

SITKA POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
Wednesday June 4, 2008 – 7:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Gwen Lazzarini, Joseph Reeves, Gail Roderick, and
Michael Wise
Others Present: Fire Chief Scott Elmer and Police Chief Sheldon Schmitt
Members of the Public: Don Kluting

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: M/S Lazzarini/Reeves moved to accept the minutes from the May 7, 2008 meeting.

ACTION: Motion **PASSED unanimously** on a voice vote.

D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the Agenda.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

F. COMMUNICATIONS

None

G. REPORTS

Chair-No report

Vice Chair-No report

Fire Chief-Chief Elmer reviewed the number of incidents that occurred during May. He also stated that he received word that Sitka has been selected for funding to purchase and install one warning siren and the control center for the entire system. He is still awaiting official word from the State. If this goes through, he thinks the best place to put it is on Japonski Island. He was also advised that the SFD should be receiving a grant for the purchase of new mobile and handheld radios through the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management grant process. As requested by the City Administrator, the Assistant Chief has had a schedule change and will now be working swing shift. The new ambulance still isn't ready to be put on the street. The radio system and lock system for medications are still being installed. There will be a dedication ceremony some time in June. Chief Elmer also reported that he and Engineer Al Stevens attended a meeting regarding a disaster exercise held at the Electric Department involving the catastrophic breakage of the dam at Blue Lake.

Police Chief-Chief Schmitt reported that the main events for May were the Salmon Derby and Memorial Day. Motor vehicle thefts continue to be a problem mainly because people are leaving their keys in their cars. Sexual abuse and sexual assault reports were constant in May. The Chief also mentioned that because school is out, they will most likely see more curfew violations in the near future. There were a few officers out for

training this month. The ERV had an accident outside Appleton Cove causing damage to both lower units, but the repairs have already been done. K-9 Justice was involved in two minor drug busts. The Academy graduation is tomorrow. Chief Schmitt also mentioned that he put in a request for the speed limit signs on Wolff Dr. He wasn't sure if they had been posted yet, but said he would follow up on it.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of entrance and exit at Crescent Harbor parking lot

Ptarmica notified Don Kluting and John Litten that this item would be on the agenda for this meeting. Don Kluting attended and came forward to make comment. Mr. Kluting said they have looked at the entrance in question and doesn't feel that there is a wide enough space to make it a two-way. He thinks that if it were made into a two-way, there would be potential for accidents. Where the current entrance is, there is parking on both sides and Mr. Kluting feels that there would not be enough room for cars to back out of the parking spaces safely with all the traffic in and out.

Mr. Wise and the rest of the Commission agreed that because of the safety issue, this item would be removed from the Agenda.

2. Discussion of the Maksutoff proposal

The proposal includes making Maksutoff a one-way street outbound to allow for bus parking and loading/unloading zones on the right side of the street-opposite Wells Fargo. The idea is to make it so you can turn on to Maksutoff from Lincoln, but you couldn't go the other way.

Mr. Wise asked if the study that Mr. Castro mentioned at the last meeting had started yet. The minutes from the last meeting reflect that the study would take approximately 6 months to complete after funding was secured.

Chief Schmitt said that from his understanding that the City Engineer could make the change if it was a public safety issue.

Ms. Roderick mentioned that because the bus parking was permitted by ordinance that she thought it would have to go before the Assembly.

Mr. Reeves didn't feel that the Commission should wait for the study because it is a safety hazard and needs to be dealt with before someone gets hurt, Mr. Wise agreed.

Ms. Lazzarini thought that maybe it could be done as a trial run for the tourist season and see how it goes.

Chief Schmitt suggested that if the Commission wanted to move forward with the proposal there were two approaches. 1) Talk with Mr. Castro to see if he had the authority to make the change and if he was willing, and 2) Convince two Assembly members to get the item on their Agenda. The Chief also said that he supports the change because it would be safer than the way it is now. He also said that DOT is not against it, they just require appropriate signage.

Mr. Wise said that he would be willing to contact Mr. Castro to see if he is willing to support the one-way proposal and if he has the authority to make the change.

Ms. Lazzarini said that she would be happy to join him.

I. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

J. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Chief Schmitt mentioned that the City is right in the middle of doing the budget and the Assembly cut the budget for training as well as for new vehicles for the Police Department. He mentioned that the first reading of the budget would be next Tuesday at 7:00PM.

K. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 2, 2008.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM

PREPARED BY: Ptarmica McConnell
Contract Secretary