
CITY OF DEER LODGE

**Public Health & Safety
COMMITTEE**

AGENDA

Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 5:00 P.M. | Council Chambers, City Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes:
Meeting Minutes, March 11, 2021.
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items – *Limit to three minutes per person*
4. New Business: *(Public Comment period prior to each topic)*
 - a. Department Reports:
 - i. Police Department – Chief Bender
 - ii. Fire Department – Chief Pierson
 - iii. Code Enforcement – Tom Malcomb
 - iv. Public Health – County Public Health Representative – Ida Miller
 - b. Future of Code Enforcement - Mayor Solle and Rob Kersch
 - c. Flooding outlook/preparations – Mayor Solle
5. Old Business:
 - a. Hotel DL: Review Fines/Fees Imposed & Engineering Inspection Update –Jordan Green.
 - b. Flooding Outlook/Preparations – Rob Kersch
6. Staff or Committee Comments or Concerns
7. Announcement of the Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 at 5:00 PM.

Public Health & Safety Committee

Members

Rob Kersch (Chairperson) | Anthony Savalla | John Skibsrud

CITY OF DEER LODGE

Public Health & Safety

Committee

MINUTES

Public Health & Safety Committee | Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:00pm | Council Chambers

Members Present: Robert Kersch, John Skibsrud & Anthony Savalla (arrived late)

Members Absent: None

Mayor: Diana Solle

CAO: Jordan Green

Staff: Police Chief Bender, Assistant Police Chief Smith, Code Enforcement Officer Malcomb, Fire Chief Pierson, & Cyndi Thompson

Guests: Ida Miller, Kip Kimerly, Mike Denny, Scott Hazelton, Britni Evans

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Chairperson Kersch called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Approval of Minutes for

- a. February 11, 2021 – Chairperson Kersch motioned to approve minutes with correction (Kib to Kip); Member Skibsrud seconded the motion. Approved with 1 absent.

3. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Per Person

None.

4. Old Business:

None

5. New Business:

- a. Department Reports:

- 1. PoliceChief Bender

Chief Bender summarized recent Department activities based upon 168 calls for service and 48 citations (Feb 8th to March 11th). Mayor Solle stated the Police Department is down 1 Officer. Based on the PD guidelines, there was an in-house posting for the position for 2-

weeks. Tom Malcomb applied for the position. Mayor Solle completed an interview with Tom. The Police Commission met on the 9th and approved Tom with a unanimous vote. Chairperson Kersch had a concern about the Code Enforcement position that Tom Malcomb is currently doing. Mayor Solle stated Code Enforcement position will stay within the PD and is being worked in as Police Officer/Code Enforcement. Chairperson Kersch asked if Police Chief had a copy of Deer Lodge Police Department Condition of Employment Agreement? Chief Bender stated, yes, I do. Chief Bender read some off the guidelines. Chairperson Kersch stated he will add this topic to the next agenda meeting.

2. Fire.....Chief Pierson
Nothing to report. It has been very quiet.

3. Code Enforcement.....Tom Malcomb
Code Enforcement Officer Malcomb summarized report of recent Department activities based on 13 animal calls, 2 citations dogs at large, gave landowner info on junk vehicle program. Responded to 1 citizen complaint of illegal refrigerator dumping. To date we have licensed 298 dogs. Tagged 7 abandoned junk vehicles. Met with Chad Lanes Tri-County Health Sanitation over state Junk Vehicle Program. Chad is going to run a notice in the paper (no cost to the City) that describes the State Junk Vehicle Program, which helps residents move junk vehicles off their property or city streets at no cost to the owner. Conducted background checks on 3 business Licenses. 1 was referred to Tri-County Health. Established a Company Account at Cow Poke to keep business in town for the dog kennel food.

4. COVID-19 Update – County Health Nurse. Ida Miller provided the following report.

President Biden’s mask mandate is still in effect for: Federal buildings including the US Capitol, federal courthouses, post offices, and federal agencies across the country. The mandate also applies to national parks and federal monuments. Another mandate requires the wearing masks at airports and on planes, trains, buses, and ferries.

Powell County Cases: Total Active Cases: Recovered: 892, Powell County residents 471 + Offenders 411, Deceased 7 of these 3 are Powell county residents, Active: 3.

