the Island. Capt. Martin agreed and stated that the presence of the deputies patrolling, being seen and follow-up had an effect on behavior. He stated that he has made it known to the deputies that scheduling for Freshfields and on the Island can be shifted to put resources where they are needed. He reported that there are 51 deputies enrolled to work on Kiawah.

- January there was a total of 744 hours available and 702 hours were worked creating 94.38% coverage
- February - 672 available hours, 622 worked, creating 92.58% coverage
- March – 744 available hours, 692 worked, creating 93.01% coverage
- April – 720 available hours, 656 worked, creating 91.11% coverage

Capt. Martin noted that most of the open shifts were during the day and an attempt was being made to recruit additional deputies to fill those slots.

C. Discussion of PSSi recommendation for full-time Deputy coverage

Mr. Weaver stated PSSi made a recommendation for the Town to establish full-time Deputy

Coverage for the Town by contracting a deputy from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. He stated that the position was included in the Town's FY 15-16 Budget and discussed at the Ways and Means Budget Workshop. He stated that the Study did not indicated if the position was additional staffing or one of the four that are currently scheduled. Mr. Weaver stated the outcome of discussion with Lt. Brokaw and Capt. Martin, indicates that the scheduling of 4 deputies on 3 shifts is the correct formula for coverage of the Island. He has not noted an argument to increase or reduce staffing at this time, and was given the pros and cons for making one of the four a permanent position. He indicated that it was his impression that concentration on 100% coverage should take priority at this point in time.

D. Emergency Committee and Training

Mr. Weaver stated last year the Town completed its work and approved a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The plan will be the subject of a two days training and exercises that will take place in early June and will include the Kiawah Emergency Committee meeting.

Mr. Weaver stated that as part of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan the recommendation was for the establishment of a committee charged with the updating of the plan. He stated that the Public Safety Chairman is to be the chair of the Committee but since it has not been established there are no members at this time. He indicated that after taking to the Town's consultant, Scott Cave with Atlantic Continuity Services, there are three option available;

1. The update of the plan would fall under the preview of the Public Safety Committee which would take a fair amount of work
2. Establish a subcommittee of the Public Safety Committee
3. Establish a Committee independent of the Public Safety Committee

Mr. Weaver asked members for their recommendations or advice on what approach to take.

E. Emergency Memorandums of Understanding

Mr. Weaver presented to the Committee a copy of the first of the Emergency Memorandums of Understanding (MOU). He indicated as part of the work on the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan it was established that there was a need for an Emergency Memorandums of Understanding between the Town and some of the major entities on the Island. The MOU would better delineate the responsibilities of the Town and the responsibilities of entity along with key interactions in the event of an emergency.

IX. Agency Updates

A. Charleston County Sheriff's Department

The Charleston County Sheriff's Department report was reviewed in the earlier discussion.

Town of Kiawah Monthly Report	April	Jan. - Apr.
Number of all Written Report (excluding accident reports)	11	32
Accident Reports	2	17
Number of Calls Handle Not Requiring a Report	90	354
Number of Traffic Stops	28	161
TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS HANDLED (dispatched/self-generated)	131	564
Written Warnings Issued	23	128
Traffic Citations Issued	7	50
Total Warnings and Citations Issued	30	178
Arrests	1	7
Alarm Calls	42	179
Total Citizen Contacts/Assists	345	1283

B. St. John's Fire District

Chief Gilchrist indicated the Fire Commission approved that statics for the month of April and reviewed the report as present to the Committee. He gave a debriefing of any residential structure fire events that was listed on the report. The event was a resident that reported a fire in his home subsequently the fire was extinguished on arrival only requiring an investigation.

Chief Gilchrist commented on the earlier EMS training discussion by stating that it was not the department intention to duplicate the efforts of Charleston County EMS but to work in tandem with them. He stated that the work on the plan was underway and would be presented to the Committee when completed.

