

## WORKSHOP TOWN COMMISSION MEETING HELD MAY 8, 2012

PBSO Workshop Town Commission Meeting of the Town of Ocean Ridge held on Monday, May 8, 2012, at 6:00PM in the Town Hall Meeting Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pugh. The roll call was answered by the following:

Commissioner Aaskov	Commissioner Allison
Commissioner Brookes	Commissioner Hennigan
Mayor Pugh	

Town Clerk Hancsak was absent with notice, and Deputy Town Clerk Hallahan was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Pugh thanked everyone for attending, as there was a very large crowd with people standing along the sides and rear of the auditorium. He stated that this was a workshop only to gather information, and that no final decision would be made this evening. He apologized for the PA System, as it was not working properly, and asked the meeting to continue. Mayor Pugh also acknowledged Major Dan Smith and Lieut. Thibodeau being present and asked them to proceed with the PBSO presentation.

Major Dan Smith, PBSO thanked the Commission for allowing them to give a presentation. He stated that bigger is better, and provided a 20 minute video of Sheriff Rick Bradshaw showing the different divisions and resources available through the Sheriff's Department, from K-9 service, marine service, helicopter service to mounted police officers.

Major Smith summarized their proposal, and assured the residents that the officers would be better able to serve with modern technological enhancement and resources. It would be one common seamless communications channel, the same as the local district. There would be a watch commander and captain over the deputies. He stated that there would be immediate response for customer service. Chief Yannuzzi would become a Lieutenant, and there would be 10 Deputies on the road. This would eliminate 4-5 police positions, and 4 current dispatcher positions. The Sheriff Department has open positions and these employees would be eligible to apply if they met the minimum standards. If a decision was made in favor of the PBSO, effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, the officers uniforms would change to green, and the police vehicles would change to green/white with "Ocean Ridge" along the sides under Palm Beach County Sheriff. All emergency and non-emergency calls would be forwarded to their dispatch center on Gun Club Road. This change would have a big impact on the town financially. This contract is a guarantee of 2 year savings of over \$500,000/year. The Town would be free from liability, any future union negotiations, cost of benefits, fuel costs, vehicle repairs, and workers comp. Ocean Ridge was unique with it being on the Intracoastal and A1A. He did see their marine unit as being a big factor. There are currently 3 dock slips and one that can be used for a volunteer unit. They also have an aviation unit which has been used to catch illegal citizens that appear on the beach. There would be seamless communication of notifying the aviation unit for an immediate response as the call would go through their dispatchers directly. They also have a radar system that can detect all vessels in the Intracoastal.

The Ocean Ridge officers would see an increase in their benefits, with increased training, up to date equipment, a take home car and family insurance coverage at a much lower rate. There would be greater opportunity for growth up the ranks. Ocean Ridge would not have the burden of the expense. He stated that the local control would not be lost and would stay the same. This contract is unique, as Ocean Ridge would have the same officers who will still remember the residents. If an officer was sick or away at training, the PBSO would supplement the position and fill it with another deputy. There would not be a shortage on the road. He stated that PBSO has over 100 years of service would give a feeling of professionalism to Ocean Ridge. He stated that they were here to support the residents, the Town Commission and Chief Yannuzzi.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that he had been servicing Ocean Ridge for 5 years and 2 years as Chief. He was celebrating a total of 40 years of public service. He recognized Colonel Stormes and Major Musco with

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the Sheriff's Department who were in the audience and thanked them for attending. Chief Yannuzzi stated that this was not personal between PBSO and the Ocean Ridge Police Department. He did feel that going to PBSO would not be the same level of service. All of the services shown on the video, Ocean Ridge currently has access to by just a phone call. In the last year we had a "white powder" substance where we had to shut down part of a neighborhood. There was a coordinated effort, of Bomb Squad, FBI, Federal, Postal Inspector, and Boynton Beach Fire. He stated that our officers were currently performing 4 jobs: 1) Traffic Officer, Crime Prevention. 2) First Responders – all officers have AED's in their vehicles. PBSO does not currently have them in all of their vehicles. 3) Code Enforcement Officer. PBSO would not be responsible for code violations – a separate official would have to be hired for code enforcement issues. There would be no one in dispatch to check permits or contractor registration. 4) Friend. There has been a transition in the last few years, but 6 of the 8 personnel who left, had retired with long term service. Our officer requirements are a minimum of 5 years, as we want experienced officers. Chief Yannuzzi stated that he was at Boynton Beach for 25 years. When he was hired by Ocean Ridge, he could feel the transition of atmosphere by just crossing over the bridge. He thanked the residents for their e-mails and phone calls. He would be available for individual questions after the meeting. He verified that he had been offered the Lieutenant position and he would have the ability to change personnel. Ocean Ridge had great officers, and that everyone would do the best job possible no matter what the Commission decided.

