

The workshop was called to order by Mayor Popoff at 12:00 on Thursday, March 15, 2007.

Present: Mayor Karl Popoff

Council Position # 1 Sue Johnson

Council Position # 2 Don Flynn

Council Position #5, David Alexander.

Council Positions #3 and #4 are vacant.

Also in attendance was Russ Merkely, Chief of Police.

The public was invited to attend but no public input was taken.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given and Roll Call was taken

The workshop was to discuss options for police department funding.

Mayor Popoff announced that there is one option to discuss and dismiss. It had been proposed that a possibility was to raise the bed tax by a percent or two but it was explained that there is a new state law that demands 70% of any increase must be used for tourism only.

David Alexander wanted to consider it as his number 1 choice...he thought maybe advertising a safe city would be a draw for tourists and could be considered as promotion of the town.

Chief Merkeley said it would take 7 officers for 24 hour coverage. Mr. Alexander also suggested maybe private people could be hired to cover certain large events in town.

Sue Johnson explained that she remembered that in the past, it was opined by our legal council that the promotion funds could not even be used for 4th of July fireworks, no help with fishing derby purses, that the money could only be used for advertising, so she doubted Mr. Alexander's idea would be allowed even if Virginia McKinney gave permission to change the amount of the tax.

Popoff suggested the best way was to let the people decide and to get it on the next regular election we can, which would be in November.

Flynn said the port is already a government tax funded entity.

Merkeley said the Port is a separate governmental agency and the Port could increase the tax. Flynn said he will let Chief Merkeley put it before the Port Commission, he is staying out of it.

David said he was not wildly in favor of the tax levy.

Sue Johnson said she had changed her mind about putting the levy to the people because she realized she would have no good answer if she were asked why she didn't want it done that way, so that she thinks we should put it out there, let the people decide, then go with whatever they decided and that should be end of it. She said she would not vote for any of the other options, as she was not going to be a part of adding more fees and taxes unless the people voted for it.

Sue asked if the money received from the tax levy, if any, would cover all the costs of training, equipment, cars, etc. and Chief Merkley said they would not need 7 cars because they could be set up on a rotation basis.

Flynn said to put it up to the people. He said we are not mandated to go outside the city for a patrol area and Sue said she doesn't think our officers should go outside the city except in life and death emergencies and in fact, as far as she knows that is the current policy which is not being followed. She feels that the people of Gold Beach are buying protection for the City or Gold Beach, not out in the county areas. She reiterated that of course, she would expect exceptions to be made in life and death situations.

The general consensus was for Chief Merkeley to come up with figures and give us something to vote on at the next meeting.

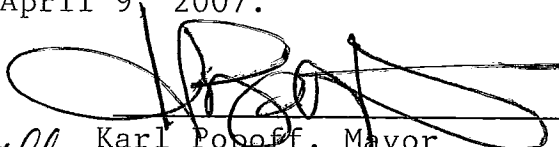
Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m

Passed by the City Council of the City of Gold Beach on
April 9, 2007.

Attest:

Shirley Walker
Recorder





Karl Popoff, Mayor



GOLD BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police Russell G. Merkley

29592 ELLENSBURG AVENUE
GOLD BEACH, OREGON 97444
Phone: 541-247-6671 - Fax 541-247-9681

Sheriff Mark Metcalf
Curry County Sheriff's Office
Gold Beach, Or. 97444

March 8, 2007

Subject: **GOLD BEACH POLICE RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL RESONNEL CUTS AT
THE CURRY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

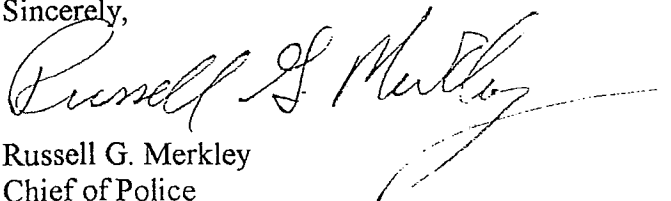
The Gold Beach Police Department will continue to attempt to adequately fulfill its mission of providing a uniform presence and law enforcement services to its community, with our primary responsibility of responding to emergency calls, crime prevention, calls for service and routine traffic enforcement. Even though our numbers have not increased, we will when possible, adjust officers work shifts and schedule to best accomplish the needs of the community.

At our current staffing level of 3 officers and a Chief, the Gold Beach Police does not provide 24 hour service and thus is unable to fully meet the needs of our community. The Gold Beach Police Department does not have the resources to provide a "safety net" where the Sheriff's office resources are inadequate. In fact, it has been the Sheriff's office that has always provided the "safety net" to the citizens and officers of Gold Beach. The loss of this "safety net" is of great concern to me as Chief of Police. None-the-less, the Gold Beach Police will continue to abide by the cooperative policing agreement and respond to life threatening emergency calls for service outside the city limits when the need arises as we have in the past. This will of course be limited to officer availability, back-up availability, time of day/night and proximity to the City. The Police Department will in most cases, respond to areas outside the City who currently receive City service, (water or sewer). Gold Beach Police response to emergency calls by county residence outside these service areas will depend on officer availability, back-up officer availability, proximity and/or time away from City, severity of the incident and risk to others.