2015	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		November		December		Totals	
	Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station		Station	
	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6
Structure Fires Residential	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0																	1	1
Structure Fires Commercial	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0																	1	0
Emergency Medical	15	4	7	5	14	1	19	8																	55	18
Motor Vehicle Collision	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	0																	4	2
Vehicle Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0																	1	0
Alarm Activation	5	3	5	0	7	3	8	5																	25	11
False Calls	1	0	1	2	2	0	1	1																	5	3
Public Assists	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	2																	2	6
Brush Fires	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																	0	0
Special Operations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																	0	0
Illegal Burning Incidents	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0																	0	1
Miscellaneous Calls	1	1	1	1	4	0	2	2																	8	4
Total Calls	24	11	16	10	27	7	35	18																	103	46
Citizen Safe Contacts	4	3	17	8	16	10	35	1																		
Incidents by Island:	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
John's Island	149	64	136	67	135	63	119	57																	539	63
Wesmaelew Island	22	9	23	11	27	13	15	7																	87	10
Kiawah Island	35	15	26	13	34	16	53	26																	148	17
Seabrook Island	27	12	18	9	18	8	20	10																	83	10
TOTAL	233	100	203	100	214	100	207	100																	857	100

C. Charleston County Emergency Medical Services

Deputy Chief Millican indicated that Charleston County EMS looks forward to discussions with the District to improve the quality of service. He apologized for the absence of the report for April stating a software issue with new CAD system implemented at the Consolidated 911 Center temporarily delayed the retrieval of the required data.

Deputy Chief Millican noted that like the Fire and Sheriff's Departments, EMS also realigns and augments its staffing and resources to accommodate the great influx of visitors to the Island during the summer, typically between Memorial and Labor Day. He also noted that on those weekends (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday) there will be resources moved closer to patrol the Beachwalker Park area and will be available to respond to calls at Freshfields and on the Island.

D. Kiawah Island Code Enforcement

Mr. Lameo reported that the season is beginning for code enforcement with the big issue being parking at Beachwalker Park. He noted that like last year, once the park parking lot and the Town Hall parking lot are full, visitors will be turned away and advised to try again at a later time in an effort to keep traffic off Beachwalker Drive. The Town Code Enforcement officers will be available on the Holiday weekends to assist the deputies.

Mr. Lameo reported that the beach attendance is picking up requiring the installation of two additional Beach Patrol employees as Code Enforcement Officers with the ability to issue ordinance tickets. Any calls that can not be handled by Code Enforcement, a deputy is called in to assist.

Mr. Lameo reported on the projects that are ongoing or starting soon;

- East End Beach Renourishment in front of the Ocean Course
- Seabrook Chanel relocation at the West End of the Beach
- Three of the Community Association Boardwalks being rebuilt

E. Beach Patrol

Mr. Lameo stated that Mr. Edgerton was not available to attend the meeting but ask that Mr. Lameo report that Beach Patrol has completed state certified watercraft training courses on the wave runners and tow boards provided by Mr. Neal for water rescue.

Mr. Lameo reported that on the 15th of May staff will be increased to three and on the 22nd will be increased to five, staggered throughout the day.

Mr. Regan commented on the recent article that Bohicket Road is scheduled to be repaved in June. Mr. Lameo indicated that he would try to get a schedule.

F. Kiawah Island Community Association

No additional report

Safety and Security Committee Report
Monthly Statistics: April 2015

	Apr 2014	Apr 2015
Deer Related Accidents (no personal injury):	0	0
False Residential Alarms:	6	3
Vehicles passed through the Main Gate:	174,456	193,734
Vehicles passed through the Vanderhorst Gate:	103,515	108,825

G. Kiawah Island Golf Resort

No report

X. Correspondence:
None

XI. Committee Members' Comments:
No additional Comments

XII. Citizens Comments:
None

XIII. Adjournment:

Mr. Thomae made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Regan and was unanimously passed.

Submitted by,

Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

Approved by,

Craig Weaver, Chairman

1/13/16

Date