Mayor Pugh requested a brief break to repair the PA System before we heard public comment. (It took about 10 minutes for staff to get the speakers working properly and the meeting resumed.)

Manager Schenck thanked the residents for the e-mails and questions stating that he had tried to respond to all their inquiries. There would be a cost savings going with the PBSO. There would be a savings of \$555,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year, but after the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the contract would increase. However Ocean Ridge services would incur three losses: 1) Briny Breezes Contract for police services. 2) Alarm Monitoring Revenue. Currently PBSO does not have direct alarm monitoring. Your alarm would go to an alarm company, who would then have to contact the PBSO dispatch and the PBSO dispatch who would contact a deputy to respond. There would be a loss of response time. 3) Code Enforcement service. Ocean Ridge would also have to hire a Code Enforcement person. These three items combined would create a loss of \$300,000/year in revenue to Ocean Ridge.

Mayor Pugh opened the meeting to the public, and Deputy Clerk Hallahan stated that they would be kept to a 3 minute comment.

### Public Comment

Dr Goltz, 8 Ocean Harbour Circle, felt that over time there would be change, and was in favor of our current police force. He did like to save money, but felt that the change would result in higher crime, and he didn't feel that the PBSO would give him a higher level of protection than he currently had.

Mark Becker, 88 Island Drive South, stated that he had read the contract. It was for 10 years but could terminate at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year? He asked that the Commission give them a cost savings per individual home. He was asked if the Commission were all in agreement with the PBSO proposal. Manager Schenck stated that the contract could be terminated after the first year, by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. This was a draft contract, and could be changed if additional costs/services were requested. Comm. Hennigan stated that she had a breakdown that she could give him after the meeting. Comm. Allison stated that per the Sunshine Law the Commissioners were not allowed to discuss any town business amongst themselves - unless it was as a public forum.

Richard Steere, 40 Oceanview Dr, asked for clarification of the Medical First Response. The Sheriff's Department had announced that they would have a shortfall at the next budget, and he asked if it would impact Ocean Ridge. Chief Yannuzzi stated that according to the PBSO dispatch, a deputy is not automatically dispatched out, the EMT or Fire Service is dispatched. Lieut. Thibodeau stated that their

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officers are trained, however while a majority of their vehicles do have the AED's, not all of them do. Our officers would be driving the current Ocean Ridge vehicles so the AED's would be available. Major Smith stated there would be no affect or loss of service. They would follow the services as specified in the contract. Chief Yannuzzi stated that all of our vehicles had AED's as a result of Grant. When he contacted the PBSO he was informed that their 911 calls would go to the Fire Department, and not to the deputy as first response.

Mark Choberka, 8 Midlane Rd, stated that Pompano Beach had a survey done showing costs to revert from the Broward Sheriff's office back to their own police force. He presented to the Commission a thumb drive that held the 107 page survey. He was concerned that costs/events could change in 10 years.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that the City of Lake Worth also had a similar study done of changing back from PBSO. The survey results stated that they should have never left, and with better management they could have been more cost effective and kept their own police department. Major Smith reported that in regards to Lake Worth - they didn't need to keep everyone on staff, and that Lake Worth now has 13 officers on the road instead of 6. The road patrol increased while the office staff was reduced.

Julia Steer, 40 Oceanview Dr, stated that she lived in a transient neighborhood and felt secure that our local police officers know who belong or who doesn't. It didn't make any sense to change.

Dave Berry 6885 N. Ocean Blvd, President of Inlet Cay Plaza Homeowners Association, felt that a change wasn't necessary. He asked if the change was made - what savings would be to the individual residents. He would pay more for current service.

