

BOC Bits N' Pieces

By Yvette Bannen

Mayor Joan Lamson presented a proclamation to the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 77 recognizing their beneficial activities. It was accepted by PKS police officer Paul Ehrler who is the president of Lodge 77.

There was discussion regarding continued speeding on Oakleaf Drive. It has been determined that the previously proposed rumble strips will not work. An alternative solution proposed was to place all-way stop signs at the intersections of and Sycamore Drive and Hawthorne Drive with Oakleaf Dr.

The proposed Soundside Park behind town hall has been renamed- Veterans Park. In addition CAMA will be approached with a scaled down plan for the park.

The water regulations ordinance was approved after several clarifying revisions were made. In addition, a contract with Cavanaugh & Associates to audit the town's water system was approved at a cost of \$25,750 from the water enterprise fund.

There was a mid-year review of the town's finances. Reduced sales and use taxes, lower interest on investments and increased cost of fuel and electricity were

identified as the causes of an income shortfall. Twenty-three expense items from all departments totaling \$58,750 have been frozen to begin to address this situation.

Emergency Services - During December, there were 24 calls for service; 10 EMS and 14 fire calls. Of the 10 EMS calls, 4 patients were transported and 3 required paramedic assistance. The 14 fire calls consisted of 5 service calls, 2 activated alarms, 1 fire and 5 mutual aid. The department spent 289 hours of work in December for training.

During 2008, there were 448 calls, which represent an increase of over 100 calls from the previous year. It was noted that because of mutual aid not all calls were for Pine Knoll Shores. It was further reported that all response times were under the national average. Of the 32 fire marshal inspections done during 2008, only one major violation was found and it was quickly remedied; subsequent surprise inspections showed that the violation was not repeated.

Police Department - Lt. Rice gave the monthly report for December. There were 45 calls for service including 11 assist other agencies, 6 assist fire/EMS, 1 motorist

assist, 5 town ordinance violations, 16 safety checks, 6 alarms and 4 unlocked doors. There were no reports of breaking and entering during December. There were 23 citations issued for 18 speeding, 3 driving with a suspended license, 1 alcohol violation and 1 other; 60 warning tickets were issued. A number of speeding citations and warnings were given for driving too fast for conditions during the days when it was foggy. There were 164 residence checks and 264 business checks.

The 2008 year-end report showed that the police department had a total 942 calls and May was the busiest month with 119 calls. There was an increase in the number of warning citations issued with November having the highest number with 98.

Correction - In the "Some Helpful Info From Town Hall" article in the January 2009 issue of *The Shoreline* there was a mistake in the section under the heading "Water Bill" regarding the Automatic Bill Payment Authorization Agreement. This form is available at town hall as reported, but it is to be completed and returned to town hall where it will be processed.

Budget

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be prepared for further discussion at one of the February BOC meetings.

The draft of the 2009-10 General Fund budget was presented and reviewed. This early proposal identified expenses of more than \$3.1 million and revenue of nearly \$2.8 million, creating a shortfall of more than \$300,000. During the discussion a number of ideas to address this short-fall were suggested, including cutting expenses, increasing some fees, using reserves and increasing taxes, but no action was taken. Further discussion of this draft was postponed until more data regarding the 2008-2009 budget becomes available.

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