**Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee**

**September 6, 2017**

**Minutes Draft**

7:06PM Call to order, Michelle Weston, Chair  
Quorum confirmed. Attending are Michelle Weston, Raleigh Hill, Mandy Hawes, Mike Opalka  
Agenda Approved for September 6, 2017 meeting with no changes

Minutes Approved from August 7, 2017 Meeting with no changes

**Public Safety Reports:**

WPD stats and activities YTD and for the month (Kyle Kelley and Sam Daniel reporting on behalf of Chief Schofield)  
Chief Schofield is recovering from a work-related injury, but is getting statistics together from the summer.

June stats are provided at this meeting. May, July and August stats are to be provided soon.

In June, the #1 issue was animal (bear) issues. This settled down later in the summer with arrival of fish and berries.

Residents and visitors became better about handling food and trash. One forest fair vendor was ticketed.

PSAC questions regarding WPD report:

* Are the residential burglar alarm responses to different locations or repeat alarms at the same location. If repeat, recommend that there is follow-up by MOA staff to address with homeowner.
* Are Title 47 responses to the same individual(s)?

Chief also provided roster of WPD officers, as requested by PSAC, with the understanding that this information is confidential. Specific questions about officers may be handled in executive session. All officers on the roster are understood by PSAC to be full-time, year-round with proper credentials and enrolled in PERS20.   
No new information on possible unionizing effort.

GVFD stats and activities YTD and for the month (Kyle Kelley on behalf of Chief Banning)  
GVFD is debriefing from busy day that included boat response, EMS and fire service response.   
GVFD is up to date on stats report to GBOS.

Open House on 9/21. More info on this under Roundtable Comments.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Sam Daniel)

Concern expressed recently by resident regarding invasive weed spraying on Timberline. Spraying program is paused while issue is reviewed.

Sam, Chief and Kyle are meeting on 9/7 in Whittier.

Topics to discuss are:  
Out-standing WPD stats (May, July, August)

Signage at the Girdwood office

Decals on vehicles

Communications

Initiate discussion of next contract cycle, begin working on this in January 2018.

Sam is seeking more transparency in budget

Local phone number

Issues with 907-472-2340 number

Coffee with cops date selection (9/16 or 9/30)

WPD Service Feedback

None.

Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee is a sub-committee to the Girdwood Board of Supervisors

Agendas and minutes are available on line: http://www.muni.org/gbos



**Old Business:**

1. Review of other policing options:

Review of other policing options is part of PSAC Due Diligence and is expectation of GBOS that PSAC will review options periodically. There is no expectation that GBOS or Girdwood community is seeking to change current service with WPD.

Other models that also need to be addressed are those that were discussed in original trooper pull-out, to establish if any changes have occurred in their potential:

Combining Fire Department with Policing

VPSO/Sheriff/Constable

1. Creation of Girdwood Police Dept

Group reviewed pamphlet written by the Dept of Justice on how to start a police force. This information is available on line at: <https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-p109-pub.pdf>

Group will review comparable size cities in Alaska to gain an understanding of the structure and cost. Cordova is especially close in population.

Group separates research on this project:

Mandy Hawes to review comparable cities and study staffing/salary info

Mike Opalka to review various operations elements of Girdwood Police Dept model:

Liability, insurance, scope, incarceration costs, legal support, MOA Intergovernmental charges,

APDEA support of Girdwood Police Department

Michelle Weston to draft outline of report for GBOS and work on non-labor aspects of local policing

These will be discussed at the next meeting and they’ll work on a matrix

1. APD Service

Through the discussion of the needs of Turnagain Arm residents, a suggestion has been made that APD could create a rural policing model to handle these smaller communities and get all of the MOA under some sort of Areawide APD service. Group is interested in hearing if this concept has progressed.

Mike Opalka mentions that some members of the Turnagain Arm Police Service Area (TAPSA) are not satisfied with current arrangement with APD for service. Group discusses and determines that this is beyond of the scope of this committee to become involved in.

1. 2019 contract with City of Whittier

Review timeline for WPD 2019 contract

Kyle provided timeline for work on upcoming contract with Whittier.

Expect to begin working on this in earnest in January. Sam and Kyle will bring up the new round of negotiations in their meeting with Chief Schofield when they meet

October marks the 1st year of service from WPD.

Sam Daniel will attend Whittier Town Council meeting in October.

1. Update on 2018 GBOS Budget

GBOS has approved public safety budget, along with other service area budgets.  
$5,000 added to budget for incidental expenses that service has incurred (animal disposal, towing, signs, etc)

Contract budget is flat, however taxpayers will be paying the full amount for 1 year of service. Last year’s budget was subsidized with funds from 2016 that were not spent.

1. Police Substation communication of office location, phone number

This item was discussed under WPD report.

1. WPD staffing roster – received and discussed in WPD report.

1. Update on options for animal disposal to charity

No new information.

**New business**

None

**Other Business (Roundtable Comments):**

1. SAT from 10-11AM either September 16 or 30 at the Girdwood Picnic Club.  
   Pending confirmation from Chief Schofield.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Other Business (Roundtable Comments from the Board):**

Upcoming Events:

Fallen Firefighter ceremony on MON September 11 at 6PM at Station #1 in Anchorage.

Girdwood Fire Station Grand Opening & BBQ on THU September 21 at 6PM at the Girdwood Fire Station.

Seward Highway Safety Task Force meeting on SAT September 23 from 10A-12P in the Girdwood Community Room

PSAC then discussed the proposed library closure, and the need for people to join the positive campaign to keep the Girdwood library open. Proposed closure is in response to administration’s request of departments to show budget with 10% cut. This is very early in the budget cycle. Friends of the Library and Girdwood Library Boosters are working together to encourage no cuts to library budget. Group is encouraged to talk with assembly members, Mayor, etc to let them know how important the library is to Girdwood.

**Adjourn 8:28**