Mayor Pugh stated that the Commission requested a proposal from the Sheriff's Dept. It was their fiscal responsibility to not raise the millage rate if possible. Comm. Brookes stated that there had been complaints that the Police Dept had changed. This proposal would mean 4-5 officers less. Our officers weren't happy and had went Union. The Commission understood that this Union would lead to long term costs and that the PBA Union negotiations would be coming up again soon. Comm. Hennigan reported that she had prepared a spreadsheet based on known expense increase, and that it would be a substantial savings to use PBSO. Comm. Allison stated that many of the residents had worked out the numbers, and that none of the spreadsheets agree. She felt we were comparing apples to oranges. We would lose our dispatch department. She felt this would change the quality of life and in service, and this change would affect all the residents.

Roger Bennett, Mayor of Briny Breezes, stated that he was pleased with the Ocean Ridge Police Department. He was concerned of what would happen to their community, and that a change would cause a great hardship to his residents. In the past, PBSO would not even give Briny Breezes a bid.

Roger Rose, 6110 N Ocean Blvd #18, President of Pelican Cove HOA stated that many of them were out of town and not able to attend. He asked how the Town savings would be spent if they accepted the PBSO Contract and would the residents see that savings or would it be spent? Comm. Hennigan stated that it would be cost savings of about \$800 for a \$1million home or \$4000 in 5 years. If zero deficit, the millage could be reduced from 5.25 to 4.286.

Stella Kolb, 205 Beachway Drive, felt the issue was quality of life not financial. The current police department checks for dark houses, and problems on the beach, she felt many would pay extra to keep our own police department. The following residents also spoke in favor of keeping the ORPD, and would be in favor of a tax increase: Paul Johnson, 17 Spanish River Drive; Justus Brown, 39 Coconut Lane; Jerry Magruder, 9 Ridge Blvd; Jim Dunn, 13 Inlet Cay Drive; Ted Ritota, 4 Hudson Avenue; Jeff Eder, 6480 N. Ocean Blvd.

Betty Bingham, 1 E Ocean Avenue, was concerned that there would be no one at Town Hall at night/weekends. She was also concerned with the millage and the stress of the County Budget. She considered

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Palm Beach County as a free taxing district. She considered the contract to be a low ball price to Ocean Ridge, and felt that the County would raise the millage to offset it.

Sandy Foster, 5900 Old Ocean Blvd, represented 26 homeowners at Villas of Ocean Ridge, stated that 90% of their residents wanted to retain ORPD. They like calling with 1-2 minute response time, and felt they were well protected.

Ted Athanasakes, 57 Spanish River Drive, stated that he has been a resident since 1968, and that Ocean Ridge had been through many changes. He was concerned with the changes to the alarm monitoring and stated that there would be hidden costs to the homeowner to setup their alarm to a private alarm company. He asked for a flow diagram starting with the alarm system. He was also in favor of the police monitoring the "Dark Houses". Chief Yannuzzi stated currently the Ocean Ridge Police Department monitor 300 alarms with revenue of \$54,000/year. He also stated that the PBSO would charge \$25 user permit fee, and for false alarms too. We would recoup some of the loss of revenue as Ocean Ridge would be paid a portion of the user fee and the false alarms. Ocean Ridge currently does not charge for false alarms. In 2010 we responded to 908 alarms, in 2011 we responded to 771 alarms. So far this year we have responded to 288 alarms. Over 80% of the time they were as a result of our in house monitoring. Our police officers are on the scene by the time the alarm company is notified.

Tonya Olive, 127 Marlin Drive, also President of McCormick Mile Beach Association stated that she had not made up her mind, and asked for a response as to patrolling of the Inlet Park. She did not feel it was safe for her kids as there is no police presence there. Chief Yannuzzi stated that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Ocean Inlet Park on the South side is within Ocean Ridge boundaries, and is patrolled by Ocean Ridge; however we do not handle the crime. Prior to October 2010 there was a park deputy by the Sheriff's Dept, however due to their budget restraints, 60 positions were eliminated which included Ocean Inlet Park. The Sheriff's Dept. asked the local governments to assume patrol/crime response in those areas. Ocean Ridge had some issues with that: 1) Unfunded mandate. The PBSO is already being paid/funded to patrol that area. 2) Ocean Ridge does not have the personnel to investigate/patrol. As a result we didn't want negative impact on crime. 3) Impact on Ocean Ridge's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics; which some home buyers review to determine crime rates. Our officers report the criminal activity, standby, preserve the scene, and contact the Sheriff's Dept to respond, which could be coming from Military Trail.

