

**Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 1, 2021**  
**Minutes Final**

The Girdwood Board of Supervisors, its committees, and subcommittees are subject to the Alaska Open Meetings Act as found in Alaska Statute 44.62.310 and Anchorage Municipal Code 1.25 - Public Meetings.

The Girdwood Public Safety Advisory Committee operates under the Girdwood Public Meetings Standards of Conduct.

7:03PM Call to order, Ken Waugh, Co-Chair

Roll call:

PSAC attending are Tommy O'Malley, Ken Waugh, Mike Opalka.

Quorum confirmed.

Also attending are GFR Chief Michelle Weston, WPD Chief Andre Achee, GBOS PSAC Supervisor Jennifer Wingard, GBOS member Briana Sullivan, GVSA Staff Kyle Kelley and Margaret Tyler.

Agenda approval for November 1 2021 meeting	Mike Opalka, Tommy O'Malley	3-0
Minutes approval from September 8 2021 meeting	postponed to December	
Minutes approval for October 4 2021 meeting	Jennifer Wingard/Tommy O'Malley	3-0

**Announcements/Introductions/Presentation:**

**Old Business:**

- 1) Public Safety Contract Review and analysis  
Kyle has started researching and compiling information for presentation of comparison with other small departments in December or January.  
Kyle will discuss Girdwood policing situation with new Anchorage administration to determine support for possible inclusion of Girdwood in the Anchorage Police Service Area or contract with APD for police service. If administration would support one of these options, determine what action and timeline to achieve this.
- 2) Impact on Girdwood public safety providers (WPD and GFD) on transport of mental health patients and removal of community protection in light of the lack of benefit of alcohol tax monies.  
This item is considered as old business as it is time sensitive.  
All public safety funds accrued are now being handled through Anchorage Police Department. Amy Demboski has stated that Whittier Police shall be included in the Crisis Intervention Training to be held by APD. Chief Achee confirms that 2 officers are scheduled to attend 40 hour training in late November/early December. Cost to attend the training is covered by APD, however cost of salaries to backfill shifts is being researched and will be provided to PSAC.

Chief Achee follows up the next day with the following information:

The overtime / hourly rate per officer attending with benefits is \$67.64 per hour.

The CIT training is a 40 hours class in Anchorage.

The total cost of sending two Whittier PD officers to this call will be \$5411.20

No EMS additional training is currently budgeted for as all funds have moved to Anchorage Police Department, however Girdwood Fire Dept is often on scene before police arrive.

Cost of attendance at training is provided the next day by Chief Weston:

6 volunteers X \$11/ hr X 40 hrs. = \$2640

6 admin. X \$21/hr X 40 hours. = \$5040

3 backfill\* X \$30/hr X 40 hours. = \$3600(\*to cover admin attending training)

Total budget for Crisis Intervention training. \$11,280

Regarding the other elements of the 5% tax, the Anchorage Health Department is to administer funding for programs within the community. Municipal Manager stated that 75 proposals have been received, however none from Girdwood.

It is also discussed that the current proposed budget does not fully fund the Areawide EMS at the previously agreed \$507,000. Instead it has been adjusted back to the previous budget of \$382,500. The additional \$124,500 needs to be added back into the budget in order to achieve 24/7/365 coverage required under the contract.

Also of concern is that the Glacier Valley Transit (GVT) historic contribution of \$20,000/yr from the MOA has been removed from the budget and is to be used for bus stop repairs in Anchorage. GVT is lobbying for reinstatement of these funds.

The current proposed budget is under consideration and amendment by the Anchorage Assembly. It is critical to provide input to the Assembly as quickly as possible. John Weddleton suggested that a paragraph of explanation and direct request for action is submitted to the Assembly and administration.

After some discussion and amendment, the following motion is made:  
PSAC moves to write two letters to the Anchorage Assembly, administration and GBOS:  
One regarding reinstating EMS funding to full amount of \$507,500, an increase of \$125,000.  
One regarding using alcohol tax funding for WPD and Girdwood Fire attendance at appropriate training for crisis intervention.

