

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING**

**Date:** September 8, 2014

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Members Present:** Marc A. Grant, *Chairman*; John J. McCann and Bill Harkins, *Council Members*

**Members Absent:** None

**Town Staff Present:** Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Ed Boring, *Deputy Fire Chief – Support Services*; Mike Mayers, *Deputy Fire Chief – Operations*; Randy Lindstrom, *Battalion Chief – Planning*; Benton Waller, *Battalion Chief – Training*; Joheida Fister, *Fire Marshal*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Cathy Jones-Gooding, *Communications Manager*; and Lynn Buchman, *Senior Administrative Assistant*

**Others Present:** Capt. Joey Woodward, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; Kiera Morris, *Beaufort County Sheriff's Office*; and Eleanor O'Key, *Lowcountry Inside Track*

**Media Present:** None

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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. Regular Public Safety Committee Meeting of August 4, 2014**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee was made by Mr. McCann and seconded by Chairman Grant. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0. Mr. Harkins was not present at that meeting, and therefore, did not vote.

**4. Unfinished Business**

None

**5. New Business**

**a. Fire Rescue 2014 Strategic Plan Update and Mid-Year Call Statistics**

Brad Tadlock, Fire Chief, introduced his senior staff, who support him and assist with implementation of the Recommendations in the Strategic Plan. Chief Tadlock presented a PowerPoint outlining the mid-year status of the 2013 Strategic Plan Recommendations.

Chief Tadlock provided a brief overview of the status of each of the individual Recommendations. He noted various items that have been completed or are currently on hold, pending or under review, citing the transition in staff that has occurred since Chief Lucas' retirement.

Discussions ensued with the Committee Members on several of the Recommendations, as follows:

- Chief Tadlock reported that the nuisance fire alarm ordinance is on hold pending further review. In response to Mr. McCann's inquiry concerning the existence of false alarm fines or penalties, Chief Tadlock explained that this and all such options should be explored at the time the ordinance is drafted.
- Reporting that 90% of the corrections have been made to the PBX phone systems, Chief Tadlock explained to Mr. McCann that the cost for such upgrades is the responsibility of the individual business.
- Mr. Harkins suggested that the real estate community should be made aware of the AED's that have been placed in all staff vehicles and some Town buildings and parks, and Chief Tadlock agreed and indicated public education initiatives will be reviewed by the new staff this fall.
- Chief Tadlock reported that tree obstructions will be addressed with the PUDs and neighborhood POAs. Chairman Grant and Chief Tadlock discussed how low hanging branches are reported depending on the roadway, with PUDs being contacted to address their roads, Facilities Management notified as to public roads to determine who the road owner is, and the challenges of dealing with multiple owners of a road.
- Chief Tadlock expressed concerns in maintaining the ISO Public Protection Class 3 rating that was obtained under the old criteria, since the criteria changed in 2012. He reported an internal audit would be conducted in each division this fall, and he hoped to report the results to the Committee in the spring. If a Class 3 rating is not maintained, there could be an impact on insurance rates in the area. He noted this is another area in which to partner with the real estate agencies to help the public understand the value the fire department adds to the community. Mr. Harkins suggested that as the review continues to determine how to maintain a Class 3 rating, that the ISO be approached for assistance. Chief Tadlock indicated ISO has already been contacted, and agreed it would be of benefit to establish a relationship with them.

Chief Tadlock acknowledged that with the staff changes that occurred in August, there is regrouping to be done, and a need for his senior staff to look at new ideas that come about with such changes.

Mr. McCann asked Chief Tadlock to report back to the Committee on those items he is working on with the Town staff prior to the December retreat so they might be discussed at the retreat.

Mr. Harkins asked Chief Tadlock to outline any unknown or known concerns he might have. Chief Tadlock listed several items, including maintaining high standards, showing the value of the department to the community, finding new ways to educate the public, the challenge of funding, working on other initiatives not enumerated in the strategic plan to make the organization better, and obtaining feedback from the community. He noted that his vision and challenge to his senior staff is to find new ways to continue to improve.

Mr. Harkins and Chief Tadlock discussed the increased physical demands made on the staff as they age, and the ways in which the department evaluates their physical capabilities. Chief Tadlock pointed out the requirements of Fire Rescue's medical clearance program, the Town's health and

wellness programs in general, and the goals of the Town's Health and Wellness Committee for not only Fire & Rescue, but for all Town employees.

Mr. McCann inquired about the effect of the proposed density increases under the new LMO that may occur in several areas of the community and how this will affect Fire Rescue assets. Chief Tadlock noted that the fire stations are located in generally good spots, however, at some point, staffing may need to be addressed if the call volume increases. This will be closely monitored. However, the new construction and renewed investment in the Island will be done under the new fire safety codes, which will improve fire safety, and result in a hazard mitigation that you normally do not hear much about.

Chairman Grant discussed with Chief Tadlock the designated burning days and the problems associated with rain and makeup days. Chief Tadlock admitted the challenge has been the weather, which is beyond anyone's control. He noted the average has been 15 – 20 permits on the scheduled burn days, with a total of 139 permits issued. The policy allows for 2 days per month, with some days occurring on weekends and some weekdays, since some people work weekends. However, he agreed that makeup days were realistic when weather prohibits burning on scheduled burn days, and this is being done.

Chief Tadlock briefly reviewed the call statistics, which he noted are a little behind last year. While the figures fluctuated, he noted there was nothing remarkable to report. Although the Island seemed very busy this summer and the EMS calls were slightly up, he said that did not seem to impact the numbers. He cited the number of fire responses, and the 4 fires during the first 6 months of 2014 that caused the most damage to property loss. Due to the quick response and control of fires, there is little news coverage, but he noted his department is busier than people think.

There being no public comments, Chairman Grant thanked Chief Tadlock for his report and to the fire department for their good work during the year, and expressed his appreciation for their service.

## 6. Adjournment

At 10:42 a.m. Mr. Harkins moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. McCann seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully submitted:

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Lynn W. Buchman  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

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Marc A. Grant, Chairman