

SITKA POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Harrigan Centennial Hall

Regular Meeting Minutes

- A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Haug called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
Present: Ryan Haug, Joseph Reeves and Elaine O'Neill.
Absent: Albert Duncan (excused).
Vacancy: One seat.
Assembly Liaison: Terry Blake (absent/excused)
City: Police Chief Schmitt; Fire Chief Miller
- B. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS to the AGENDA – None.**
- C. APPROVAL of MINUTES:**
MOTION: M/S O'Neill/Reeves to approve the minutes of Wednesday, April 6, 2011.
ACTION: Motion passed.
- D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – None.**
- E. COMMUNICATIONS– None.**
- F. REPORTS**
Chair – None.
Vice Chair – None.
Liaison – None.

Police Department – Chief Schmitt provided a report on April Police Department activities:

- Parades: Parade of the Species. A new Parade Permit was recently approved by the Assembly (minor format changes; added a fee and requires two weeks advance application period).
- Investigations & Cases: 2 death, 3 sexual abuse cases; additional officer assigned to assist lone investigator; island burglary; felony involving a knife; 7 DUI arrests (high).
- Staff: down 3 Police Officer positions; authorized to hire only 1 position given City budget constraints; Commissioners were invited to attend the Assembly Budget hearing.
- Three year dog license was approved by the Assembly.
- E911 System is obsolete and on the next Assembly agenda.
- Vehicles usually rotated every 3 years won't rotate this year due to City budget constraints.

Fire Department – Chief Miller provided a report on recent Fire Department calls:

- Department has been busy; a single day had 8 calls (EMT & Fire).
- Fire Calls: Chimney fire on Lake Street result of flue pipe separation after cleaning; Spruce Grove Apartment fire started by a candle and curtain (sprinkler put the fire out); Boat fire caused by a candle and curtain, fire appeared to be out when the call came in, however Fire Fighters responded anyway and found the fire wasn't out (a common situation).
- Staff: one position down (due to a back injury) and budget constraints may keep it open.
- St. Balderick's Fundraiser: Volunteers shaved hair to raise money for child cancer research.
- New Vehicle: seeking funds to add to amount saved to purchase vehicle with a 70' ladder.
- Arson Conference: well attended by all arson investigators in the state (35).

Assembly Liaison – None.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

1. Harbor Parking Task Force.

Vice Chair Reeves noted nothing new to report. Ports and Harbors Commission will recess for summer, so the matter will be taken up again in the Fall. Chief Schmitt expects a paid parking option will be preferred by the task force. This matter will come before both Commissions prior to going to the Assembly for further action.

2. Crime Stoppers Discussion.

Commissioner O’Neill reported on her research and a suggestion that she run the Crime Stoppers program; however, Commissioner O’Neill stated the program requires authorized staff. She wondered if the Police Department even has the capacity to handle an increase of calls given current staff and budget constraints. Chief Schmitt concurred and stated the Department gets information it needs from the public when Officers do their job well. The crime line could be activated if it were needed. Chief Schmitt ascertained there was not a lot of value for this size town when the Crime Stoppers program was active in the past. Chief Schmitt recommended taking further discussion of Crime Stoppers off the agenda. Chief Schmitt appreciated Commissioner O’Neill’s effort and interest in Crime Stoppers.

H. NEW BUSINESS.

1. Review Ordinance 83-579.

The ordinance will be reviewed by the Assembly. This matter can be removed from the agenda.

I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS – None.

J. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS:

Next meeting date: Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6pm.

Commissioner O’Neill reported she will be out of town for the June meeting. It was noted there may be a lack of quorum if Commissioner Duncan is unable to attend.

Commissioners wondered about feasibility of a summer recess. Chiefs Schmitt and Miller were supportive and assured Commissioners if something urgent came up a meeting could be held.

Agenda Items: New Business: Discussion on frequency of regular meetings.

K. ADJORNMENT:

MOTION: M – Reeves/S – O’Neill to adjourn.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Haug adjourned the meeting at 6:25 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Gail J Peterson, Contract Secretary