

Town of Kiawah Island
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Center Council Chambers
March 14, 2024; 11:00 am

Minutes

I. **Call to Order:** *Mr. Harris called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.*

II. **Roll Call:**

Present: Craig Harris, *Chairman*
Yvonne Johnstone
Nancy Robison
Steve Rolando
Mark Ruppel
Al Sines

Absent: Bill Thomae

Also Present: Fire Chief Kunitzer, *St. Johns Fire District*
Assistant Deputy Chief Palawasta, *Charleston County EMS*
Rob Edgerton, *Beach Patrol*

III. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2024

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023, Public Safety Committee meeting. Ms. Johnstone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

IV. **Citizens' Comments:**

None

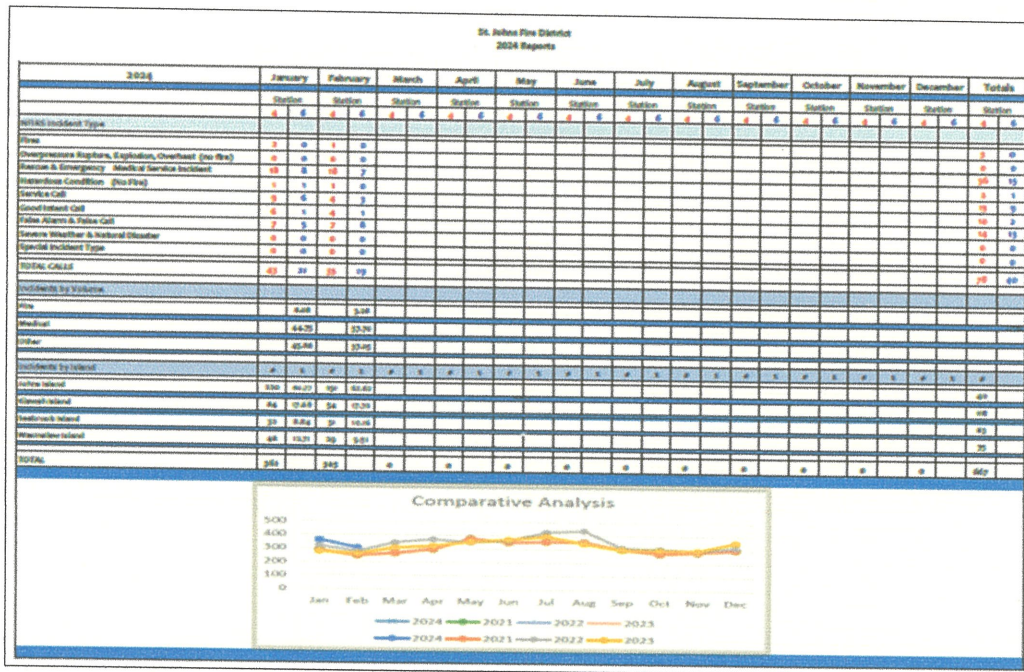
V. **Agency Updates (as required)**

A. Charleston County Sheriff's Department

Town of Kiawah Monthly Report	February	Year to Date
Number of all Written Report (excluding accident reports)	9	18
Accident Reports – Vehicle Mishaps	7	14
Number of Calls Handle Not Requiring a Report	50	99
Number of Traffic Stops	21	48
TOTAL NUMBER OF CALLS HANDLED (dispatched/self-generated)	87	179
Written Warnings Issued	16	42
Traffic Citations Issued	5	6
Total Warnings and Citations Issued	21	48
Alarms	21	47
Specific Patrols Requests	170	360

No additional report.

B. St. John's Fire District



Fire Chief Kunitzer reviewed having first responders available to handle EMS or other incidents as well as a fire marshal on site to monitor crowd movement and ensure access in and out of the site. Also, with the recent rain event, which caused flooding on the island, weather forecasts are being monitored for operational impacts.

Fire Chief Kunitzer indicated that Station Four's apparatus was changed from a tower to a compact ladder truck for better access in tight areas and to enhance high-rise responses. He also indicated that Advanced and Basic EMT training classes were still ongoing and aimed to increase care levels throughout the district.

Mr. Ruppel praised Fire Chief Kunitzer and his personnel for the effective flood response and teamwork. Mr. Harris questioned if there were any issues or recommendations for the Town to assist in responses. Fire Chief Kunitzer emphasized Mr. Spicher's contribution to development processes, team adaptability, and response strategies preparations.

