

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
KIAWAH ISLAND MUNICIPAL CENTER
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM
JULY 21, 2009; 3:00PM**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Mr. Orban called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.**
- II.**
- III. Roll Call:**
- Present:** **Steve Orban, Chairman**
 Jim Broadus
 Doug Dodge
 Dick Sula
- Absent:** **Joe Pezzullo**
- IV. FOIA:** Notice of this meeting has been published and posted in accordance to the Freedom of Information Act and the requirements for the Town of Kiawah Island.
- V. Approval of Minutes:**
- A. Minutes of January 20, 2009**
Mr. Dodge motioned to approve the minutes of January 20, 2009. Mr. Sula seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- VI. New Business:**
- A. Review of Charleston County Sheriff's Office Activity Report- Captain Jim Brady**
Captain Brady stated that there were a couple of theft calls for relating to stolen tools from construction sites. In May there was a call for underage drinking and several tickets were written. Deputies secured a search warrant and also found marijuana in the home. For the month of June, calls increased as visitors did. The plan is to sit at Parkway and write written warning tickets for the new speed limits. He wrote 6-7 warnings last week. After the two-week period is over, regular citations will be written. The written warnings in July will be up due to this process. The issue with the mailbox vandalism is under investigation. There are multiple aspects to the issue and the Sheriff's Department is determining the proper charges. Currently, the understanding is that three persons were in the vehicle during the vandalisms. These mailboxes were vandalized on Bufflehead and Whimbrel Court.
- Mr. Croughwell stated that KICA will send the individuals a bill for replacement of property and damages.
- Mr. Orban asked if the individual had too much alcohol. Captain Brady stated that the responding Deputy Torres did not observe the smell of alcohol on the

driver but did issue a citation for an open container in the vehicle. Captain Brady stated that at minimum the driver will be charged with filing a false report for stating that he struck the mailboxes by dodging a deer. This charge could be a hit and run with property damage.

Mr. Dodge stated that there are tire marks and car parts on three separate streets.

Mr. Sula asked if the suspects are residents. Captain Brady stated that they do own property that they are planning to build, but currently reside in Massachusetts.

Mr. Croughwell stated that Deputy Torres is spending a lot of time on this issue and that they are following the proper procedures.

Captain Brady stated that the circulating emails regarding the vandalized mailboxes are both part fact and fiction. That is part of the issue with trying to deal with only the facts and building a case. This case will be brought to the Kiawah Island Court. He stated that they are attempting to get information from the insurance companies that will allow them to match reports to damage properties.

Captain Brady stated that, in a separate incident, there was a DUI arrest as a result of a mailbox being knocked over on the Parkway.

Captain Brady stated that he had a case of littering when a driver threw a beer can out of the window on the Parkway. He was issued a citation

Mr. Orban asked if the vehicles are equipped with DUI's. Captain Brady stated that breathalyzers are not located in vehicles but located at Leed's Avenue at the County Site and they are driven to the location for the test.

Mr. Dodge stated that maybe in Town Notes, the Town could publicize arrests and citations. Mr. Orban stated that he does not think there is a general feeling that the Sheriff's Department is sweeping things under the rug. He stated that court records are open and they public can access them if they need to.

Chief Ristow stated that the KICA paper would be a good venue to distribute the police information. Mr. Orban stated that the Digest and Town Notes could have an article that discusses how crime situations are dealt with.

B. Report from KICA Security-Joe Croughwell

Mr. Croughwell stated that there has been some vandalism that started around last Saturday. They are breaking lights, throwing trash, bashing mailboxes, and throwing broken glass bottles into pools. He stated that it is in the West Beach area and they are going to have additional people tonight coordinating with Code

Enforcement and Deputies and will attempt to catch them in the act. He hopes they will be found within the next week.

He stated that there was one incident that is bothering him that he would like to talk about. He explained that there have been a lot of stolen bikes. Particularly, there was a note left on the front door of a residence and the language was awful, derogatory toward African-Americans, however, the lady at the residence is white. He thinks it is connected to the other vandals. He also thinks it is a hate crime. They have named themselves the “Kiawah Island Rough Riders.” Mr. Orban asked how long this will go on. Mr. Croughwell stated that he believes it will be over in one week. Mr. Croughwell thinks that it is a group of young kids that are acting up on vacation.

Mr. Sula stated that they are planning ahead before they arrive. Parties have been planned all over the place before they even arrive.

Mr. Croughwell stated that a lot of people are afraid that they will be injured on the Parkway by the equipment at night. Mr. Orban stated it will be left the way it is because SC does not use flashing barricades.

Mr. Sula stated that he approached the Parkway around midnight and it was startling to see a backhoe so close to the roadway. Mr. Orban stated that he will talk to the construction crew and see that they park them as far from the roadway as possible. He explained that the speeds have been cut to 35MPH and the engineer has a construction manager on-sight during all construction.

Mr. Croughwell stated that the flagmen are horrible and it seems they wait even if there is no traffic. Mr. Martin stated that at one point, the flagmen did not have walkie-talkies and that there was one person being the “middleman” running information to the points.

Mr. Orban stated that the Town’s work will begin in the next few days and a lot of construction will take place.

Chief Ristow requested that Mr. Orban work with the construction crew to review emergency procedures to ensure access for all emergency vehicles. Mr. Orban stated that emergency vehicles have the right of way.

