

TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: February 7, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Harkins, Chairman; Kim Likins

Members Absent: None

Town Staff Present: Gregory D. DeLoach, Esq., *Assistant Town Manager*; Rick Arnold, *Codes Enforcement Officer*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Kimberly Kominski, *Administrative Assistant*

Others Present: Sheriff P.J. Tanner, *BCSO*; Captain Toby McSwain, *BCSO*, Lt. Glenn Zanelotti, *BCSO*; George Breed, *Chief of Security, Sea Pines Plantation*; Jesse Iverson, *Chairman, Greater Island Council Public Safety Committee*

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 January 3, 2011

Ms. Likins moved to approve. Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0.

4. Unfinished Business

- a. None

5. New Business

- a. 4th Quarter 2010 Crime Statistics – **Lieutenant Glenn Zanelotti, BCS**

Lieutenant Zanelotti reviewed the 2010 fourth quarter crime statistics report and explained that statistics change based on the population on the Island and to keep in mind that the fourth quarter includes both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Sheriff Tanner spoke to the Committee regarding the needs of the Sheriff's Office. He stated that cameras are valuable as a crime deterrent and also assist in prosecution. He explained that in analyzing the statistics, it should be noted that 85% of crimes are committed by 10% of the population; career criminals are the issue.

He also stated that the Town contracts with a Municipal Judge in Beaufort to conduct bond hearings and the Town may be better served by having their own Municipal Judge hold bond hearings. Ms. Likins requested that Sheriff Tanner provide the Committee with specific examples of cases wherein the Municipal Judge in Beaufort (not the Town Municipal Judge) has set bail at a low amount and subsequent to the release, the offender continues to engage in criminal activity. The Sheriff pointed out that the Greater Island Public Safety Committee is very familiar with public safety issues as they pertain to the Island and are a good resource that this committee should tap into. He also stated that there has been interest in holding a 26-mile marathon on the Island, which will provide revenue and exposure for the Island, but also require increased traffic control and law enforcement presence.

Greg DeLoach explained that the contract with the City of Beaufort for conducting bond hearings for the Town is an alternative to having the Town Judge travel to Beaufort twice a day and the contract costs approximately \$60,000-65,000 per year. Mr. DeLoach explained that alternatives to the current approach are being explored.

Ms. Likins stated that Captain Toby McSwain is working with her on setting up a community meeting with the residents of the North Forest Beach Area as she has been contacted by many residents expressing concern with crime on the Island.

Mr. Harkins asked where the Town stands on an ordinance regulating towing companies. Mr. DeLoach explained that a comprehensive ordinance makes the most sense and the Town is waiting to review the County's proposed ordinance. Sheriff Tanner explained that he has seen the County's draft ordinance and feels that regulation through the business license procedure is the most practical solution. The Sheriff added further his strong support for the Town of Hilton Head to have in place a well designed towing ordinance which could possibly be an adoption of the County's effort on this matter.

b. Ms. Likins stated that she has been contacted regarding access to bike paths from the Yacht Cove area and that it is difficult and dangerous. Mr. DeLoach stated that in connection with Town Council's efforts to receive designation as a bicycle friendly community, the Traffic Engineer has recently provided a report on the Town's bicycle paths, which he will review. Mr. Harkins requested a progress report at the next meeting.

c. Ms. Likins asked Captain McSwain if the Sheriff's Office is doing anything specific to prevent crime during evening hours on school campuses. Captain McSwain stated that most schools contract for law enforcement when there are sporting events in the evening and routine patrols are conducted otherwise.

Adjournment

At 11:07 a.m. Ms. Likins moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Kimberly Kominski,
Administrative Assistant

Approved: February 7, 2011

Bill Harkins, Chairman