

Sheriff's Advisory Board

January 30, 2015

Gold Beach City Hall

Minutes

Members Present: Ron Hedenskog, Karl Popoff, Jim Auburn, Cam Lynn, Jan Barbas, Sharon Eblen, Lonnie Sanborn & John Spicer. In attendance were Sheriff John Ward, County Accountant Gary Short, Lt. Mike Espinoza & Recorder, Pam Dickson. 10-12 citizens listened, asked questions, and provided comments.

Agenda Item #1: January 28 minutes, Mayor Auburn made the motion to approve the minutes, Mayor Hedenskog seconded the motion, and all voted Aye.

Agenda Item #2: Sheriff Ward brought the Board the alternative funding proposals they had requested, which provided 12 deputies and 24/7 Patrol coverage in the County. Two new options were presented; Option B funding 12 Patrol Deputies, two Patrol Sergeants, and one additional Civil and Communications Deputy. Option C provided the same, and added increased staffing in Corrections, Office Support, and Parole & Probation.

Agenda Item #3: Mayor Auburn asked if the proposals included costs beyond salaries, Gary Short replied that the options included money for Materials and Services. Jan Barbas asked how much state and federal money had been included and how much was in reserve for contingencies, recognizing that those funding streams are not guaranteed. Cam Lynn asked for assurances that at these numbers meant the Road Department reserves would remain with the Road Department. Lt. Espinoza spoke about the need for backup, and the reality of staff being pulled during their time off to support single officers in dangerous situations. Mayor Popoff noted that the biggest potential liability for his city or any agency is law enforcement, stressing the need for adequate staffing so that ongoing training could occur. Jan Barbas suggested moving three extra Deputies from Option B into the Base rate and increasing the allocation of State and Federal money to 70%. Mayors Auburn and Hedenskog strongly opposed the idea, noting that city residents pay a great deal of taxes supporting Law Enforcement, currently \$2.80 per thousand in Brookings. John Spicer noted that the cities have a combined 21 Deputies vs. 5 in the County, suggesting an increase in demand for jail services by the cities. Citizen comments included thanks to the Sheriff and Committee, and concern with the split rate. Also mentioned was the hidden cost if the jail closes and those arrested need to be transported, and the need to have the bridge levy numbers be as close to the Special District rates as possible. An online tax calculator was requested so that citizens could determine their actual tax increase.

Agenda Item #4: Mayor Popoff stated that the group had to make a recommendation today that the Sheriff could bring to the BOC. Option B was proposed for a vote. The Committee unanimously voted to recommend Proposal B, which provided 24/7 Patrol Coverage, two Patrol

Sergeants, and an additional Civil and Communications Deputy. Mayor Popoff asked for language in the levy that reduced the amount levied in the next cycle if additional funding was received from the State or Federal government. After discussion, the Committee recommended the following ideas be included in the levy language:

1. If Federal funds become available, the levy is reduced proportionately.
2. If a Sheriff's Special District is formed, this levy expires.
3. 100% of all funds collected should go to the Sheriff's Office.
4. This is a 3 year levy.

The Committee recognized that the exact language in the levy could be different, but insisted the essence of 1-4 should be present in the levy language.

Jan Barbas made a motion to add ideas 1-4 to the recommendation. Mayor Hedenskog seconded, all unanimously voted Aye.

Agenda Item #5: Mayor Popoff asked if future meetings should continue weekly, and suggested evenings so that more people from the public could attend, suggesting they meet from Harbor to Langlois. Mayor Auburn noted that he had reserved the Port Orford Counsel Chambers on February 11th at 6:00 p.m. Jan Barbas asked if the Sheriff and Mayors could continue to participate after (and if), the recommendations became a Tax Levy. Mayor Auburn replied that only Mike and Pam couldn't participate in an official capacity once a Levy was on the ballot as was they were county employees. Elected Officials are allowed to work to support Ballot Measures. Jan Barbas asked if the Committee should begin work on the Sheriff's Special District or if they should work to support the levy. The consensus was that working on the levy was the priority, and that work on the Sheriff's Special District should follow a passed levy. County Commissioner Susan Brown encouraged members of the Committee to be at the BOC meeting on February 4th, where the Commissioners would vote to put it on the Ballot, or not.

Mayor Hedenskog made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Auburn seconded the motion. All members voted unanimously, Aye.