

Fire Chief Kunitzer reported on incidents which occurred on the island:

- On December 16th, at approximately 3:00 to 4:00 am, there was a rollover on Governors Drive in which a critical patient was extracted. Firefighters arrived on site very quickly.
- In the early hours of Christmas Eve, there was a structure fire call on Fountain Grass. Firefighters arrived on the scene within five minutes, finding a fire on an outside porch, which was quickly extinguished before it could spread.
- Two significant storms -
 - Sunday flooding event – firefighters were confined to the stations due to substantial flooding outside of the stations. Both the highwater vehicle and brush truck were able to be deployed and aided Kiawah and Seabrook residents stuck in high water. The department.

Fire Chief Kunitzer noted with the frequency of flooding events; the department has identified the need for additional highwater vehicle assets to respond effectively.

- The recent wind event – Kiawah Island was fairly quiet; however, there were a significant number of incidents on Johns Island with downed trees and power lines, but they were able to keep the major thoroughfares open as much as possible.

Fire Chief Kunitzer reported on the following:

- Fire department personnel are working a new shift schedule as of January 6th. There will be a six-month trial period working a 48-hour shift with 96 hours off. The benefits are built-in rest time in the shift and cut-down commute times.
- Chief Stanley has retired, and Chief Henson has been promoted to the position of new deputy chief.
- Great feedback was obtained from the external stakeholders who attended the strategic planning session in December. Work is being done on the rough draft of the five-year strategic plan, and the hope is to have the final completed in March.

Committee Members asked if there were areas of Johns Island that were affected by the flooding event, if there was a need to review the evacuation route with Charleston County, obtaining grant funding for additional high-water vehicles, and also complemented department personnel on how quickly they were able to get the roads cleared.

C. Charleston County Emergency Medical Services

KIAWAH							31 DAYS				
12/1/2023 thru 12/31/2023							Dec 01 thru Dec 31				
	Overall	Echo	Delta	Charlie	Bravo	Alpha	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Responses	28	1	6	4	11	6	28	22	25	20	16
Avg Responses per Day	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.5
Avg Response Time	14:48	34:50	15:00	09:14	12:01	20:04	14:48	10:40	12:57	18:13	11:24
Fractile	54%	0%	33%	75%	64%	50%	54%	59%	60%	25%	56%
% > 20 Minutes	18%	100%	33%	0%	0%	33%	18%	5%	16%	45%	13%

Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta stated that, as reported in the December stats, the average response time was 14:48. The one Echo call with a 34:50 response time was to a structure fire, not a medical call. Six minutes into the response, it was advised to no longer respond with lights and sirens.

Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta stated that in response to recent comments made on EMS staffing, Medic 10 on Betsy Kerrison was 100% staffed during the last year, providing 24/7 coverage. There are no cars parked outside the station because the shift change is done at Medic 7 in order to minimize the commute. For the past year and a half, the STJFD has allowed staffing and an extra truck at Station 6 when available, and for the previous year, it was staffed for a total of 410 overtime shifts, or 205 days, or 56% of the year.

Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta reported on current projects:

- There were thirteen graduates from the EMT Academy
- CCEMS is involved in three pilot programs for paramedics within the State
- Starting an EMT A class in the current week with twenty students who are full-time employees
- Have worked with the State on a profile to allow working beyond the current regulations that EMT A can provide
- During the current storms, CCEMS had preplanned for such events by up-staffing personnel.
 - During the flooding when, ambulances were unable to reach downtown hospitals, which highlighted the need for high-water vehicles. Also of concern was the inability to get staff to stations because of the flooding.
 - During the wind event, when an 18-wheeler blew over on the Ravenel Bridge, the modified operations were engaged.

Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta stated that the Beach Patrol received a grant to install AVLs (Automatic Vehicle Locators) in their vehicles. The AVL gives all the information and notes on a call that are not put over the radio. The question was raised whether the Beach Patrol should have access to that information; Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta indicated that CCEMS fully supports Beach Patrol having access to the information.

