

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: May 3, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Harkins, Chairman; George Williams, Bill Ferguson

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Rene Phillips, *Website/Court Systems Administrator*; Vicki Pfannenschmidt, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Ken Heitzke, Councilman; Sheriff P. J. Tanner, *BCSO*; Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, *BCSO*; Arthur Benoit, *Chief of Security, Hilton Head Plantation*; Lt. Admire, *Palmetto Dunes Plantation*

Media Present: Laura Nahmias, *Island Packet*

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. FOIA 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:

Mr. Williams moved to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2010. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Minutes of February 1, 2010 were approved 2-0-1. (Mr. Ferguson abstained because he was not in attendance at said meeting)

4. Unfinished Business:

None.

5. New Business:

Lieutenant Zanelotti pointed out the changes in the Quarterly Crime Stats. He stated format streamlines the reporting for the Sheriff's Office for the reportable offenses which is required by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

- **1st Quarter 2010 Crime Statistics** – Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, BCSO

Crimes Against Persons

Lieutenant Zanelotti noted there was a murder in the first quarter. It took place at the Sandalwood Apartments and it is an active case. He proceeded with a review of all other categories.

Crimes Against Property

Lieutenant Zanelotti reported burglaries and breaking and entering are combined on the new report. He noted there has been a decrease in this area for this quarter.

Mr. Harkins asked if there was a way for the Town of Hilton Head Island to compare their crime stats with other towns or cities in the state or nationwide. Sheriff Tanner approached the dais to field the question. He explained the new reporting is a result of the standards required for the recent accreditation the department went through. Sheriff Tanner stated the comparisons and population used in the past were not true figures and is not acceptable for the accreditation process. The new format meets the standards and also gives a better guideline of what crimes are occurring on Hilton Head Island as a whole.

Vehicle Collisions

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed vehicle collision stating that collisions without injury had a slight decrease and collisions with injury remained the same. He explained the majority of the hit and runs without injury are incidents involving unoccupied parked cars.

Tickets

Lieutenant Zanelotti reported the number of tickets have increased due to the recent spring break and an increase in tourists on the Island. He also noted the department made a few personnel changes within their traffic team.

Sheriff Tanner asked to approach the dais. He said that hopefully the Committee is happy with the Crime Statistic report and the performance of his department on Hilton Head Island. He explained he received a letter from the Town Manager, Steve Riley requesting him to reduce his budget. He said that economic times are difficult and he sent a letter back to Mr. Riley stating he cannot reduce the budget without eliminating services. Sheriff Tanner presented the question as to which services Mr. Riley suggested he cut. He asked the Committee to support his office on their budget request emphasizing the importance of public safety. Mr. Harkins stated it would be helpful to look at a three year comparison analysis of the budget and the trends. Sheriff Tanner responded that Mr. Riley is doing what he needs to do but he is requesting the Committee support his needs. Mr. Williams added he sympathizes with the Sheriff concerning the issue and he wanted to let him know his department's efforts are appreciated.

Councilman Heitzke requested to approach the dais. He asked the Sheriff if the Quarterly Crime Stats were going to include the Drug Violations. Sheriff Tanner responded those stats will be completed annually. He explained the investigation process takes up to six months or a year to complete and with that in mind it is actually better to report on drug violations annually to get a clearer picture of the results.

6. Adjournment:

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ferguson seconded the Motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vicki L. Pfannenschmidt, Secretary

Approved by:

Bill Harkins, Chairman