



**City of Oak Harbor
PUBLIC SAFETY Standing Committee
Meeting Notes**

**February 18, 2010, 7 a.m.
Oak Harbor Fire Department**

Notes - Information Only

CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Severns called the meeting to order at 6:59 a.m. and introduced new committee member Beth Munns.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor Jim Slowik, City Administrator Paul Schmidt
Council Members: Bob Severns-Chair, Beth Munns, Scott Dudley
Fire Department: Chief Mark Soptich, Battalion Chief Ray Merrill, Admin Asst Romy Velasquez
Police Department: Chief Rick Wallace, Lt John Dyer
Also Present: Attorney Bill Hawkins, Law Department

ELEMENTS NIGHTCLUB – 4th Quarter Report

Chief Wallace reported there were 10 calls for police service during the fourth quarter. Five of those calls have no significant bearing on the nightclub license issue and should not be viewed as having a negative connotation towards the nightclub as these types of calls for police service could occur at any business or private residence. The remaining 5 calls for service pertain to the license conditions:

ASSAULT COMPLAINT (inside the business): Complaint Taken, female victim assaulted by female suspect; officers were unable to locate suspect

DISORDERLY CONDUCT COMPLAINT (1 in the business, 1 unfounded): Settled by Contact, employees called regarding a customer who refused to leave, subject left prior to officers arriving. Anonymous call reporting disorderly subject at location, officer could not find disturbance or problem.

DUI (in the business area): Arrest, employee reported a possible DUI leaving location. Driver located and arrested.

MINOR FREQUENTING A TAVERN (inside the business): Unfounded, anonymous phone report of minors in the business. Officers were unable to locate any minors inside.

The 4th quarter reflects a significant reduction in the number of calls to this establishment with no noise complaints.

ACORN MOTOR INN – Update

Chief Wallace reported Acorn Motor Inn was closed by the Island County Health Department due to the level of contamination for meth. The Inn's insurance covers cleanup and decontamination. In response to Mr. Severns, Chief Wallace said the owners were unaware of meth at their establishment; what possibly occurred was the result of short stay customers. Ms. Munns said Best Western and Candlewood Suites conduct extensive training to target and pick up clues for meth. Chief Wallace said the information would be passed to the Acorn Inn owners. Mr. Dudley asked if manufacturing occurred at the establishment. Chief Wallace said mainly sales and smoking meth are what caused the contamination.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATIONS IN MILITARY HOUSING AREAS – Report

Chief Wallace reported that in 2002-2003 the police department was approached by NAS Security / Intelligence and asked if OHPD would be the primary responder to domestic violence calls at military housing. At that time, NAS was in charge of housing and 911 calls went directly to OHPD. Domestic violence calls tie up primary officers for 2-3 hours and, if there are no arrests, tie up other responding officers for approximately 30 minutes. Calls for service over the past 3 years: (1) 2007: 77, (2) 2008: 78 and (3) 2009: 86. When OHPD agreed to this, NAS was in charge of housing. Currently, a private organization is in charge of housing. Mr. Severns asked how the calls for service compare with the rest of the City. Chief Wallace said approximately 20-25%. NAS made the same agreement with the Island County Sheriffs Department. In response to Mr. Severns, Chief Wallace said the reason NAS came to OHPD was unlikely due to manpower and more due to training. In response to Mr. Dudley, Mayor Slowik's concern is we did not have a formal agreement. This is important work that is necessary. In response to Mr. Severns, Mayor Slowik said we have a written agreement for animal control that expires this year. Chief Wallace said there is detective time in addition to investigative time at domestic violence calls. Ms. Munns asked if this is a financial burden. Chief Wallace said he did not have data on overtime. Attorney Hawkins said that over the years, this has come up between NAS, Island County and the City. The program is running well, however, there is definitely a cost issue.

FIRE RESPONSES TO NAS FOR YEAR 2009 – Report

Chief Soptich reported that in 2009 there were 15 calls for mutual aid received from NAS and 5 calls for mutual aid provided to NAS. Typically, these numbers are not that high. However, the ladder truck was out of service for some time last year. In response to Mr. Severns, Chief Soptich confirmed that NAS has full equipment with a ladder truck. Mayor Slowik added that NAS has a bomb squad available to the City, Island County and Anacortes. Chief Wallace said the bomb squad would respond if the department finds a suspicious package. Chief Soptich added that the next level, after the bomb squad, would be State Patrol. Through our Mutual Aid Agreement with the fire districts, Automatic Aid was provided by OHFD to Central Whidbey Fire & Rescue on 5 occasions in 2009. On some of those calls, OHFD was the second rig at the scene. OHFD provided mutual aid to South Whidbey Fire and Rescue on 1 occasion last year.

RECENT FIRES -Update

Chief Soptich reported that on January 25th, there were 2 set fires at the high school. Battalion Chief Merrill and Detective Bailey investigated an individual. On February 5th, there was a fire at IDEX, formerly Upchurch Scientific. Mutual Aid was received from North Whidbey Fire & Rescue. Mr. Severns requested that this kind of report be presented at Public Safety Standing Committee Meetings. In response to Mr. Dudley, Battalion Chief Merrill expanded on the IDEX fire. Chief Soptich added that the worse damage was smoke related.

ADULT ENTERTAINMENT

Attorney Hawkins reported there have been 2 inquiries regarding adult entertainment establishments. Adult entertainment is constitutionally protected as a form of expression; freedom of speech. It cannot be legally banned however, it can be regulated extensively. First ban public nudity in general, it must be content neutral; then zoning information. In response to Ms. Munns regarding bikini baristas, we are looking at local ordinances prohibiting public nudity in Everett and Bremerton. Regarding zoning, there are models such as Boston and Detroit. The emergency side of this can be addressed by passing an interim ordinance.

NEXT MEETING

The next Public Safety Standing Committee meeting will be held at **7:00 a.m., Thursday, April 15, 2010** at the Oak Harbor Fire Department.

The Public Safety Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, February 18, 2010.

Notes prepared by R. Velasquez, Admin. Assistant