

CROCKETT POLICE LIAISON COMMITTEE

of the Crockett Community Services District

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 5, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Angell. Present were Committee members Botta, Cardwell, Gomez, Melero, Valentini and Wais, along with General Manager McDonald and Director Peterson.

2. AGENDA ORDER: As Deputy Spangler was not yet present, the report from CHP will be given first.

3.b. REPORT FROM CHP ON TRAFFIC ISSUES: Officer Joyner reported he has not been active in Crockett this last month. He said the CHP has been faced multiple officers being injured recently, many related to drunk drivers. He has been out of State and most recently has been attending and helping one of the officers that were hit by a drunk driver. A question was raised by a member of the public asking if the person will be charged. Officer Joyner described it as being multiple felonies. He reported that he heard that sideshows have been going crazy. He asked if there's been any improvement recently. Mr. Angell said they have slowed down in our area. Officer Joyner said if you see sideshows happening call 911. He said it was most important that people take their own personal safety into consideration and not to confront the individuals with the sideshows. If you have an opportunity call back from your home, after calling 911, and share additional information such as the car color or descriptions of people that would be helpful but again reminded everyone not to put yourself in harm's way. The question was asked by a member of the public if anyone can make any improvements to the road that would deter people from doing sideshows along the freeway exit at Merchant and San Pablo Avenue. Officer Joyner said that he could invite County Public Works to look at studies and maybe meet with Crockett residents to get their feedback on what can be done if the town wants that. The question was asked whether cameras can be put on the hill. Mr. Jim Gardner asked about the task force he recently read about in the newspaper and wondered if that is available for Crockett. Officer Joyner said the task force was created, working in conjunction with larger cities such as Oakland, where there are more resources available. It is a much larger problem in the cities than it is in unincorporated areas even if it doesn't always feel that way to the people who live here. Mr. Angell asked if there are any additional items of concern for the CHP officer of the public. Hearing no he moved onto the law enforcement issue from the resident deputy.

3.a. REPORT FROM DEPUTY NICKLESS: Resident Deputy Spangler introduced herself and reported she has officially been appointed to the position of the Resident Deputy for the town of Crockett. Lt. Joseph Bufford also introduced himself as the new lieutenant responsible for the Bay Station area which included Crockett. He said he's been with the sheriff's department over 19 years. Deputy Spangler reported that you may see her driving around and she may stop and talk to you for a while. She's just getting the lay of the land and she wants to meet people within the community. She said her normal shifts would be Monday through Thursday from 2:00 pm to midnight. The lieutenant reminded everyone that the shifts may change from time to time depending on the needs of the community. The sheriff's department will continue to provide coverage with the patrol deputies the other hours of the days and on the weekends. Mr. Angell

also said that we have our overtime deputy that covers the Friday and Saturday late shifts that are dedicated to Crockett as well. Deputy Spangler said she knows we need to focus on parking enforcement and balancing the needs of the people who live here. A resident asked about boats and RV's and clearly stored cars parked on the street that have been there for months and years and asked if anything can be done about those. Deputy Spangler said you can park legally on the street for three days. If the owner moves the vehicle the owner of the vehicle will be in compliance. She said she has multiple ways to check if a vehicle is moved and shares this information with the parking enforcement people so they are aware if the vehicle moves when they are inspecting the car say on a Friday or Saturday, they will know if it's been there for more than three days. A complaint was raised that people park diagonal on dead-end streets making it difficult for people who live there to get in and out. Deputy Spangler said it's up to the officer's discretion on whether to write a ticket or not. She tries her best to reach out to the owner of the vehicle and ask them to correct the situation by moving the vehicle or re-parking the vehicle. She said she did not get into law-enforcement to write parking tickets and believes there are bigger issues of concern that the residents of Crockett would like her attention to be focused on. A resident asked if anything can be done on illegal dumping. They held up a sample with identifiable addresses and information from illegal dumpsites the volunteers picked up along Crockett Boulevard just this afternoon. She said it is frustrating that nothing is being done to punish those that have been dumping illegally causing blight in Crockett. Another resident had a question on people who have garbage in the front yard and whose debris is causing rodents and flies and was wondering if that something can be done with the help of the sheriff's department. The deputy said we cannot control how people live. Mr. McDonald said that issue is on private property and quality-of-life issues fall under the Code Enforcement Department of Contra Costa County as it's not a criminal activity but more one of quality of life. He mentioned the Contra Costa County Code Enforcement website has an online form. A resident said they have spoken to Code Enforcement and have been told there is nothing they can do and expressed her frustration. Mr. McDonald said they always have a choice to bring it up to the Code Enforcement Supervisor or Director and ultimately to our Board of Supervisor Representative Federal Glover if they're unhappy with the government services and the level of support they think they should be due. Ms. Melero asked if there are any updates for the ATM and credit card fraud problem that hit this town pretty hard. Deputy Spangler said she checked all the machines at the gas station and reported the information to the investigative unit. She said digital crimes are extremely difficult to get someone for. She wants to be honest and open so that the expectation is there. It is a growing nationwide problem. A resident said that two suspects have been arrested by the Fremont police. It was suggested that those affected file a report with the Sheriff's office and include the details in the report so information can be shared between departments.

