

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

**Date:** April 6, 2015

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

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Town Staff Present:** Greg DeLoach, *Assistant Town Manager*; Brian Hulbert, *Staff Attorney*; Tom Fultz, *Director of Administrative Services*; Susan Simmons, *Director of Finance*; Brad Tadlock, *Fire Chief*; Mike Mayers, *Deputy Fire Chief – Operations*; Randy Lindstrom, *Battalion Chief – Planning*; Ben Waller, *Battalion Chief – Training*; Joheida Fister, *Fire Marshal*; Tom Dunn, *Emergency Management Coordinator*; Cathy Gooding-Jones, *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:** Zack Murdock, *The Island Packet*

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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 November 3, 2014**

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 meeting of the Public Safety Committee was made by Mr. Harkins and seconded by Chairman Grant. The motion was approved by a vote of 2-0, with Mr. Edward not voting due to the fact he was not a member of the Committee at that time.

**4. Unfinished Business**

None

**5. New Business**

**a. Proposed Revised 2015 Public Safety Committee Meeting Dates**

After brief discussion, Mr. Harkins moved to cancel the August 2015 meeting, to change the date for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Crime Statistics to the September meeting, and to accept the other 2015 meeting dates

as set forth in the agenda packet. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

**b. Presentation of the 2014 Fire Rescue Annual Report**

Brad Tadlock, Fire Chief, presented a brief overview of the 2014 Fire Rescue Annual Report, which was included in the agenda packet. He noted the leadership and organizational changes for 2014; the breakdown of total fire and medical incidents; calls for service broken down by month, day of week and hour of day; breakdown of fires, fire alarm activations, and EMS call types.

A brief discussion to clarify certain statistics followed the presentation. Chief Tadlock identified the most troublesome items on the horizon for Fire Rescue, which included maintaining the current benchmark service level of 5 minutes to arrive on the scene for 83% of the time, the difficulties of integrating technology, and the challenge of funding the new technology and the upkeep required. Chief Tadlock noted the challenges Fire Rescue faces in servicing the periphery areas of the Island, the involvement of Fire Rescue in identifying dirt roads in connection with paving efforts, and the continuing need to communicate to the public the 2 major functions (Fire and EMS) that Fire Rescue provides.

A motion was made by Mr. Harkins to recommend that Town Council accept the Annual Report as presented. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

**c. Annual Report on Fire Rescue Strategic Plan**

Chief Tadlock highlighted progress made in addressing selected recommendations contained in the Strategic Plan during the past calendar year, pointing out those items completed and those still in development as noted on the Summary contained in the agenda packet.

A brief discussion followed concerning location of AED's, a possible emergency access gate in Hilton Head Plantation at Crooked Pond, how drones have been used in other communities to assist in cardiac arrest cases, and the challenges to maintain the Class 3 ISO rating and how that is being addressed and the rating's effect on insurance rates.

**d. Report on Open Burning**

The open burning statistics for the period April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 were presented and briefly outlined by Chief Tadlock.

The Committee members questioned Chief Tadlock on how the open burning system is working and the reasons for citations issued. Chief Tadlock reported positive response overall, but noted the weather is requiring flexibility to provide 2 burn days a month. While the compromise is working well, Chief Tadlock noted there is still a need for an educational component. Joheida Fister, Fire Marshal, commented on the checks made for burning permits issued, and how these burns are spread throughout the Island and not specifically located in one area.

Rochelle Williams, an Island resident, questioned the use of barrels for recreational burns and whether these were regulated by the Ordinance. Chief Tadlock and Fire Marshal Fister explained that yard debris burned in a barrel falls under the twice a month regulation; however, recreational burns of firewood in a barrel are allowed any day after confirming with the burn line that weather conditions are favorable to burn that day.

**e. Presentation on the Proposed Revision of the Fire Rescue Enabling Legislation, Ordinance 92-16, Chapter 11 of Title 2, Section 2-11-50**

Chief Tadlock outlined the need for an update to the 1993 enabling Ordinance for Fire Rescue, as requested in the last accreditation review for a more fully documented Fire Rescue mission. He noted this would not result in any increased responsibilities for Fire Rescue nor would it have any staffing or budget impact. He explained that the proposed Ordinance included in the agenda packet would formally establish the name of Fire Rescue as Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue and would allow the Town Manager to set forth a Statement of Purpose to comply with the request of the accrediting agency. A brief discussion ensued, followed by a motion by Mr. Harkins to recommend to Town Council that it adopt the proposed Ordinance for the purpose of clarifying the name, mission and functions of Hilton Head Island Fire Rescue. Mr. Edwards seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Chairman Grant thanked Chief Tadlock for his reports and the continuing hard work and efforts of the entire Fire Rescue.

**6. Adjournment**

At 11:05 a.m. Mr. Harkins moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Edwards 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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/Approved May 4, 2015  
Marc A. Grant, Chairman