Roger Happ, 6110 N Ocean Blvd #10, feels the PBSO would do a great job, but he did like our current police department also. He requested more information and a study of other Intracoastal towns to join services. Mayor Pugh stated we have met with Manalapan, South Palm Beach, and Gulfstream. Gulfstream was not interested, and PBSO has given a bid to Manalapan that is under current review.

Comm. Hennigan stated that she had spoken with Town Managers or Assistant Managers of municipalities who have PBSO, and their feedback was positive. They did stress that Ocean Ridge must develop into the contract a specific level of service, and then hold them accountable to the contract.

Debbie Brookes, 15 Ocean Avenue, asked if a price could be set after 2 years. She acknowledged that there were some Ocean Ridge Police Officers in attendance and encouraged them to speak their opinions. Comm. Brookes stated that the bid has a built-in cap that would regulate the increases. Manager Schenck stated that he had also spoken to other municipalities that have the PBSO and all of them were satisfied. Each of their contracts was different and each town had different needs, but most of the contracts had 0% increase the last couple of years. Some had and some 5-7% increases several years ago.

Albert Naar, 6103 N Ocean Blvd, stated that he saw a spreadsheet that showed a savings of \$469/owner and a cost of \$100/mo to keep the ORPD. Of the 19 Ocean Ridge police staff it could decrease to 11, that meant 8 people would lose their jobs including the dispatchers. There was no guarantee that they would qualify or be hired by the PBSO. There was also no guaranty of continuity of coverage. Our dispatchers are an immediate link to the residents and a safety net. He was not in favor of change. He also asked who patrolled Hammock Park. Chief Yannuzzi stated that it was a Palm Beach County Park that we patrol and respond however if it is a crime, we contact the Sheriff Dept.

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Martin Ingraham, 127 Marlin Drive, stated that he was confused with the different opinions, facts and spreadsheets. He asked the Commission to inform them what service we had now, what PBSO would offer, and the cost difference. Were the residents willing to pay the extra \$75-100/year for current service? He did want the police officers to be happy, but wanted to know how much it was going to cost to keep them happy. He thanked the Commission for the workshop but now he was even more confused.

Penny Kosinski stated that this change would be a dramatic upheaval and asked the Commission to take their time and listen to the residents. She asked the Commission about the possibility of joining our dispatch with other municipalities. She was concerned that this would be hard to reverse once we go down the path.

Chief Yannuzzi stated that 2 years ago we started meeting with other towns regarding a metro barrier island police department. There is a State Statute however that says the municipalities must be contiguous. If Lantana was not interested then South Palm would be out. Last year Manalapan sent out a RFP for their dispatch. Ocean Ridge has state of the art equipment, and certified dispatchers. Last year we had a 22% decrease in crime, and 779 more service calls. In spite of loss of salary and loss of benefits, the officers are doing a good job. The Commission had previously discussed reinstating the step plan. Chief Yannuzzi quoted Comm. Murphy from Manalapan at their last meeting when he pointed at his fellow Commissioners and said, "It is our fault that we have had salary/benefit issues involving the officers". Chief Yannuzzi recognized that there had been economic problems that made them freeze the step plan and any raises; however this is the second year where Ocean Ridge may have an increase in property values. He was at a Palm Beach County meeting that stated a possible increase of 2-3% in property values, and he asked the Commission to take that into consideration during their budget review.

Terry Brown, 53 Harbour Drive south, stated that he moved to the Ocean Ridge because he is a beach & dog person, and having the Ocean Ridge Police Department was an added bonus. He felt that most residents were OK with a budget increase in order to take care of their officers. This Town however is in debit \$800,000/year from drainage and building projects. He did feel that the savings of going with the PBSO would be a way to lower the debt.

Madeline Gregory, 6120 Ridge Lane asked how long the officer's shifts were. She knew how she felt after an 8 hour day. She asked how long were PBSO's shift? She was in favor of an 8 hour shift that allowed the officers to be more alert. Major Smith responded that their shifts would be 11.5 hrs.

