

## PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE

**Regular Meeting  
Oak Harbor Fire Department  
June 17, 2010**

### **ATTENDANCE**

The meeting began at 7:00 a.m., with the following in attendance: Council Members Severns, Munns, and Dudley, and City Administrator Paul Schmidt

Staff present: Police Chief Rick Wallace, Battalion Chief Ray Merrill (for Fire Chief Mark Soptich) and Administrative Assistant Romy Velasquez

Others present: None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public attendance; no comments

### **APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2010 MEETING NOTES**

Approved

### **POLICE**

#### **Jail Contract – Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC)**

Chief Wallace reported this would be the same contract currently in place with the City of Anacortes with some minor differences. There are no substantial changes other than a form for billing State DOC in the event an inmate requires a medical or dental procedure.

#### *Committee Discussion*

Mr. Severns asked why DOC wants to contract with Oak Harbor and Chief Wallace replied they prefer a local facility for local violators.

#### **Jail Contract – San Juan County (SJC) Sherriff's Office**

Chief Wallace reported this would be substantially the same as the Anacortes contract. SJC Sherriff's would fly prisoners into the south Oak Harbor airport. This item will be on the August Council Agenda.

#### *Committee Discussion*

In response to Mr. Dudley, Chief Wallace replied the flight transport is not private; it is owned by the Sherriff's Department. In response to Mrs. Munns, no undue hardship placed on staff. Our jail is a 15-prisoner facility; staff is trained for 15 prisoners. Procedures are in place and, per contract, we have the right to refuse additional prisoners. In response to Mr. Severns, Anacortes has a new facility without a jail. SJC and Island County agreed to build a joint facility. Our non-conforming jail was built in the 1950's and is handling the need of the community. In a report presented Tuesday [06.15.10], our jail is adequate through 2020. It will be reviewed in 2015-16. Mr. Dudley stated we have a 60-year old jail facility and asked if we should be thinking ahead when property is for sale. Mr. Schmidt replied there has been discussion on a PD jail and if a new facility is built, it generally combines the jail facility, sally port, training and offices. It is a significant investment and one we are looking at.

### **FIRE**

#### **2009 International Fire Code (IFC) Amendments Adopted by Washington State**

Battalion Chief Merrill reported that effective July 1, WA State will adopt the 2009 IFC. This does not change the Municipal Code. This item will be on the August Council Agenda.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Dudley asked how the builders are taking this. BC Merrill replied some are taking it well and some not so well. For example, there are questions on the sprinkler issue for single family dwellings. Additionally, there is something new in the code allowing an extension in time due to unforeseen hardship as long as there is progress of moving forward.

**Recent Fires**

Battalion Chief Merrill reported the SW 2nd fire, single family dwelling [05.19] is still under investigation. The deck fire at Oak Bay Station by the Roller Barn [06.07] was due to a discarded cigarette. Island County Fire District 2 requested OHFD for mutual aid to a 2-story house fire [06.12]; the house was built in 1910. FD made a really good stop on this fire.

Committee Discussion

No discussion

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Bicycle Safety and Helmets**

Mrs. Munns reported that she, Mr. AlMBERG and Mr. Palmer attended the Hillcrest Elementary - Fourth Graders' bicycle safety presentation and the importance of wearing helmets. It appears WA State and Oak Harbor do not have law / ordinance addressing helmets while riding bikes. It appears Vancouver is the only WA city with an ordinance addressing this safety issue.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Schmidt said the City of Vancouver ordinance requires helmets and addresses the safety of persons under the age of 18 years. We are fortunate in Oak Harbor to have a fire department that promotes bicycle helmet safety. BC Merrill reported the FD Bicycle Helmet Program has been established for 15 years. Throughout the years, the program was fully, then partially funded by WA State N. Region EMS & Trauma Care Council's Injury Prevention Mini Grant. O.H. Firefighters Association sponsored the program in '04. Since '07, community donations and public education fund the program. Mr. Dudley asked if there are significant head injuries from the skateboard park. BC Merrill said, in general, we see broken arms. We see head injuries at incidents involving vehicles versus pedestrians or bicyclists. Chief Wallace said PD has been involved in bicycle safety, however, not to the extent of FD. What we may need is a more focused program: rodeo training, safety, helmets. Mr. Schmidt said the 4th grade students should know we have a program. The program could be augmented with an ice cream coupon reward. Possibly organization sponsored program, however, just as effective with a voluntary program. Chief Soptich and Chief Wallace could bring back information. Mr. Severns said there are many positive things we can do; like the ice cream coupons, making Oak Harbor the safest place to ride a bike. It would be approximately \$2000 to outfit every 4th grade student with a helmet at \$5 each.

**COMMENTS**

Police Chief Rick Wallace advised we applied for a grant, last week, to fully fund a H.S. Resource Officer for 3 years with a requirement to carry the officer for the fourth year. We will know in August/September if we are awarded the grant.

**NEXT MEETING     July 15, 2010**

**MEETING ADJOURNED  
8:10 a.m.**