Motion by Mike Opalka, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tommy O'Malley  
Vote via roll call: 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

Margaret and Tommy will work on a letter for Ken Waugh to sign.

#### **New business:**

- 3) PSAC will vote for chair/vice chair in Jan 2021  
All committees of GBOS vote on these items at the beginning of the calendar year.

#### **Other Business:**

- 4) Review upcoming community events

Coffee with a Cop	Nov 20, Girdwood Grind 10A-12P*Note change in venue
Thanksgiving	Nov 25
Passholder Day (Tentative)	December 9
Opening Day (Tentative)	December 10
Night Ski	Dec 18-Jan 1 (except Christmas Eve and NYE)
	THU – SAT until Spring Break
ASD Winter Break	Dec 16-Jan 3
New Years Eve	Dec 31 (torchlight parade and fireworks)
Military Monday	Jan 3, Feb 7, Feb 28
Superbowl Sunday	Feb 6
Town League final Party	March 3 Sitzmark
ASD Spring Break	March 4 -March 13
Spring Break Night Ski	March 3 – March 12
Spring Carnival	April 22-24
- 5) Girdwood Grassroots concerns from prior meetings:  
Update on Stop signs replacing Yield signs – no update  
Girdwood Bear Aware Amendment to STRZ code and progress on defective cans-no update

Kyle provides update on storm last weekend:

- 15 inches of rain FRI-SUN did the following damage, rain continues.  
Conditions are not ideal for road work but they are doing well.

- Loveland Road washed out at a residential private property culvert that was under-built and spilled out on to the road. GVSA is helping homeowner to determine and acquire appropriate size pipe for this location. Currently the road is open but will require additional repair.
- Echo Ridge Road washed out and closed road on Sunday. Additional infrastructure required, road is currently open to local traffic only and will continue to see repairs.
- Ruane road washed out at the California Creek culverts. Sewer and gas lines were exposed but held. Working on a temporary fix for the winter and will work on design for permanent fix for summer installation. Problem was caused by a stump or wood getting caught in one of the pipes, changing the hydrology and eroding ground around the culverts.
- Currently there is no public access to the dump or other Industrial Park lots. Working with Alaska Waste to determine a plan once the timing of a temporary road is known. Dump is closed TUE-THU weekly.

Western Construction (new roads contractor) has been excellent to work with. Additional issue was that all roads equipment is stored in the industrial park. Thank you Alyeska Resort for providing Daylodge Parking lot to stage equipment while Industrial park is inaccessible. Thank you to residents who have been kind and generous in helping out.

- Kyle is working with city and state on emergency/disaster declaration, which will allow for federal declaration and funds to help repair damage.

PSAC thanks Kyle and Fire Dept for their work. Chief Weston handled EOC communications well via Facebook. Ken Waugh asks if a special page could be started for just EOC communications. Briana Sullivan asks if the radio station provided information to the community through their network.

6) Roundtable comments from the PSAC board

Tommy O'Malley plans to attend the next Whittier Town Council meeting in order to connect with members and let them know that Whittier Police are necessary and appreciated in Girdwood.

7) Set next meeting date: December 6 2021 is confirmed.

**Public Safety Reports:**

WPD Update (WPD Chief Andre Achee) – Stats update pending.

2 officers are on each rotation, 1 funded position is unfilled.

GFR Update (Chief Michelle Weston) – Update pending, Chief Weston is unable to attend this meeting.

GBOS Public Safety Supervisor report (Jennifer Wingard) – No report.

**Public Comment:**

Tommy O'Malley attended Trunk or Treat on FRI afternoon at the school. WPD also attended and were well received. It's good to have them engage with kids and public at events such as this.

Tommy O'Malley states that his research of community needs related to the alcohol tax has included related discussion of the need for public transportation to Anchorage. Clinic and church are encouraging Glacier Valley Transit to consider some sort of scheduled service to fill this need.

**Adjourn 8:20PM**