

**City of Stanley
Town Hall Meeting - Law Enforcement
January 25, 2023**

IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CITY:

Mayor Steve Botti, Councilmember Austin Clegg, Council President Laurii Gadwa Councilmember Gabriel Cardoso, and Councilmember Tim Cron. All answered to roll call. City staff members included: City Clerk/Treasurer Cari Tassano and Kimberly Peters in maintenance.

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Gary Gadwa, Tamara Hall, Joel Peterson, Adam Marvel, Jazminn Cartner, Cassie Stanley, Josh Franks, Russell Clark, Mandy Clark, Quincy Heithecker, Colin Ayers, Adam Gulick, Crissi Gilchrist (deputy), Gregory Pitts (deputy), Carol Findley, John Pape, Burton Stanley, Mary Ellen Easom, Ben Barlow, Charlie Thompson, Amanda Brady, Steve Herritt, Sammy Forsgren, Ron Pumphrey by zoom, Jeffrey Hall by zoom, Kim Hernandez by zoom, and Michelle Wetzel by zoom.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Botti at 6:04 p.m.

MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Botti gave an overview of an email he sent out on 01/22/2023 titled Stanley Law Enforcement Considerations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE CITY OF STANLEY:

Deputy Pitts has spoken with the community during his routes, he feels the public is misinformed about his role relating to code enforcement, his role is to support the city with code enforcement when individuals are not being compliant, although parking or camping violations he deals with these infractions immediately. Unfortunately, he is only one deputy and due to staffing issues, he is the only deputy in the area, and he works 24/7, his top responsibility is to the County and is pulled away to go to Challis regularly or is answering violations for the County. One citation he participated in for the city went through the court system on Monday. Since he is the only deputy in the area, he's requesting help from the community and the business owners to keep him aware. he suggested the public call him directly or dispatch any time of the day when they see a violation.

Deputy Gilchrist actually had two potential employees they could have hired but due to logistics it did not work out. They are trying to fill that gap. She does the scheduling, that is hectic. They are trying to get through the process, but weather concerns affect their employees coming to Stanley to help Greg Pitts. Some of the housing difficulties have been with the SNRA restrictions.

Russell Clark asked the deputy how many hours does Pitts work? He stated he does not have a limit. Per the contract the city requires full-time coverage, one deputy assigned to County law and one deputy assigned to the City of Stanley so it's impossible for one deputy to do both. The deputies are asking us (the public) to help them fulfill their contract that they are being fully compensated for (because they can't find another deputy). Mayor Botti realizes this is an issue and has been for quite some time. Council President Gadwa, per our contract we should have two deputies here, it's unfortunate that they have to rely on the community to fulfill their contract. Clark responded if I sign a contract with someone, then I fulfill the contract regardless of my personal problems. Botti recognizes that this has

gone on for longer than it should of, we can terminate the contract, but then we have no code enforcement.

Gary Gadwa would like to reiterate what Clark has said. Custer County Commissioners have had 7-years to work on this problem, you would think they could have budgeted for housing by now. The city is currently diligently working on trying to implement housing and has been already budgeting accordingly, why hasn't the County.

Tamara Hall everyone should be accountable to the contract at hand. We need to have Law Enforcement present. People feel they can get away with several violations when no law enforcement is present. When the deputy is in Challis, there is no way they can respond quickly, what if there is an emergency and it takes 2 hours for them to respond, then what do we do? Their problems cannot become our problems, if they cannot fulfill the contract then the contract should be rewritten. Why are we paying the full contract amount if they are not fulfilling the contract in full?

Joshua Franks prior to this contact, for several years we always had a Custer County deputy here to enforce County and State laws. Botti responded that during the time when there was a mutual aid agreement, we would try to have a police officer employed by the city. Upon implementing the new contract with the county there were supposed to be two deputies here, so one deputy could focus on the city ordinances. Council President Gadwa stated when we had a mutual agreement our police officer would respond to a traffic accident, if required by the County.

Mayor Botti, Council President Gadwa and Councilmember Cardoso discussed the possibility of helping the Sheriff's office with the logistics when working with SNRA for approval of additional housing requirements.

Adam Marvel How reasonable is it to expect Custer County to adhere to the contract. A lot of these issues with the SNRA were known before the contract was signed and so the County and Wayne Butts were well aware of the challenges when they signed the contract. How beneficial would it be for the city to do all the extra leg work for possibly years with no resolve. It seems more reasonable for the city to have their own housing for a code enforcement officer and train someone that they know will remain in the community, this would be a better investment.

Jeffrey Hall comments were based off what he heard tonight; it is unfortunate that our one deputy is assigned to other county duties often, which is not his fault, but the reality is presence of law enforcement is lacking. When our deputy takes direct calls from the public (Hall applauds him), but we should be calling dispatch directly. If the contract is not being adhered to then the contract should change. It's hard to discuss all these issues in a council meeting and a committee would be a good way for everyone to discuss all these issues. Public safety should be our first propriety, if our deputy is assigned to Challis how can we have emergency services. We are not paying for this deputy to be in Challis, it will take only one incident. Why aren't we enforcing the contract. We are still are not receiving our monthly reports from Custer County Sheriff. Stop defending the sheriff office and the lack of services they are providing. Council President Gadwa stated that we have recently received some of these reports. Hall stated that it has been stated in several of the recent meeting that we have not been receiving the reports (*the last time the city received a detailed report was April 2022, we started receiving detailed reports again for the first time in the December 08, 2022, Council Meeting*).

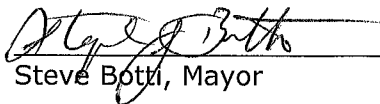
Charlie Thompson states deputies pay is not great and would like the commissioner to consider giving the deputies raises. Short-term and long-term issues here: Short-term we should only have a quarterly contract, If they are only able to supply 60% of the contract, then we should only pay them 60%. This would give us a slush fund of approximately \$30,000 per year, then let takes that money and put it into housing for the City of Stanley.

Jazminn Cartner worries about walking home by herself, she does not feel that there is adequate police coverage to protect her.

Joel Peterson disagrees with Pitts, if the public calls him directly then there is no record of the call, calling dispatch is always better. Peterson does not feel that the sheriff's office enforcing our code is as important as having police presence, we need more than one deputy in the area. He feels code enforcement is two separate things. Pitts reflected the misdemeanor law and Peterson disagreed with his interpretation of the rule.

Russell Clark before the city moves forward to work with the SNRA, you should probably work with the commissioners first.

Mayor Botti adjourns the meeting at 7:30 p.m.


Steve Botti, Mayor

ATTEST: 
Cari Tassano, City Clerk