The Gold Beach Police Department and Curry County Deputies have always worked well together and I am certain that this will continue even in the event that your patrol staffing levels decline.

As always, please do not hesitate to give me a call, as I have done to your office, if a special event or circumstance dictates the need for assistance.

Sincerely,



Russell G. Merkley
Chief of Police

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O & C Impact to City of Gold Beach

Sheriff's Patrol operates the only 24 hour law enforcement in Central and North Curry. The following are the pro-active choices and if done quickly, we can avoid chaos in our community:

- Increase bed tax by 2% (an increase of approximately \$130,000 for 2.5 officers). Medford is currently at 10%. Annex the 1,000 plus people that receive City water (approximately 340 accounts). Increase other fee's to general fund (OLCC, Abatement notices...etc) to off set law enforcement costs.
- Vote for a law enforcement levy, either City or County wide. Amounts to be recommended by ad-hoc committee of citizens. Cities could contract out to the County for residential areas near the Cities.
- Ports could pay/contribute toward law enforcement for services currently provided by Cities and the County at no charge.

If nothing is done to prepare for this we can expect the following and then some:

- City police will have NO back-up for in progress incidents. Expect citizen & job related injuries to increase. Reduced time for investigation of the increased crimes, follow-up & report writing. Court appearance will still be mandatory, with associated OT issues. More officer injuries will result, ripple effects include reduced manpower, and increased workers comp and increased over time. Much slower response time to all after hours crimes, especially person crimes requiring second officer call outs. EMS ability to perform their duties will be impacted as they wait for an officer to arrive and secure the scene if unsafe. Attrition of officers "burn out" with inability to handle call load and stress! Inability to recruit qualified candidates due to low pay, lack of consistent & adequate training, risk of harm and overall working conditions. Extended wear and tear on patrol vehicles and officers. Far less accountability and jail terms for criminals, including juvenile, Probation & Parole violations, and domestic violence and sex offenders. Criminals know once county funding is lost, nobody is watching and it will make for a victim rich environment with little or no oversight by law enforcement. Above mentioned, create a large number of liability issues for the City.

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- **Lack of "Holding Room" at hospital. County now routinely transports mental health holds. This expense in time spent at the hospital by officer will increase, as will OT and transport costs. County Medical Examiner may be eliminated. ME's duties will have to be absorbed by each City. With the strong possibility of the training of a department "Deputy-ME" to handle all City un-attended deaths.**
- **Residents/Business owners who are 3 to 5 miles outside City limits will look to City Police for ALL services and needs. Just one natural disaster has the possibility to cripple the City. Residents/Business owners will hold City responsible when response time isn't quick enough or if the outcome isn't satisfactory to them. Vandalism to homes, schools parks and business will increase. Public areas will be hot spots for illegal activity. More citizen injuries and victimization, with resulting ripple effects...crime WILL increase as road deputy presence decreases. Drug activity and drug related crimes will be just one part of the increase. If residents & Business owners don't feel they can rely on Police, they will take matters into their own hands.**

At some point you and/or a loved one will need the help of law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies are not in the business to generate revenue. It protects and saves lives. It does protect and save property and it does try to hold people accountable.

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	Officer Year one	Officer Year two	Officer Year Three	Officer Year Four	Officer Year Five	Totals
3-15-01						
	3%					
Salary	\$34,000	\$35,000	\$36,050	\$37,200	\$38,400	\$180,650
Benefit Package	\$19,000	\$19,570	\$20,450	\$21,500	\$22,500.00	\$103,020
Uniforms						
Shirts Lg SLV	\$170	\$45	\$45	\$90	\$90	
Shirts Short SLV	\$150	\$50	\$50	\$100	\$100	
Trousers	\$200	\$70	\$70	\$140	\$140	
Boots	\$150			\$150	\$150	
Rain coat	\$475					
Light Jacket	\$120			\$140		
Hat	\$25				\$30	
Ballistic vest	\$700					
Miscellaneous	\$250	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	
Total	\$2,240	\$315	\$315	\$770	\$660	\$4,300
Equipment						
Duty belt	\$250	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	
Hand cuffs	\$100					
Flash light	\$140					
Taser	\$1,000					
Miscellaneous	\$250	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	
Radio Hand held	In stock					
Total	\$1,740	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$2,740
Vehicle Fully Equipped						
Used 05 Ford	\$25,000					
Radar Unit	\$1,500	possible grant				
Video Camera	\$3,500	possible grant				
Car Radio	In stock					
Total	\$89,220	\$55,450	\$57,380	\$60,740	\$62,720	\$323,580