

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

January 21, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

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Seabrook Island Town Hall, Council Chambers
2001 Seabrook Island Road
Seabrook Island, SC 29455



MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kortvelesy called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present: Chairman Dan Kortvelesy; Committee members John Kinne and Leslie Baylis

Town Staff Present: Joe Cronin (Town Administrator) and Peter Wiggins (Clerk/Treasurer), Deputy Thomas Junkin (Charleston County Sheriff's Office).

FOIA STATEMENT

The Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting was advertised in compliance with the requirements of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act. Agendas were posted and furnished to news media and all persons requesting notification.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 17, 2024

Public Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Mr. Kinne made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, seconded by Ms. Baylis.

The motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

New Committee Member

Chairman Kortvelesy and Mr. Kinne remarked that they were looking forward to working with the new committee member, Dr. Carl Bergren. Mr. Kinne remarked that Dr. Bergren's extensive emergency planning experience will be invaluable when the committee begins work on the town's Comprehensive Emergency Plan.

Meeting with Phillips and Jordan

Chairman Kortvelesy asked Mr. Cronin about meeting with the town's debris removal contractor, Phillips and Jordan. Mr. Cronin stated they had been unavailable in the past due to workload. Mr. Kortvelesy stated that if the committee needed to move meeting dates to accommodate the vendor's schedule, he would do it. Mr. Kortvelesy

stated that his wish was to meet with them to ensure the contractor would be available if a natural disaster was to affect Seabrook Island.

**Charleston County
Sherrif's Office**

Deputy Junkin reminded the committee that Charleston County elected a new sheriff, Carl Ritchey. He stated that Sheriff Ritchey had a goal to get more deputies into the unincorporated areas of the county. Deputy Junkin stated that residents may see more enforcement activities in the coming months. The deputy stated that there have already been citations and warnings issued for speeding along Betsy Kerrison and Seabrook Island Road.

Ms. Baylis asked what changes, if any, were going to be made to Seabrook Island Road to accommodate the completion of Seafields. Mr. Cronin stated there would be a left turn lane coming from the traffic circle into Seafields and another point of entry from Freshfields Village.

**Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)
Training**

Steve Pollack gave a brief overview of various FEMA emergency training courses.

Mr. Pollack provided his CERT training manual to the committee. Ms. Baylis asked a question related to tornado shelters on Seabrook Island. Mr. Pollack stated there was not a tornado shelter on the island. Mr. Pollack urged residents to sign up for CodeRED alerts. He stated that in the event a warning is issued, residents would receive an alert on their phone from CodeRED.

Chairman Kortvelesy asked Mr. Cronin if there was a way that the town could support the CERT team. The Chairman stated that it was his thought that one of the code enforcement officers be trained as a CRT member. As a way for the town to support CERT, Mr. Cronin urged Mr. Pollack to apply for a Community Promotions grant offered through the Town of Seabrook Island. A brief discussion was had related to an aging trailer used by area CERT members. Mr. Cronin stated the grant program could be a way to pay for replacing the trailer.

Chairman Kortvelesy thanked Mr. Pollack for taking a leadership role of local CERT members. He stated that Mr. Pollack has been invaluable to the community as both a CERT leader and a member of the Disaster Recovery Council.

**Comprehensive Emergency
Plan (CEP) Update**

Chairman Kortvelesy asked Mr. Cronin how he wanted to proceed with updating the CEP. Mr. Cronin stated that the contract with Scott Cave, who assists the town with drafting the plan, expires in February of 2025. He stated that until a contract is in place with Mr. Cave or a new contractor is selected through an RFP, nothing will happen with the CEP update.

Chairman Kortvelesy said it was his wish for the contract to be extended for another year to carry the contract through February 2026.

Mr. Cronin stated that the decision to renew the contract with Mr. Cave or to rebid the contract was ultimately a decision that is up to town council.

Disaster Recovery Council (DRC) Review

Chairman Kortvelesy remarked there needed to be an update to the DRC roster in preparation for the next meeting of the DRC.

Mr. Kortvelesy asked the committee how they felt having someone from the new MUSC facility occupying a seat on the DRC. There was a brief discussion that followed related to whether or not an individual had been hired to fill a safety and/or security role for the new facility.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

Citizen Comments

Chairman Kortvelesy stated that a resident came into Town Hall asking that a stop sign be placed on Seabrook Island Road at the crosswalk in front of Town Hall. The Chairman further remarked that motorists leaving Seabrook Island begin to accelerate immediately after passing the security gate. He also stated that vegetation along the road after passing through the gate can obscure pedestrians already in the crosswalk. The Chairman urged pedestrians to use the pedestrian signal so that the beacons are activated while pedestrians are in the crosswalk.

Mr. Cronin reminded the committee that it is unlawful for motorists to not stop for pedestrians in crosswalks. He stated that another remedy might be to place stop signs on Seabrook Island Road at Landfall and move the crosswalk to the intersection.

Mr. Kinne asked who was responsible for trimming vegetation so pedestrians are better seen when entering the crosswalk. He stated although it may not be a total fix, it would be the quickest and most cost effective to trim vegetation.

Deputy Junkin stated that he would let patrol officers know of the speeding situation in front of Town Hall.

Chairman Kortvelesy stated he had received a comment related to the town supporting the installation of a bike path at the end of Betsy Kerrison Parkway as it approaches the Freshfields traffic circle. He stated that Kiawah supports such a project and asked the committee for their support. The committee stated they were in support of installing a bicycle lane.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Cronin reminded the committee that 2025 is the year for Seabrook Island to host Disaster Awareness Day. He stated the town's communications director was working to book speakers for the event.

Ms. Baylis said she would be interested in a session on alternatives to homeowner's insurance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chairman Kortvelesy declared the meeting adjourned at 11:58 am.

Peter D. Wiggins II, MPA
Clerk/Treasurer