C. Report from St. Johns Fire Chief-Karl Ristow

He stated that the false alarm responses on Kiawah are a getting worse. He also stated that he is getting tired of responding to burglar alarms. He spends close to \$300 times per false alarm but that the most important thing is that the response puts them out of range for an actual emergency.

Mr. Orban stated that an article could be written in Town Notes. Mr. Martin stated that currently the Town does not have an ordinance so there is nothing the Town can do other than send a letter.

D. Review of Beach Patrol Performance

Mr. Orban stated that he had not heard much but that Mr. Joe Pezzullo's comments were clear that the performance is below the level of acceptance. Mr. Martin stated that at this point it is on eggshells. There have been issues with staffing problems and certification problems. Mr. Orban stated that at the beginning of the season they were very excited about the performance and stated that if Mr. Martin thinks a meeting is necessary they can call a meeting. Mr. Martin stated that Mr. Van Gorden will return within the next two weeks and hopefully that will be helpful.

Mr. Orban stated that they will meet with Mrs. Rucker and have a meeting with A-Services management.

E. Accident Clearing

Mr. Orban stated that he is a little concerned about the accident at Mingo Point. There was a huge backup on both ends and it took two hours to clear and no one was severely injured. Mr. Orban asked how the clearing could be sped up. Mr. Martin stated that he and Mr. Ristow were there the entire time. He stated that the wreckers are on a rotational system and you get the next one in line no matter how far or close it may be. Chief Ristow stated that he talked to Bridgeview and asked for three wreckers and they questioned him about it. Mr. Croughwell stated that if there is a fatality, there is nothing being moved until the Deputies say they can. Chief Ristow stated that he is not sure fire trucks will be able to get through when the streets are blocked. Mr. Croughwell stated that Dave Achey has been told to ram the vehicles out of the way when the Deputies authorize it. Mr. Orban asked who is in charge of those accidents. Chief Ristow stated that they all work together in a Unified Command Center. Chief Ristow stated that contributing factors are who can order a wrecker and prevention. Mrs. Johnstone stated that this should be looked into before the 2012 PGA due to the amount of increased traffic on the island.

Mr. Orban asked if KICA has the equipment and training to direct traffic. Mr. Croughwell stated that they are authorized by SLED to do traffic. Chief Ristow stated that everyone should be into the approved safety vests and it is a safety issue if they are not. He explained that during the accident on the Parkway, some KICA staff were not in approved vests.

F. Multiple False Alarm Incidents

Discussed above in Chief Ristow's report.

Captain Brady stated that Deputies notice that they are responding to one particular address continually. Mr. Orban stated that he will bring this up to Council during the August 4th meeting. Mr. Dodge stated that 4-5 years ago they did a study for the false alarms and the problem was not multiple offenders so

they decided to educate with letters. Captain Brady stated that he feels most of the false alarms are now repeat offenders. Chief Ristow stated that the first course is to educate the property owners and second is to issue fines. Mr. Dodge stated that there is proof that there is a problem with repeat offenders and that it should be addressed. Mr. Orban stated that he will meet with Mr. Martin after the meeting to discuss the alarm information before presenting to Council.

G. Parkway Speeds

New parkway speed of 35MPH into effect and it will remain after construction. Deputies will issue warning violations for two weeks and issue citations after the two-week “educational” period has ended.

H. Kiawah Entrance Direction Sign

Mr. Orban stated that a new sign was designed and installed at the entrance gate. It only lasted fifteen minutes before being hit and destroyed by a vehicle. A new replacement sign is on the way. Mr. Orban stated that the sign will be lower than the last one.

I. New Pet Ordinance

Mr. Orban stated that the Council had a first reading on a new pet ordinance that will not allow dogs without a leash the entire year unless between Beach Club and West Beach. The public hearing will be August 4 at 1:00pm. Mr. Sula stated that it is time that this was dealt with and he applauds Mr. Burnaford’s articles in the publications.

J. Possible Vehicle Guardrails on Bike Path

Mr. Orban has asked the engineers to look into placing guardrails along the path. Mr. Broadus stated that it was necessary. Mr. Dodge asked why they would not be placed the entire length of the path. Mr. Orban responded that it is for aesthetics and that he hopes the eight feet wide path will be adequate.

Mr. Broadus asked about the path along the river. Mr. Orban stated that there will be a 4’6” railing which meets code for bike paths over the water.

Mr. Orban stated that the project should be completed in the fall. Chief Ristow asked if the bike path would support a vehicle. Mr. Orban responded that it was not designed to hold vehicles but that it would probably hold a golf cart.

Mr. Orban stated that the path is both a bike and pedestrian path.

K. Underage Drinking

Mr. Orban stated that the Mayor sent him an email requesting that all underage drinking incidences should have at minimum, a Town citation, a Deputy called, and parents contacted. This would show that the Town has shown due diligence.

Captain Brady stated that the Sheriff's office does not release persons cited for underage drinking until the parents or guardians pick them up.

VIII. Correspondence:

None

IX. Committee Members' Comments:

None

X. Adjournment

Mr. Broadus motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:15pm. Mr. Dodge seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by,

Catherine Wilson, Town Clerk

Approved by,

G. Steven Orban, Chairman

Date