3.c. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: Margaret Faria reported that there has been no meeting from the Crockett Valona Neighborhood Watch recently. She is open to having a meeting but when it's held nobody shows up. If anyone would like a meeting just ask and she will set one up.

3.d. TRUCK AND TRAFFIC UPDATES: No representative was present. An effort will be made to contact C&H for representation at the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Margaret Faria said there were 16 participants at the recent Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. Ms. Wais said the Crockett Sanitary Commission has a seat available on the Commission.

5.a. POLICE SERVICES BALANCE FUND AND EXPENSE DETAILS: Mr. McDonald reported that in order to discuss some long-term police funding ideas it was important to first understand what balance is available to provide police services. He briefly explained that funding for a resident deputy comes from Return-to-Source funds, in effect taxes given back to the community, which is paid by the Crockett Cogeneration plant. He shared the balance calculation worksheet along with expenditure details provided by the sheriff's department. A summary for the year is the important one to really take a look at as it gives a good understanding of the available balance as well as what it costs for a resident deputy. The summary calculation for FY 2016/17 shows the remaining balance in the Fund of \$890,000. He drew the attention of the committee to the line item for clothing and personal supplies at \$778,000. This is the amount of available funds that rolls over every year that can be used for additional police services, such as cameras or additional deputy hours. He said that you will notice that the appropriations limit is greater for salaries and benefits, the largest being retirement, than what was actually expended. That is because the appropriation amount is a placeholder for what it might cost for the most expensive experienced deputy where the year-to-date expenditures are the actual costs, and in Crockett's case, we have been very fortunate to have deputies they have served the community well but because they have less seniority and their pay rate scale is lower. Therefore those costs are lower to the community. He also showed that the overtime line item is \$37,000, well over the \$5,000 appropriation limit. This is as planned as this committee supported the sheriff's department in using overtime for Friday and Saturday shifts. At the bottom of the report the total year-to-date expenditures for FY 2015/16 is \$253,000. That is expected to be about the normal from what it would cost to have a resident deputy for time allocated with some overtime assistance. You can expect that rate to rise slowly over the years. The final thing he shared was the revenue of \$264,000 that came in for FY 2015/16 from the cogeneration fund. As you can see the income covered the resident deputy cost for that year. What is important to note is that the Cogeneration Return-to-Source Tax Fund has been shrinking the last 3 to 5 years, due to the amount of taxes paid by the Cogen. What this means is the \$778,000 we have in our account will probably not be growing anymore but slowly decreasing by \$20,000 or \$30,000 a year. A motion directing staff to contact the sheriff's department to gather information on what additional police services can be used with the funds and report back to the committee for consideration carried unanimously (mw/db).

5.b. LICENSE PLATE READER (LPR) CAMERAS: Mr. Angell gave a brief summary on how license plate camera readers work. There was a concern raised whether the cameras would invade an individual's privacy. Mary Wais asked for more information such as the cost and how they would work. A key question would be funding and are there enough funds available to purchase the cameras as well as pay for ongoing maintenance. A member of the public asked if grant funding from the county was available so not all of it would have to come from either the sheriff's department or the local community. There was general support for moving forward to gather more information on implementing license plate readers in Crockett. Mr. McDonald will contact the Sheriff's office.

5.c. DOWNTOWN PARKING AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT: Mary Wais reported she met with the chamber and with an individual from the Crockett Improvement Association (CIA) to discuss forming an Ad Hoc Committee to start to develop recommendations on parking enforcement in the downtown Crockett area. This is just a beginning to start the dialogue to make sure everyone has input into any proposed changes to parking in the downtown area. At this time, the questions were only focused on the downtown area. The question was raised last month over enforcing the existing two-hour parking rules to promote a healthy downtown for the merchants balanced with the needs of residents who live in downtown. Mr. Angell suggested

suggested a survey, such as a Google survey to record the data with the questions being easy and low-key and available on social media. Ms. Wais said she hopes to have more information next month after she meets with the Crockett Chamber tomorrow and see if they are also in support of being involved in hosting a meeting. A question asked by a member of the public is why the issue is being brought up now. She stated parking restrictions in downtown established long ago may not be relevant today and expressed concern for people who live in the downtown. Mr. McDonald said input from all the people living and owning businesses downtown should be gathered so that they have input into any decision that is made.

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS: None

7. CONSENT CALENDAR: The consent item was approved unanimously (mw/sm):

- a. Approve Minutes of January 8, 2018
- b. Approve Financial Report.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Consider Code Enforcement invitation.
- Consider C&H Traffic invitation.
- Consider zoning issues
- Consider survey to identify community priorities

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM until March 5, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Cardwell