D. Beach Patrol

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
	Alcohol 15-208	0	0	0	0
	Alligator 15-501	0	0	0	0
	Beach Band 16-803	1	1	0	2
	Beach Fire 15-105	0	0	0	0
	Build Permit	0	0	0	0
	Business License	0	0	0	0
	Critical Habitat 16-604	205	9	1	215
	Disorderly 15-204	0	0	1	1
	Drone 7-302	11	4	0	15
	Dune 16-403	271	1	1	273
	Fireworks 15-209	0	0	0	0
	Glass 16-818	144	2	1	147
	Harass Animal 16-810	20	4	0	24
	Leash 7-201	458	35	7	500
	Lights 16-107	0	0	0	0
	Littering 15-212	1	0	0	1
	Narcotics 15-213	0	0	0	0
	Noise 15-306	3	0	0	3
	Nudity 16-806	1	0	0	1
	Other	15	0	5	20
	Parking 13-103	7	3	35	45
	Personal Article Storage 8-119	0	3	0	3
	Plastic 14-402	1	0	0	1
	Shovel 16-409	132	0	0	132
	Storage 16-805	0	7	0	7
	STR Bikes Beach Gear 14-506f	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d(1)	0	0	0	0
	STR Parking 14-506d(5)	0	4	0	4
	STR Trash 14-506e(1)	0	0	0	0
	Swim Wade 15-314	55	1	0	56
	Trespass 15-119	0	0	0	0
	Vehicle 16-302b	59	4	3	66
	Total	1384	78	54	1516

Mr. Edgerton reported on the following:

- Beach Patrol is still recruiting and soliciting applications for the upcoming season.
- Participated in the world conference on drowning prevention in Perf, Australia. He stated that it was an impressive showing of the advancements that have been made in the drowning world and humbling to see the challenges others face with drowning as a real-life threat.
- The storm that produced the flooding also took the Beach Patrol by surprise. The beach sustained some damage but was able to be cleaned up within a few days, with only a few boardwalks still needing to be addressed.
- Current statistics show that Code Enforcement has been effective. A comparison of the statistics from 2020 to 2024 has shown a significant decrease, specifically in short-term rental violations and improper storage violations.
- Getting closer to AVL access mentioned earlier.

Mr. Edgerton mentioned the erosion of the emergency access at Beachwalker Park, indicating that the Town’s Planning Director was working on moving the access to the other side of the Park, where the construction was taking place.

2023 Evening Enforcement Activity					
Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
	Alcohol 15-208	2	0	0	2
	Alligator 15-501	0	0	0	0
	Beached Boat 16-803	0	0	0	0
	Beach Fire 15-105	0	0	4	4
	Build Permit	0	3	0	3
	Business License	0	0	0	0
	Critical Habitat 16-604	9	0	0	9
	Disorderly 15-204	2	0	1	3
	Drone 7-802	1	0	0	1
	Dune 16-403	5	0	0	5
	Fireworks 15-209	11	0	0	11
	Glass 16-818	15	0	0	15
	Harass Animal 16-810	3	0	0	3
	Leash 7-201	24	4	3	31
	Lights 16-107	150	2	0	152
	Littering 15-212	1	84	0	85
	Narcotics 15-213	0	0	0	0
	Noise 15-306	29	0	0	29
	Nudity 16-806	0	0	3	3
	Other	18	9	1	28
	Parking 13-103	1	3	12	16
	Personal Article Storage 8-119	6	315	0	321
	Plastic 14-402	0	0	0	0
	Shovel 16-409	7	0	0	7
	Storage 16-805	1	1	0	2
	STR Bikes Beach Gear 14-506f	8	951	11	970
	STR Parking 14-506d	5	44	2	51
	STR Parking 14-506d(1)	5	39	3	47
	STR Parking 14-506d(3)	0	14	0	14
	STR Trash 14-506e(1)	0	20	0	20
	Swim Wade 15-314	0	0	0	0
	Trespass 15-119	0	0	0	0
	Vehicle 16-302b	4	0	0	4
	Total	337	1489	40	1866