C. Charleston County Emergency Medical Services

KIAWAH							29 DAYS				
2/1/2024 thru 2/29/2024							Feb 01 thru Feb 29				
	Overall	Echo	Delta	Charlie	Bravo	Alpha	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Responses	24	1	7	4	10	2	24	28	21	16	13
Avg Responses per Day	0.8	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.6	0.4
Avg Response Time	11:18	13:36	12:09	08:36	11:47	10:16	11:18	11:23	13:37	14:57	15:50
Fractile	58%	0%	43%	100%	60%	50%	58%	64%	38%	38%	54%
% > 20 Minutes	13%	0%	14%	0%	20%	0%	13%	7%	14%	13%	15%

Deputy Chief Palawasta reviewed the operational metrics for February. There were 24 responses to Kiawah, with an average response time of 11:18. The two significant anomalies of response times of over 20 minutes were due to multiple calls occurring at the same time. Fortunately, they were low-acuity calls that were transported to the hospital of their choice.

Responding to a question about whether the Edisto Station was staffed 24/7, Deputy Chief Palawasta indicated that it was a 24-hour truck but that the crew had been relocated to temporary accommodations at St. Paul Station 5 due to a new facility being constructed at the Edisto Station. The hope was that the new station would be completed within a year and that it would aim to improve service delivery.

D. Beach Patrol

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
Alcohol 15-202		0	0	0	0
Allegator 15-501		0	0	0	0
Beach Sign 15-603		0	0	0	0
Beach Sign 15-105		0	0	0	0
Build Permit		0	0	0	0
Business License		0	0	0	0
Critical Incident 15-604		39	0	0	39
Discarded 15-204		0	0	0	0
Drone 7-302		2	0	0	2
Drone 15-403		0	0	0	0
Fireworks 15-208		24	0	0	24
Glare 15-618		0	0	0	0
Glare 15-619		1	0	0	1
Hansen Animal 15-810		0	0	0	0
Leash 7-201		1	1	0	2
Lights 15-107		0	0	0	0
Littering 15-212		0	0	0	0
Narcotics 15-213		0	0	0	0
Noise 15-305		0	0	0	0
Noise 15-306		0	0	0	0
Other		0	0	0	0
Parking 12-103		1	0	0	1
Personal Article Storage 8-110		0	0	0	0
Plastic 14-602		0	0	0	0
Shovel 15-404		0	0	0	0
Storage 15-605		0	0	0	0
STR Sign (Beach Gear 14-506)		0	0	0	0
STR Parking 14-506a		0	0	0	0
STR Parking 14-506a(1)		0	0	0	0
STR Parking 14-506a(2)		0	0	0	0
STR Trash 14-506a(1)		0	0	0	0
Swim Waive 15-214		0	0	0	0
Trespass 15-119		0	0	0	0
Vehicle 15-302b		1	0	0	1
Total		69	1	0	70

Enforcement	Subcategory	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation	Violation Total
Alcohol 15-202		0	0	0	0
Allegator 15-501		0	0	0	0
Beach Sign 15-603		0	0	0	0
Beach Sign 15-105		0	0	0	0
Build Permit		0	0	0	0
Business License		0	0	0	0
Critical Incident 15-604		0	0	0	0
Discarded 15-204		0	0	0	0
Drone 7-302		0	0	0	0
Drone 15-403		0	0	0	0
Fireworks 15-208		0	0	0	0
Glare 15-618		1	0	0	1
Hansen Animal 15-810		0	0	0	0
Leash 7-201		1	0	0	1
Lights 15-107		0	0	0	0
Littering 15-212		0	13	0	13
Narcotics 15-213		0	0	0	0
Noise 15-305		2	0	0	2
Noise 15-306		0	0	0	0
Other		1	0	0	1
Parking 12-103		1	0	0	1
Personal Article Storage 8-110		0	0	0	0
Plastic 14-602		0	0	0	0
Shovel 15-404		0	0	0	0
Storage 15-605		0	0	0	0
STR Sign (Beach Gear 14-506)		0	24	0	24
STR Parking 14-506		0	4	0	4
STR Parking 14-506a(1)		0	3	0	3
STR Parking 14-506a(2)		0	4	0	4
STR Trash 14-506a(1)		0	0	0	0
Swim Waive 15-214		0	0	0	0
Trespass 15-119		0	0	0	0
Vehicle 15-302b		0	0	0	0
Total		6	54	0	60

Mr. Edgerton indicated that training was well underway, along with additional interviews and hiring, which would likely continue through the first two weeks of May before being fully staffed and fully trained. He discussed the training collaborations with Hilton Head's shore beach service and wildlife, as well as an alligator harassment issue on the golf course, revealing a gap in wildlife protection ordinances covering alligators that should be addressed.

