

City Council
Alan Wintersteen, Mayor
Donna Chris
Kent Harding
Buford McComas
Tad Miller
Don Tubbs
Peter Twitchell
Connie Tucker, City Clerk

CITY OF BETHEL
P.O. BOX 388
BETHEL, ALASKA 99559

Public Safety Committee
Gary Vanasse, Chairman
Kent Harding, Council Rep
Paul Gregory
Tom Hildreth
Harold Jones
Roger Rothschild
John Wallace

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 1, 1995

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 7:04 PM, at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska by Chairman Vanasse.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Vanasse, Gregory, Harding, Hildreth, Wallace
Jones, Rothschild (Excused)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Wallace to amend/approve the minutes of the January 4, 1995, regular Committee meeting by/as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

motion M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Gregory to approve/amend the agenda by or as amended. Voice Vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. CHIEF'S REPORTS

Chief Young reports that the rear wheels of Medic 3 have just fell off. Thought this would go good with the Ambulance Replacement agenda item.

Fire Department sponsored a Hazardous Materials 1st Responder class for city personnel to include Public Works and Police Department employees. Next will be a 40 hour Haz-Wopper class.

The Alaska Municipal League Risk Management Specialist was in Bethel, did an inspection, came up with suggestions, including the community. With all the different regulations, this information was well taken and will work into the present policy.

Volunteer EMT's and Firefighters are continuing training, all shots have been updated and infection control check-off.

Lt. Short reports the Police Departments focus is OSHA training. All officers have completed 20 hour course already with more training in the future.

1994 statistics are done, and there is an increase in activity over 1993. Total calls are:

Police Department	10,168
Fire Department	575
Animal Control	811
State Troopers	1003
Referrals	300-500

The committee was briefed on January 1995 statistics.

The department has hired 1 Community Service Officer, there are 2 vacant Police Officer positions, and will more than likely promote a CSO to fill one of the officer positions.

Rash of Burglaries during the Friday night storm (January 27) where money was mainly taken from business'.

Citizens Police Academy started on January 18, 1995 with 14 students. Hope to put on 2 classes per year.

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Wallace was upset about the VHF radio with the Police Department. Also reported an individual had called 911 to report a chimney fire and the dispatcher had told the person to call the Fire Department.

Mr. Gregory was glad to see the resolution on the Marine VHF Radio. Does not know why the Police Department is so negative. Also made comment on the snow machine crossing areas. Brief discussion regarding this matter and also council is currently addressing.

Mr. Harding reports that the Snow Machine Signs have been discussed at council, and the City is preparing to review the State Sign Laws. 21 locations seemed excessive. Might have to go to the Planning Commission for assistance.

Mr. Hildreth, None

Chairman Vanasse, None

VII. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

None

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

ITEM A: Rotation of the Chair

Chairman Vanasse gave brief history on this agenda item and stated that the committee has term limits, the chair should also have terms.

Mr. Wallace recommended that the Chair should be rotated at the fiscal year which starts in July.

General discussion regarding the different alternatives, the proposed Committee Rules and Procedures as addressed by Connie Tucker at the January meeting.

motion

M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Hildreth that the selection of the Chair for the Public Safety Committee be at the annual June meeting with an effective date of the July Meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Ambulance Replacement

Chief Young reports the Fire Department has been soliciting information from different companies for a replacement Ambulance. The Fire Department is looking at a conventional style 4 WD chassis compared to the van style that is currently in use.

Cost is estimated at approximately \$109,000.

Mr. Wallace asked if the City is financially able to purchase the ambulance with the current budget. Reasons are to possibly get this new ambulance to Bethel this season, instead of waiting until next year.

Mr. Harding will work with Chief Young for Bid Specifications.

motion

M/M by Hildreth, 2nd by Wallace that the City Council direct City Administration to initiate the procedures for Ambulance Replacement including bid preparations, advertisements and identification of funding. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Ordinance 9.08.050 Fireworks and Explosives

General discussion relating to the January meeting and action taken by the City Council to appoint the Mayor to be the alternate to the Committee of Three. With the absence of Connie Tucker, we do not know if she has gathered information from other communities regarding their fireworks ordinances.

motion

M/M by Harding, 2nd by Wallace to table this until the March 1, 1995 meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM A: Snow Removal

Mr. Wallace brought this as an agenda item from the January 4, 1995 meeting where problems were encountered with snow removal at the fire station. The Public Safety Committee on a couple of occasions have addressed the Public Works Committee and has seen no action.

During the most recent storm, both Police and Fire Departments called Public Works for help in keeping roads open in case of emergency but were denied by the Public Works Director. When the power outage hit Tundra Ridge Subdivision, Public Works did respond with equipment so that Bethel Utilities could repair the power problems.

General discussion including review of the recently adopted Snow Removal Plan. The plan also calls for the ability for Public Works Department to contract out to assist city crews. A line item in the budget needs to address this item. Adding additional city personnel for Road Maintenance is not a cost effective solution.

ITEM B: Marine VHF Emergency Channel Resolution

Mr. Harding drafted a Resolution as requested by the Mayor for the Marine VHF Emergency Channel.

Chairman Vanasse gave a brief history regarding this matter.

General discussion about the effectiveness of the radio, the recent searches where the radio would have provided assistance and its overall effectiveness for the community and region.

motion M/M by Gregory, 2nd by Hildreth to approve the Resolution as presented. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM C: Taxi-Cabs

Mr. Hildreth brought this as an agenda item due to the number of complaints he has heard and witnessed regarding the taxi-cabs. Also reflecting to the Tundra Drums editorial regarding the taxi cabs brought good ideas such as back-up alarms, headlights on at all times, etc. Also made comment regarding the speeding, lack of stopping at intersections causing drivers to swerve to avoid collision.

General discussion with little the Public Safety Committee can do but forward to the Transportation Commission for their review.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held March 1, 1995, 7:00 PM, at the Log Cabin.

motion M/M by Wallace, 2nd by Harding to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.
Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1995.

**Gary Vanasse, Chairman
Public Safety Committee**