

**Public Safety Committee  
Tuesday, April 20, 2010; 3:00pm  
Kiawah Island Municipal Center**

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order:** Mr. Orban called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.
- II. Roll Call:**  
**Present:** Steve Orban, Chairman  
Jim Broadus  
Doug Dodge  
Joe Pezzullo  
Dick Sula
- Also Present:** Karl Ristow, St. Johns Fire Chief  
Lt. Chris Brokaw, CCSO  
Yvonne Johnstone, KIGR  
Joe Croughwell, KICA  
Rusty Lameo, TOKI  
Tumiko Rucker, TOKI  
Cathy Wilson, TOKI
- III. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting was published and posted in accordance to the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements of the Town of Kiawah Island.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**  
**A. Minutes of January 19, 2010**  
Mr. Dodge motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Sula seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- V. Old Business:**  
None
- VI. New Business**
- A. Multi-Family Deck Grilling**  
The Town's Municipal Code prohibits any grilling on multi-family decks or balconies. Mr. Orban stated that International Fire codes and regulations have changed and now allow grills on multi-family decks if constructed to safety specifications. The Town's attorney, Dennis Rhoad, submitted a letter to the Public Safety Committee asking for a review of the current Town Code.
- Mr. Pezzullo stated that if the International Fire Code requirements are met, then he would have no objection.

Mr. Broadus stated that his family stayed at three units at Maritime Villas and he approves of the design. Mr. Sula stated that if the change to allow grilling on multi-family decks is approved, he sees enforcement as an issue. Mr. Dodge stated that he also has no concerns except with regards to enforceability and the ability to distinguish between what buildings allow and what buildings prohibit the grilling.

Chief Ristow stated that both the structure and the device must meet the Fire Code to be allowed. He explained that at this time, Maritime will probably meet the Fire Code, while no other multi-family dwelling on the Island will. Chief Ristow stated that his fire inspectors will be able to perform inspections and offer technical advice. He reiterated that the dissemination of information will be key to enforcement. Chief Ristow stated that it is important to keep in mind that the codes have changed and that is the driving force of this agenda item.

Mr. Croughwell stated that he is very hesitant to approve multi-family deck grilling and that he is greatly concerned with the idea.

Mr. Orban stated that it seems that most are in agreement with moving forward with the review and that the St. Johns Fire Department attorney and the Town attorney have submitted letters of approval to the Town. He explained that he will carry the comments forward to Town Council.

### **B. Bike Path Code Enforcement**

Mr. Lameo stated that there is concern about the influx of bicyclist on the Island but that currently, it does not seem to be a problem. He stated there may be a need for additional code enforcement on the bike path. He does not see a major problem area except where people fish from the bridge and his only other worry is that both bicyclist and road bikes will be on the pathway at the same time. Mr. Orban suggested adding an article to Town Notes about bicycle etiquette.

Mr. Orban stated that overall the bike path has increased the safety of the bicyclist by moving them off of the Parkway.

### **C. Citizen Emergency Response Team**

Mr. Croughwell stated that Kathy Heikes and Dr. Fallon are leading the creation of a Citizen Emergency Response Team. Currently they have close to 30 volunteers and the support of the Resort, the Town, KICA, and the developer. The group is awaiting a schedule for training from the County. Mrs. Heikes stated that the state of Ohio has over 437 teams and CERT began after 911 when FEMA realized that they need more trained people on the ground. Chief Ristow stated that the CERT team can provide help and are a great resource to the Town.

Mr. Lameo stated that CERT is a civilian emergency response team and trained in search and rescue and first-aid. He stated that their main job is to assist agencies that are on Island. Kiawah and Seabrook will work together in training.

#### **D. River Course Clubhouse Fire Update**

Chief Ristow stated that there are no conclusions just yet and the fire remains under investigation by all sides. An independent investigator has been assigned from North Charleston to investigate the cause of fire. Chief Ristow stated that the first fire was in a light canister in the ceiling above the sauna. He stated that they cut away from the burned area and used thermal imaging to verify that the fire was out. Unfortunately, the fire restarted and the building was a complete loss. The final report may take months and will be discussed at the time it is released. Chief Ristow explained that there are serious issues with access to homes on Kiawah and during the River Course incident, had to cut limbs before being able to take the trucks to the building.

#### **E. Review of Charleston County Sheriff's Office Activity Report**

In Captain Brady's absence, Lt. Brokaw reviewed the Charleston County Sheriff's office annual report for 2009. The report showed an increase in service calls and tickets issue. The monthly reports for January, February and March were also submitted for informational purposes. Lt. Brokaw stated that the unusual incidents during the first three months of 2010 include the River Course Club House fire and two suicides. Lt. Brokaw recommended keeping with the tradition of increasing the Public Safety personnel during the busier months.

#### **F. Report from Joe Croughwell-KICA**

Mr. Croughwell stated that the first quarter went well and there were 50,000 more vehicles going through the gates than compared to this time last year. There were less violations than last year and it was a great first quarter. Traffic studies show that most people do not go more than 7 miles an hour over the speed limit and that is in an acceptable range.

#### **G. Report from St. Johns Fire Chief-Karl Ristow**

Chief Ristow stated that half of their calls are EMS calls. He explained that this result is over \$400-\$900 thousand dollars of Fire Department funds answering EMS calls. He stated that this could become an issue overtime since the Fire District does not recoup any funds for EMS calls. Kiawah Island and Johns Island makes up 80% of the response volume.

Mr. Sula asked about false alarm calls. Chief Ristow stated that it seems the false alarms are occurring less often but that the current inventory is not considered to be "good" data. He hopes they should have more specific data

over the next few months. Mr. Lameo stated that in the last quarter the Town has sent only two letters for repeat offender false alarms. Chief Ristow stated that most false alarm calls come from KIGR properties and that they have greatly reduced through Yvonne Johnstone's diligence.

St. Johns Fire District is moving the dispatch center to the consolidated E911 center in July. Those employees will become county employees at that time. Radios will be reprogrammed and that will take working together with the Town. He stated that the seven digit emergency number will still be active but he stressed the importance of dialing 911 for all emergencies.

**G. Review of Beach Patrol Performance**

Mr. Lameo stated that three of the beach patrol personnel are paramedics with Charleston County and two additional are first responders and they communicate very well with the Town and other entities on the island. The annual beach meeting will probably take place within the next two weeks. All entities that have involvement on the beach are invited to attend. There are five beach accesses available for emergency vehicles. Currently, emergency response vehicles cannot go onto the beach due to soft sand. Mr. Orban stated that he is personally pleased that there is a good group of beach patrol members working on the beach.

**H. Ad Hoc Safety Committee**

No Report

**VII. Correspondence:**

None

**VIII. Committee Member Comments:**

None

**IX. Citizen Comments:**

None

**X. Adjournment:**

**Mr. Sula motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:02pm. Mr. Dodge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Submitted by,

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Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

**Approved by,**

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**G. Steven Orban, Chairman**

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**Date**