Mark Hanna, 5 Sailfish Lane, stated that this contract was negotiable. A few months ago, Chief Yannuzzi had addressed staffing problems to cover the shifts while maintaining 2 on the road. The Sheriff's office could shift their resources, and have light duty available also if needed. There would be no Union issues, no tension, better benefits and salaries. Most of the officers he had spoken with were in favor of going with the Sheriff Department. He knew there would be overtime issues and code enforcement issues but felt this contract was a good starting point.

Lisa Ritota, 4 Hudson Avenue, stated that she was a substitute teacher for Palm Beach County. She asked how the Sheriff Department would handle substitute officers to cover shifts for those out on vacation or out sick. Major Smith stated substitutes would be pulled from the district to cover shifts and they would be familiar with Ocean Ridge and its services.

James Bonfiglio, 5616 N Ocean Blvd, stated 8 years ago a similar issue regarding our Fire Department services, were brought to the Commission. At the time he was in favor of changing to Boynton Beach. After the change, we now have bad service, and we lost control and quality of life. He questioned the purpose of having the Town of Ocean Ridge if we sub out the all of our services including the Police Department. There would be no "Ocean Ridge" left. He did not mind paying extra taxes.

Tim Laflin, 54 E Ocean Avenue, asked what happened to the fix assets and infrastructure. What would be the start up costs if we wanted to convert back? Right now our average response time is 2 minutes. If there was an issue in the County pocket south of Briny Breezes, would our officers be pulled away from

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Ocean Ridge to service the pocket area? Major Smith stated that the response time should not change and the officers would only be pulled from Ocean Ridge if there was a severe tragic occasion. They would go to the County pocket as a temporary, but they would not be handling the call, someone else would be coming. Chief Yannuzzi stated the cost of the cars and ATV's would be \$89,000, radio equipment \$24,000, guns \$13,000 or a total of \$126,800. This still did not include AED's, CAD System, computers, first aid equipment and any other equipment in cars, and uniforms. This savings does not include these assets which would be about \$200,000-\$300,000. He had Lake Worth study (that cost Lake Worth \$39,000) that showed their potential start-up costs. Major Smith stated that most of this equipment will wear out, and that PBSO will pay the repair/replacement costs. Those assets would be pro-rated if you converted back.

Scott Brown said that bigger is never better, and felt we can afford to negotiate with our officers. He felt that internal problems could be fixed and that an attitude adjustment was needed. He acknowledged that we were in a recession, but that we needed to make the officers happy. He was concerned with PBSO's slow response time.

Doc Darville, retired Ocean Ridge officer, stated that he had been with Ocean Ridge 20 years before he retired in October 2011. He felt that there had been an improvement with the department in the last few years, and that we had exceptional officers. He stated that the residents of Ocean Ridge were privileged to have a private police service, and did not want the residents to short change themselves. He stated that when PBSO took over Royal Palm Beach, they were at times pulled to go to Belle Glade, and was afraid the same would happen here. He felt there would be a change with the PBSO, and that the residents would not be receiving the same level of service. He liked Chief Yannuzzi and even though they didn't always agree, Chief Yannuzzi listened to him. Ocean Ridge has excellent resources, excellent dispatch and officers, and the residents should not give up, besides who would look after the dogs.

Danielle Kuziel, 6200 N. Ocean Blvd, stated that when her parents were looking for their home, they travelled through all the towns along the Intracoastal. While their realtor was showing them a property in Ocean Ridge, the Police Department responded in a few minutes, and asked to show identification. It made an impression on her parents of the efficiency of the police service. They decided to move to Ocean Ridge and then lived here 34 years. Our officers know the residents habits, cars and pets. She has a feeling of safety when she comes over the bridge and sees a squad car at the bottom. The PBSO does have a great reputation, but she was in favor of keeping the ORPD.

Tara Evans, 28 Eleuthera Drive, asked if for a survey regarding the officer's benefits and compensation. Comm. Hennigan stated that the Ocean Ridge officers were in the middle or upper middle range with generous benefits. Ms. Evans replied that it wasn't what she had heard, and that there was a disconnect between the resident's happiness and the police officer's happiness and if we could get that together maybe things could work out.

