

LAKELAND VILLAGE COMMUNITY CLUB  
TOWN MEETING MINUTES  
June 16, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Martha Ray, Board President. Martha introduced the board members who were present. The present chairpersons gave a brief synopsis of their particular responsibility.

Diane Wilcox, Vice President & Recreation

Alex Watt, Secretary-Treasurer

Doug Chandler, Security and Nominating

Bruce Jackson, Architectural Committee

Janet Wright, Block Watch

Dick Caron, Public Affairs

Barbara Bertsch

Kittie Peterson, absent

Martha Ray is responsible for lake management as well as the Presidency

Joanne Quiring, Office Manager

Diane reminded everyone that the Community Family Picnic is on Saturday, August 22 and she asked for help on that day. The audience was also reminded of the August 1 Garage Sale within the community.

There were approximately 45 property owners present plus several members of the Sheriff's Department including Sheriff Salisbury. He introduced the other personnel: Deputy Nate Birkliid, Deputy Matt Grey, Deputy Sean Dodge with "Kona" (the drug dog joining later) and Chief Deputy Dean Byrd. The focus of the visit is the K-9 Unit. Sheriff Salisbury read some statistics on Kona. Kona joined the department as a result of a strong need due to the volume of drugs that come through Mason County. Out of 120 attempts she has had 125 "finds" and paid for herself within the first month of service.

He proceeded to inform the audience that it is absolutely imperative that Mason County get a "tracking" dog. When a car is stolen and a Deputy is attempting to apprehend the criminal, the individual generally will run into woods and often be able to avoid apprehension. A tracking dog can immediately find this individual due to their heightened sense of smell and hold them until the Deputy can reach them. Now with the reduced deputy staff which has been forced upon them due to the depressed economy, it is more important than ever to have the dog. Mason County, which has a large number of stolen vehicles, is forced to borrow a dog from either Thurston or Kitsap counties when the need arises which creates a delay in the apprehension. He stated that Mason County has the need for tracking dogs far more than the other counties due to the rural nature of the environment.

The Sheriff has started a campaign to raise \$25,000 to obtain a dog(s) and the training necessary for the dog(s) and the handler(s). He distributed a flyer entitled "Patrol K-9 Fundraising Campaign" to the audience. This team will be used as a locating tool to find

suspects of serious crimes and aid in their capture. The K9 team will also be instrumental in the safe, thorough search of buildings and other hazardous areas. The team will assist in these searches and provide an added layer of protection for the law enforcement officers during these dangerous incidents.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to Deputy Dodge further describing the K-9 program and introduction of “Kona” a female pit bull of enormous strength. She demonstrated her ability to find “contraband” that had been hidden within the meeting space prior to her arrival in the room. He commented that they are changing the term “tracking” dog to “patrol dog”. He has had his dog since November 2007 and he has personally recovered over \$20,000 in drug money. His dog came as a donation from an organization called Law Dogs.US in Olympia to the Washington State Patrol. She eventually ended up as a “pound dog” and then she ended up with him. The question was asked if the recovered money could be used to purchase additional dogs, however he responded that these funds are used for drug enforcement activities.

Sheriff Salisbury stated that he will not give up in this endeavor to raise the funds to obtain the next dog(s). There is a special fund in his office for this purpose; the funds will not be placed in the general fund. Checks can be sent to the Sheriff in Shelton.

He also described the Sheriff’s Advisory Board meetings that are open to the public the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00am at Lefty’s near Spencer Lake. There is usually a different speaker each month. Dick Caron, Jan Wright and Diane Wilcox have been attending the meetings.

Roger DeBritz, resident, spoke for a group of concerned citizens that are circulating a petition to be presented to the Mason General Hospital Board requesting that Victor, Allyn, and Lakeland Village be removed from its hospital district (#1) and allowed to belong to Hospital District #2 (Harrison General Hospital). He requested that a petition be left at the clubhouse for any additional signatures.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Recorder,

Joanne Quiring