Montana State Prison COVID Cases: 1 Active Employee Case, 0 offenders’ cases, MSP has immunized 400+ offenders. The DOC is not immunizing staff. The DOC is providing information as it appears on the DPHHS website regarding how staff can pursue a vaccine with their local health jurisdiction.

Immunizations: Vaccinated in Powell County - Total: 1,732, 1st dose: 1,180, Fully immunized: 553, Total eligible: 6,002

Giving vaccine almost daily based on how much vaccine comes in. Only getting about 100 doses per week. No requesting of which vaccine you may receive. Safeway is doing immunizations.

For Contact Tracing: If you have been fully vaccinated (two weeks after second dose), you will not need to quarantine or test if you are asymptomatic. Testing is recommended if you have symptoms.

Ida also discussed: since the weather is getting warmer be aware of the following **Hantavirus, rabies, ticks**. If infected these all can mimic COVID symptoms.

a. Deer Lodge Hotel – Update with Mr. Kimerly

Mr. Kip Kimerly stated, work was stopped on the building due to the past CAO giving him a citation and requesting all work cease until a structural engineer came in provided documentation stating the building is secure and safe to enter.

Kip stated he had an investor interested in the building and was interested in providing 5 million dollars to refurbish.

Chairperson Kersch stated the inspection was a recommendation from PH&S Committee for safety as our City's fire Department is instructed not to go into the building should a fire occur and the safety of the public as debris was falling off the building. That is why the City requested a structural barrier be placed in front of the building due to debris falling off the building and requested a Structural Engineer to inspect.

Kip stated he was in the process of securing the roof, although before he could finish, he was cited and was requested to stop work. Chairperson Kersch stated, Kip was not cited, he was asked by previous CAO to present a safety inspection report before work continues.

Chief Bender asked Kip, if he had a copy of the Citation because the City Judge could not find one.

Member Savalla asked Kip, you say Mark Christian be coming to do the Safety Inspection to satisfy the obligation to the City? Kip stated, yes that is correct.

Chairperson Kersch stated, we want to work with you, we request you bring in a copy of citation at the next meeting (April 8th) PH&S is unaware of a citation/Fine on file.

Fire Chief Pierson asked Kip, what are the chances of you keeping in contact with the City? The bigger buildings in town we like to go through so we know what we are running into, and if it is deemed safe, we would need to know. The Fire Department would want to respond to a call should the need arise to save the building but only if we have a safety report saying it is safe to go into.

Mayor Solle asked Kip, can you come to next month's meeting? Kip replied, absolutely.

Chairperson Kersch asked Kip to please bring a copy of citation he paid. Kip replied, that is not a problem.

b. Insurance Billing of Fire Department – Rob Kersch

Mayor Solle stated she reach out to her Mayor Message Board (126 people) – 3
Mayors responded by saying.

1. Stevensville – The only circumstance our Fire Department charges for is service related to vehicle accidents is when they transport a patient in their ambulance to the hospital. Otherwise, the responses involve basic services our Fire Department is expected to provide thru conditional funding source.
2. Conrad – As a possible solution we have a local tow company that charges the vehicle owner/ Insurance Company for the Fire Traffic Control and accident Scenes. The tow company then sends any money received to the Fire Department (rural or City). The tow company is the only one that does this. May be worth having a conversation with the tow companies in your area that are called in to tow wrecked vehicles.
3. Mayor Sandra Jones, she is the President/Chairman of the Mayor Association for Montana. She said, she researched this a couple of years ago. I check with Fire Recovery www.firerecoveryusa.com, I was also provided some information from Fire Chief Peters, you can also contact Justin Russel our DES, Justin is also our Deputy Fire Chief, he will be able to point you in the right direction.

Mayor Solle stated she called Justin Russell, and Miles City implements this, and they do it, they Charge \$100 service per incident. Justin will get more specifics on how it's done. They get a copy of the Police Report that has the insurance company info on it and the Billing Clerk sends a bill for the service.

Chairperson Kersch asked the Committee, do we pursue this or let this die? Member Skibsrud stated if its only \$100 bucks, then its not worth pursuing.

Chairperson Kersch asked Chief Pierson, what is your recommendation to the Committee? Do we pursue this? The dollar amount is to be determined. It isn't going to be thousands of dollars or even a couple hundred. Fire Chief Pierson stated, if its \$100 dollars, looking at what we could do in one year could be in the range of \$3,500, but in all reality, it might only be around \$1,200 dollars. We have only done 4 this year, which is odd.

