

## **Sheriff's Advisory Board**

**January 21, 2015**

**Brookings City Hall**

### **Minutes**

Members Present: Sheriff John Ward, Ron Hedenskog, Karl Popoff, Jim Auburn, Cam Lynn, Cari Nelson, Jan Barbas, Sharon Eblen, Lonnie Sanborn, John Spicer. In attendance were County Finance Director, Gary Short, Lieutenant Mike Espinoza, Recorder, Pam Dickson & 6-8 citizens in the audience.

Agenda Item #1: January 14 minutes approved with one change proposed by Jan Barbas, correcting the date at the top of the page from January 7 to January 14. Ron made a motion to make the change, Karl seconded the motion, all voted in favor of the change, and to approve the minutes as presented.

Agenda Item #2: Sheriff Ward provided the Board a spreadsheet prepared by County Accountant Gary Short. The spreadsheet showed the cost of funding current levels of staffing (with increasing Road Deputies to 10), costing \$4,894,312 per year. 43 FTE's including the new Road Deputies. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding funding the bridge levy at full staffing, creating a bridge levy that would roughly equal the permanent district rate; or fund the bridge levy at the current levels of staffing which are generally agreed to be unsustainable in the long term.

Sheriff Ward also provided an update from the Curry County Commissioners Meeting. The CCBC was told the S.A.B. would determine a budget they would support for the Bridge Levy, and that Sheriff Ward would need to get that budget to the C.C.B.C. by February 27<sup>th</sup> for their approval. Commissioner Brown indicated 52% of those taking the survey supported funding the Sheriffs' Office.

Agenda Item #3: Gary Short was available to answer questions and fielded many from the Board. A lengthy discussion of two budget options ensued. The S.A.B. discussed the advantages of going to the voters with the lowest numbers possible, supporting current levels of staffing vs. making the bridge levy roughly equal to what would be needed to support the Sheriff's Office as a Special District long term. Mayor Hedenskog identified two objectives, provide a "band-aid bridge", a levy which will pass with basic funding, and then craft a Permanent Taxing District for the Sheriffs' Office. Cam Lynn said that for many, getting over the initial hurdle of paying more tax was more difficult than the exact number decided on, and that legitimate local control was preferable to State control. Mayor Popoff stated that visitors to our area would decline without a working jail and Law Enforcement. Lonnie Sanborn encouraged the S.A.B to fully fund the Sheriffs' Office with the bridge levy noting the levy should approximate the rate of the permanent district. Jan Barbas noted that current money provided by the state and the Fed – in terms of grants, etc., should not be budgeted in at the

full amount. A factor of 50%, 75% were discussed as this is not guaranteed or expected to continue at the same rate over 3 years.

\*Citizens were allowed to make comments at this point. Terry Brayer spoke indicating his support for the Sheriff's Office and the need to pass a levy, noting there were only 5 weeks to educate the public, regardless of the exact number the S.A.B. decided on. Connie Hunter spoke representing KCIW, offering podcasts as a way to inform citizens of the issues. Tom Beene spoke, reminding the Board that no one wants to pay more taxes, but that the discussion had made him more likely to vote yes than before he had attended the meeting. Maureen TerBeek said that the Board should make sure the split rate made sense, and that the Sheriff's Office should be fully funded, encouraging the Board to provide facts about the consequences and costs of a levy failure.

Agenda Item #4: Due to time limitations, Mayor Hedenskog proposed moving Agenda Items 4, 6, 7, and 8 until the next meeting, Jan Barbas made the motion, Mayor Hedenskog seconded, and all voted Aye. Mayor Hedenskog gave 5 points as initial suggestions for the board to think through in advance of the next meeting:

1. \$5M as base levy amount per 2014-2015 Budget.
2. Levy should include 10 Deputies.
3. Rely on County road funds for contingency back-up.
4. Calculate State Revenues at less than 100% at about \$1M total.
5. Split out Road Deputy costs 100% to unincorporated area.

Agenda Item #5: The S.A.B discussed providing advance notice of meeting schedules and agenda's to the public, and also making minutes available online. It was noted that some notice had been provided on social media and in newspapers. After discussion, Jan Barbas moved that advance notice of meetings agenda's and minutes, after approval, be made available on the Sheriff's web page. The motion carried. The Sheriff and his staff agreed to make these available on line, and to provide a copy to the Curry Coastal Pilot, The Curry County Reporter, The Port Orford News, Curry News and Views on Facebook, the City of Brookings, the City of Gold Beach and the City of Port Orford.

Agenda Item #9: After considerable discussion, it was agreed to have the next meeting on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in Harbor. The location will be announced as soon as one is secured.

Mayor Hedenskog motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Sharon Eblen seconded the motion. All voted Aye.