E. Kiawah Island Community Association

KICA Security Report Monthly Statistics: February 2024			
	2022	2023	2024
Deer Related Accidents (no personal injury)	1	0	0
False Residential Alarms	2	1	1
Vehicles passed through the Main Gate	146,206	150,338	161,995
Vehicles passed through the Vanderhorst Gate	86,779	92,171	96,632

Mr. Ruppel indicated that the Community Association would be forming a workgroup, hopefully

including some of the Public Safety Committee members, to talk about the culture of flooding, the issues, what KICA is doing, and being more proactive rather than reactive. KICA will be starting its last mitigation project, Project Six, which will at least approach the issues seen during the flooding event on Saturday into Sunday.

Council Member Berner discussed the impact of a speed monitoring device at the second gate, which alerts motorists to a 10-mile-an-hour speed limit, creating a potentially dangerous situation and what could be a solution. In response, Mr. Ruppel stated that it would be a KICA Board decision to raise that speed limit and that the device would be there temporarily and moved every two weeks.

VI. Old Business: (Updates)

A. Feasibility Study

Mr. Harris stated that the closing date for the submission of bids for the Law enforcement Feasibility Study is March 8 at one o'clock. Currently, the Town has received submissions from five consult consulting groups. A sub-committee will be formed to thoroughly review and evaluate the submissions and make a recommendation to the Public Safety Committee (PSC). After its review, the PSC will make a recommendation to the Ways and Means Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Town Council for final approval.

B. Wedding on Beach

Mr. Harris stated that despite the PSC tabling the Weddings on Beach item, there have been numerous requests and suggested forming a workgroup to take a deep dive into the topic.

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to create a sub-committee to review “Weddings on the Beach.” Ms. Johnston seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

VII. New Business:

A. Review and Recommendation of the AirMedCare Network Contract Renewal

Chairman Harris stated that the contract to provide air medical transport benefits has been provided to the community since 2016. The renewal cost has not changed and is grandfathered since the Municipal Plan is no longer offered.

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to recommend the renewal of the contract with AirMedCare Network to the Ways and Means Committee. Ms. Johnstone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

B. Annual Tabletop Exercise

Mr. Harris stated that an email would be going out with possible dates in the latter part of April for this year's annual emergency preparedness tabletop exercise. It will be similar to what was done last year but maybe a little more intense and will involve dealing with multiple incidents. Charleston County Emergency Management is working on getting someone from the state EMD to help facilitate the exercise.

C. Traffic Mitigation

Committee Members discussed the ongoing traffic mitigation efforts, which included the CSO (Customer Services Officer) being stationed at the front gate in the mornings. There was also an in-depth discussion of operational planning for upcoming events and public safety initiatives for the Fourth of July and Beachwalker County Park that included input from STJFD and EMS.

D. Emergency Preparedness Day

The date for the Emergency Preparedness Day was finalized for Friday, May 31st at the Sandcastle from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Members of the CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) will be recognized for

their volunteer work on the Triathlon and Marathon events over the past several years.

VIII. Chairman's Updates (open)

Mr. Harris thanked those attending the operation workroom. The workgroup consists of operational staff from STJFD, EMS, Sheriff's Department, KICA, the Resort, Beach Patrol, and Charleston County Emergency Management Directors who meet bimonthly to look at unmet needs in the area. The workgroup is now working on an incident action plan for the Fourth of July as well as other events.

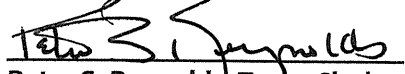
IX. Committee Members' Comments:

New committee members introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds. Mr. Seins indicated that his background was in law enforcement, electrical engineering, and consulting on public safety communications systems. Mr. Rolando was a former New York State Police and DEA officer and is now a John Fire District Commissioner, a CERT member, and on a KICA task force.

X. Adjournment:

Mr. Ruppel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 pm. Ms. Johnstone seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Submitted by,


Petra S. Reynolds, Town Clerk

9-23-2024
Date