Nancy Hogan, 37 Hibiscus Way, asked for Ocean Ridge to put out an RFP. She had great respect for Sheriff Bradshaw, and she attends the Palm Beach County Budget meetings. She doesn't feel that he has a sharp pencil when it comes to budgeting. She asked if the PBSO would have the resources to contact the homeowners if their garage doors were up. She cautioned the Commission to take their time in making a decision.

Bob Ganger, 1443 N Ocean Blvd, Delray Beach, and representative of the Florida Coalition for Preservation reported that they are starting an "A1A Future Plan" that would involve 7 jurisdictions from Delray to Manalapan. The purpose of this plan is to get a handle of the common needs of the areas, and to find a better way of doing things. He felt that Ocean Ridge had 3 choices: 1) Stay the same. 2) Go to PBSO. 3) Discover a way to become more efficient with the other communities and improve. He urged the Commission to go with the third choice.

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Christian Francois, 65 Spanish River Drive, asked if the Sheriff's Department was with the same union as the Ocean Ridge officers, and would the pay be the same for the officers. Chief Yannuzzi stated that both are with the PBA Union. Major Smith confirmed that both have the same union; however Ocean Ridge would have a contract directly with the PBSO and could control that contract. Chief Yannuzzi stated that all officers would get a raise from their current salary by being bumped up one step. They would also receive their own take home car, and the cost of family insurance coverage would go from \$900/mo to \$100/mo.

Dan Morantz, 6285 N. Ocean Blvd, said that historically, Ocean Ridge had broken away from Boynton Beach years ago because we were different being an Intracoastal community. He was in favor of collaborating with our neighbors and to improve services.

Comm. Aaskov addressed Doc Darville who was still in the audience, and stated that the residents have missed him since he retired. She thanked the residents who spoke, and felt the Commissioners needed to listen to the concerns of the residents and the police department.

Comm. Allison stated that all were concerned with the time frame. Because it is the month of May, many residents are away, and she felt that they should move slowly. She had received many calls and correspondence from the residents, and would vote with the residents. She was for quality of life, and saw the need to prepare fiscal information for the residents to review. She stated that if Ocean Ridge did not have the ability to hire/fire personnel, there would be a loss of control. Comm. Allison stated that she believed that the PBSO would do the best they could under our structure, but felt there would be limitations in the level of service and what the residents are used to.

Comm. Hennigan stated that with her experience in Human Resources, she cared about people and residents. Her concern was that we cannot continue to do things the same way. We need to find what service level the residents want. Even though we had received a base line offer from PBSO, she did want to pursue to see if we could get our level of service with reduced costs. She didn't want to rush into it. If the PBSO couldn't meet our requirements, then we needed to find a more cost efficient way of doing things. She asked that the Commission be open minded and look for alternatives to maintain the quality of life that we all cared about.

Comm. Brookes felt that the Commission should step back and find the best way to have police presence in Ocean Ridge. We want to be safe, secure, and we want the police to be visible, friendly and proactive. Quality of life involves more than the police department, it involves safe sidewalks, street repairs, building issues, and flooding. He didn't feel that Ocean Ridge had a lot of critical mass to afford all of the residents needs. We sometimes have to choose among them, knowing that these choices affect our taxes and our future costs. What was the best policing for our small town? He felt that the Town's expenses were higher than the property values, and that they would get wider over time. To get the quality of life there are trade-offs, and the Commission was elected to make that decision. It is just not a financial decision, and they will take their due diligence.

Mayor Pugh stated that this contract stated that the police side of Town Hall would be open Monday thru Friday 8-5pm. He questioned who would be staffing the police side. His concern was that many of the residents come to the police department at nights or weekends and ask questions in person rather than calling. According to this proposal no-one would be staffing the dispatch area after 5pm or on weekends. What about our car decal and pet decal programs also. Lieut. Thibodeau stated that either a Deputy, but most likely the Lieutenant would be stationed here at the dispatch area. Chief Yannuzzi stated that it was uncertain how/where the records/information would be stored. There would be no-one in the building and if a Deputy would have to be called from the road to research the information in records, or if all of the information could be transferred to PBSO dispatch and retrieved through their computer.

