The Town of Hilton Head Island
Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting

March 7, 2016

10:00 a.m. – Benjamin M. Racusin Council Chambers

AGENDA

As a Courtesy to Others Please Turn Off All Cell Phones and Pagers during the Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Freedom of Information Act Compliance**
   Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting of February 1, 2016
4. **Unfinished Business**
   a. North Forest Beach Area Community Task Force/Scope of Effort
5. **New Business**
   None
6. **Adjournment**

Please note that a quorum of Town Council may result if four (4) or more of Town Council members attend this meeting.

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

Date: February 1, 2016 **Time:** 10:00 AM

Members Present: Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*; Bill Harkins and Lee Edwards, *Council Members*

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Charles Cousins, *Director of Community Development*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief – Support Services*; Mike Mayers, *Deputy Fire Chief – Operations*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Benton Waller, *Battalion Chief – Training*; Joheida Fister, *Fire Marshal*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Tom Lennox, *Council Member*; Capt. Joey Woodward, Capt. Bob Bromage, and Kiera Morris, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Toby McSwain, *Sea Pines Director of Security*; and Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

Media Present: WJCL News Reporter

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1. Call to Order

2. Freedom of Information Act Compliance

Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted, and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. Special Public Safety Committee Meeting of January 20, 2016

A motion to approve the January 20, 2016 minutes was made by Mr. Edwards and seconded by Mr. Harkins. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

4. Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. Presentation of the 2015 Fire Rescue Annual Report

Brad Tadlock, Fire Chief, presented a brief overview of the annual report, which he noted would be distributed once received from the printer. No organizational changes were noted for 2015, but new hires, promotions, advancements, retirements, and resignations were outlined. He reviewed the key statistics on total incidents, noting this has been the busiest year on record with almost 7,000 calls resulting in a 7.8% increase over 2015. Chief Tadlock attributed the upward trend to the healthy economy, more visitors, and more building occurring.

He reviewed the EMS incidents, representing 71% of total call volume, and fire breakdowns, noting all numbers are fairly consistent. He outlined the steps being taken to educate the public about the

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need for working smoke detectors. Chief Tadlock briefly reviewed the breakdown of EMS calls, noting over 82% of them were for treatment and transport of patients.

Chief Tadlock concluded his presentation by briefly outlining numerous accomplishments, which he noted would be fully listed in the Annual Report. These included implementation of a new mobile mapping program called CADMOBILE, achievement of the StormReady Designation from the National Weather Service, receipt of the AHA Mission Lifeline Silver Award, and implementation of the Smart911 program with Beaufort County. Brief discussion followed concerning the need for diverse staffing that incorporates the growing Hispanic population and the steps being taken to accomplish this.

b. Report on Open Burning

Chief Tadlock indicated the statistics on open burning now reflect a full year, and he briefly outlined the number of registered permits, compliance checks conducted by FR personnel, and warnings and citations issued. He reviewed the challenges faced, including the wet weather that has resulted in 10 scheduled make-up days. Based on a completed survey of permit holders, he reported a new 2016 schedule of Saturday/Sunday and Saturday/Saturday burns days, rotating monthly, has been established. Overall, he indicated the compromise is working well and complaints have gone down.

c. 4th Quarter 2015 Crime Statistics – Capt. Joey Woodward

Capt. Joey Woodward from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office presented a brief PowerPoint outlining the detailed crime statistics for the 4th quarter of 2015, as cited in the Uniform Crime Report, which is included in the agenda packet.

He reviewed the breakdown of the statistics for Crimes Against Persons and Against Property, noting over 20 individuals have been identified who committed most of the crimes, and are either in jail pending trial, or out on bond or on electronic monitoring with a history of multiple charges and/or convictions. Capt. Woodward indicated next quarter's crime statistics should decrease due to the arrests made. He explained that areas indicating spikes in crimes are targeted with extra resources, including the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) or extra patrols or surveillance. A brief discussion followed concerning community policing, which involves citizens and law enforcement joining together to report crimes, establish crime watches, or request security threat analysis to find solutions to crime in their areas. Capt. Woodward stated the Sheriff's Office will continue to offer its resources when requested, and he encouraged the use of NIXLE to involve the community.

Vehicles collision statistics were reviewed, and trouble areas identified for future improvement. Capt. Woodward briefly outlined the tickets issued for traffic, criminal, warnings, and for marine patrol. He attributed the reduction in tickets issued to reallocation of personnel, the use of the speed limit trailer, and higher visibility of officers where traffic is greatest. He noted the importance of the reserve deputy and volunteer hours.

Capt. Woodward reviewed the drug violations by area and most common drug for the quarter and year, with most cases involving marijuana.

Capt. Woodward reported Calls for Service totaled over 53,000 for the year, with 634 arrests made, and the 4,207 Calls for Service performed by the SEU, and 170 arrests made. He noted that individuals could stay in touch with BCSO at NIXLE, a free subscription he briefly explained, through the new website, Facebook, and by calls to 911 that will result in an officer responding. The non-emergency number was also noted to keep BCSO informed.

A brief discussion following concerning an incident last week involving an individual exhibiting strange behavior lingering around local schools and churches, and how such information can be communicated to BCSO. Capt. Woodward noted any threatening behavior should be reported immediately to 911 so that an investigation can conducted and information released to the public.

Several citizens, including Hillary Dollenberg and Shea Jordan, requested that BCSO disseminate such information immediately to local schools so that parents can be notified and schools can make timely decisions. Capt. Woodward reported that this particular individual is no longer in the State.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Mr. Edwards. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lynn W. Buchman
Senior Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

_____/Approved _____
Marc A. Grant, Chairman

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