E. Kiawah Island Community Association

KICA Security Report
Monthly Statistics: December 2023

	2021	2022	2023
Deer Related Accidents (no personal injury)	0	3	0
False Residential Alarms	2	0	1
Vehicles passed through the Main Gate	151,830	154,813	147,610
Vehicles passed through the Vanderhorst Gate	88,277	92,613	82,002

Mr. Ruppel reported that the 2024 KICA budget approved the hiring of one additional full-time patrol person to provide two patrols during the daylight and nighttime hours.

VI. Old Business: (Updates)

A. TOKI Law Enforcement Feasibility Study Consultant Recommendation

Chairman Harris stated that the Town requested to conduct a law enforcement feasibility study for which an RFP (Request for Proposals) was written. Revisions to the perspective of the study were requested and have been completed. Committee Members were provided a copy of the RFP prior to the meeting and provided feedback on recommended changes.

Ms. Johnstone made a motion to accept the Law Enforcement Feasibility Study RFP with the modifications discussed. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

B. Update on Gate Access Protocol/KICA Security (Mark)

Mr. Smalls, KICA Daylight Security Supervisor, provided an update on the gate access policy. He stated that employees were being retrained on the gate access policy and the three types of people who are allowed access to the island: contractors, property owners and their guests, and visitors. Contractors have to have insurance, a valid driver’s license, and registration. Property owners are verified, and their guests have to have a pass called in by the property owner. Visitors are reminded that only certain areas of the island are public.

Mr. Smalls stated that during the past year, he had been very involved with retraining the employees and recommitting to the mission statement and customer service, which is very important at the gate. There are times when a vehicle is mistakenly allowed to enter the gate; thankfully, there is Beach Patrol,

Town of Kiawah Code Enforcement, and Charleston County Sheriff's Department deputies to help with anyone who runs the gate or is missed.

Mr. Ruppel added that Mr. Smalls and his team do a great job handling the volume of traffic coming through the gate daily and that KICA is always looking for the newest technology, in addition to the license plate readers and RFID currently being used.

Contractor traffic is the biggest issue in the morning during the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am. The Town's Code Enforcement officer and new CSO (Customer Service Officer) directing traffic have helped alleviate the issue and keep traffic moving.

C. Update on Communication

Mr. Harris discussed that the communities having the Alistar service will share the cost beginning July 1st due to State budget cuts. Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch no longer accepts non-emergency calls and is directing those calls back to the agency, decreasing the call volume by 40 to 50 percent.

The transition from CodeRed to Everbridge for emergency alerts was discussed, alongside the potential use of I pause and QR codes for improved communication with visitors. The meeting emphasized enhancing traffic management, emergency response, and information dissemination to ensure community and visitor safety.

VII. New Business:

A. 2024 PSC Meeting Schedule

The Committee resolved to move their meetings to Thursdays at 11, accommodating other obligations that agency representatives and committee members may have and that emergency meetings can be scheduled for urgent matters, especially during peak times.

Mr. Harris stated he had been receiving complaints about visibility at night on the Kiawah Island Parkway and the need for some reflectors or better lighting. He suggested tabling any discussion and revisiting the issue at the next meeting.

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to table discussion of lighting on the Parkway until the next meeting. Ms. Johnstone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

VIII. Chairman's Updates (open)

Mr. Harris commended the group's dedication to safety and the strides made in communications and fostering transparency.

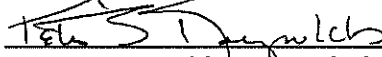
IX. Committee Members' Comments:

None

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 pm. Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

6-13-2024
Date