Chairperson Kersch made a motion to continue to research this. Member Savalla seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

c. Flooding Outlook / Coordination with Powel County Emergency Planning Coordinator – Britni Evans, DES Officer.

Britni Evans stated there are two main sources we have to be concerned with flooding. We have what feeds into the Little Blackfoot and Rocker Peak. The water is low and does not look like much flooding the year. Best this year to focus on clean up around town. Cottonwood Creek Culvert. Mayor Solle stated, she thinks this was already cleaned up except for the Highway. The county cleaned up all the way to the culvert. And the rest is under the highway and the State will not clean it. Mayor Solle stated to Britni, please contact her direct instead of

JR in road crew department. All requests go to Mayor 1st and she will get with the Public Works Supervisor.

Chairperson Kersch asked Britni if she could get us a count of sandbags, so we know how much is in stock. If we need sand, the City Crew will dump sand next to the Fire Hall. Citizens are responsible to fill their own sandbags. No filled bags are on hand as they have a shelf life.

6. Staff Comments or Concerns: Chairperson Kersch concern is making sure we put the Code Enforcement position on the next agenda and the \$1500 training for the PD.

7. Announcement of the Next Meeting:

a. April 8th at 5:00pm

8. Adjournment:

a. Meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm by unanimous vote.

Prepared by: Cyndi Thompson, City Clerk

Chairperson: _____
Rob Kersch

Date: _____

Public Health & Safety Committee

Members

Robert Kersch (Chairperson) | John Skibsrud | Anthony Savalla



POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

March 1, 2021, April 1 2021

Issued Forty-Two Notice to appear.

- Eight speeding
- Six Criminal possession
- Two Expired registration
- Four Driving without driver license.
- Two Driving while suspended
- One PFMA.
- One Assault
- Six stop sign
- Six Operation without liability
- One Careless Driving
- Three DUI
- One Abandon vehicles
- Three Non-Residential Alarm
- Four Assist Other Agency
- Three Civil standby
- Eight Courtesy Rides
- One Identity theft
- Three Fraud
- Seven Assist another Agency Probation Officer
- One Stolen Weapon
- Two Suspicious Person
- One Unattended Death
- Two Accident
- Eight welfare check
- 186 call for service. As of 4/01/2021.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL.

None STAFFING CONCERNS

None.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Ensuring all Officers are adhering to the necessary protocols to reduce their risk of exposure to the virus including minimizing face to face contact with members of the public.



FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

MARCH 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 Calls for Service – Both were extraction calls. Both went well.

PROJECT SUMMARIES

- None.

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL

- There are items we are trying to surplus that are out of service and ready to sell.

STAFFING CONCERNS

- We have added Reno Ward to the roster. We are back at full roster. Reno Ward will be issued gear this month at our regular meeting and added to the paging system.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- None.



CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER REPORT

March 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 animal calls, 2 of those were dog bites. 2 of those were at Grant Kohrs for same dog
- 1 Citation issued for Restraint (Dog at Large) after the resident was warned previously, There have been multiple complaints on this is the dog that has been running at large on Grant Kohrs and in the city.
- 1 Citation was issued for Dog bite this was the second time. The resident has since made improvements to his fence
- Had some residents parking in the alley of the business district, the sign was faded so they could not see the sign. The city crew replaced that sign and the residents parked their vehicles appropriately
- Mailed out 26 reminders for households with unlicensed dogs

PROJECT SUMMARIES

- We have over 316 dogs that have been licensed as of end of March
- RV resident of 1106 5th street were cited for Public Nuisance they are contesting their citation and a resident cited for dog at large is also contesting her citation.
- Talked with the resident that has the vehicles in the city right of way on California.
- Animal control vehicle has radio installed
- Property owner turned in Junk Vehicle paperwork to have vehicle removed from property waiting on the coordinator at this time.
- Tagged 4 vehicles as abandoned / junk, 1 was removed by owner 2nd owner was out of town retrieved notice.
- Warned property owner on 2nd street over discarded fence
- Trying to improve communication with Mary Ann Saylor public health nurse with dog bite notification

INTEREST ITEMS FOR CITY COUNCIL

- Conducted background checks on business license for Puccinelli Plumbing (plumbing and Heating) out of Anaconda referred one business to the CEO for information

STAFFING CONCERNS

- Position is currently vacant the calls are being covered by the PD

COVID-19 RESPONSE