Mayor Pugh stated that this was both a quality of life issue but also a fiscal issue. We needed to disperse our funds to make it equitable to keep all services if possible. It appeared that most of the residents want

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things to be kept the way it is now and willing to spend the money to accomplish that. However if I am signing a paycheck then it is my police department. If PBSO is signing their paychecks, they are working for PBSO not Ocean Ridge. The Ocean Ridge resident would not be their employer and he felt that it would be hard to switch. He presented the booklet of the History of Ocean Ridge, showing a picture of Police Chief O'Rourke in front of the Police Department in 1959. No matter what is decided, we have officers that have and are still working for Ocean Ridge for 20+ years. We are doing something right to keep long term employees, and we need to continue it, and find a medium to make officers and residents happy. During this meeting an overwhelming majority of the residents spoke up, asking things not to change. This is a draft contract and the terms can be negotiated, and that decision can be made at the next meeting if we wish to go forward. He did not feel that we were moving too fast, we have budget meetings coming up and this will definitely affect the budget. Comm. Hennigan asked if the PBSO would be able to address all the concerns stated by the residents, and implement them in the contract. Major Smith stated that they were a big agency, and they wouldn't submit a proposal to Ocean Ridge without being able to deliver. The Sheriff's Department would support either decision. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity, and they would respect the Commission's decision. This bid was a draft and an idea of where to start. They did not want to pressure the Town.

It was discussed that we make the financial costs available to the public, including the surrendered assets and start up costs. The final contract would show a full inventory of the assets, and if Ocean Ridge wanted to restart their department they would be sold back at a depreciated value. The PBSO was not in business to make a profit. It was discussed that after 2 years we could also call the PBSO back for another proposal.

Mayor Pugh reported that the papers had mentioned that the PBSO was going to ask for another 7.5 million in their budget, because they have not gotten raises in 4 years. Ocean Ridge was in the same place, as it has been years since an increase, the step plan was frozen. Chief Yannuzzi stated that a step plan acknowledges the employee on their anniversary date with a 5% increase – there are 7 steps and then they are topped out.

Comm. Brookes questioned that during the last budget process it was requested to add an investigative position to the police budget at a cost of \$80,000. It was noted that there were 100 cases that required more than preliminary investigations, and that a separate investigator was needed. Should PBSO have been contacted? Would they have covered those investigations? Chief Yannuzzi stated that we do use the PBSO for certain crimes, like last week with the dead body found on the beach with suspicious death. Ocean Ridge had also just solved a string of car burglaries. Major Smith stated that they do take over higher level of crimes or violent crimes and their services would have covered those cases under their contract.

Comm. Hennigan asked how the chain of command would work 24/7 if the Lieutenant was only in Ocean Ridge for his shifts Monday-Friday. Mayor Smith stated that there would be Watch Commanders and Command Duty Officers who would serve as supervisors during the evenings and weekends.

A consensus was made to vote to continue on with the proposal from the PBSO at the June meeting. It was also requested that concrete numbers be posted and made available for all residents, including start up costs.

James Bonfiglio, 5616 N Ocean Blvd, was unsure if we would get back our surrendered assets if we wish to convert back to ORPD? Mayor Pugh said yes but at a depreciated value of if an item had been replaced; it would be at that new value.

Justis Brown, 39 Coconut Lane, was in favor of keeping the police staff, and was willing to pay for it.

Nancy Hogan, Hibiscus Way, questioned the type of pension with the Sheriff's Department. Mayor Pugh stated that they were with the FRS, just like Ocean Ridge.

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Marilee Lundquist, 6277 N Ocean Blvd, was concerned and asked for consideration of the residents not in town. It was discussed that if no final decision was made it could be brought up again in the winter; however it should not be dragged out. It was not fair to the staff that may have to look for other work to keep them in limbo. Our budget process is always done during the summer time when most of residents are out of town. The Commission is elected by the public to research and review and make educated decisions for all the residents and staff.

Stella Kolb, 204 Beachway Drive, expressed her thanks to the Sheriff's Department, Commission and staff for listening to the concerns of the residents.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40pm.

Attest By:

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Deputy Town Clerk

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Mayor Pugh

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Commissioner Aaskov

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Commissioner Allison

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Commissioner Brookes

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Commissioner Hennigan