

**City of Stanley  
Town Hall Meeting - Law Enforcement  
May 15, 2023**

**IN ATTENDANCE FOR THE CITY:**

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

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Kim Hernandez, Gary Gadwa, Jeffrey Hall, Joel Peterson, Adam Marvel, Josh Franks, Gregory Pitts (deputy), Mary Ellen Easom, Ron Pumphrey, Kurt Krapel, Jeffrey Schroeder (City of Stanley Attorney), Randy Corgatelli (Custer County Commissioner), Steve Smith (Custer County Commissioner) by phone, Lura Baker (Custer County Clerk) by phone.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Botti at 4:13 p.m.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR THE CITY OF STANLEY:**

Mayor Steve Botti: The main obstacle with the Law enforcement contract is that Custer County does not have two deputies in Stanley, currently they provide housing at the compound where the current deputy lives, in order to have another deputy at this location they would have to add on to the compound. This requires a special use permit from the Forest Service. This process will take a while to implement. The City has issued a proposed modification to the contract (April 2023), requesting to reduce the contract price until Custer County can supply two deputies. As of this date they have not responded to the modification request (this would be temporary until a second deputy is in place full-time). Botti feels we are getting closer to confirming some dates, the willingness of the SNRA is now giving us assurances that this could happen quickly. Botti commented on Pumphrey's statement that law enforcement in Custer County is thin, that is why the city always thought that the contract with the County was always a win/win due to the fact that we would be paying for another deputy to augment the services needed by the County, as long as our concerns are taken care of: Stanley can have a deputy respond to an emergency and address the city's needs (ordinances) within a reasonable time.

Jeffrey Schroeder with MSBT Law introduced himself and gave background on his firm & his expertise with law enforcement and code violation within certain cities within Idaho. He also gave several examples of code violations and the enforceability of this code. He explained how procedure law works and who can issue citations. He gave examples of why it is important to have a certified Post Law Enforcement Officer on the scene.

Jeffrey Hall: the ultimate goal here is to have adequate law enforcement in our town. We are concerned with the lack of coverage, he gave an example of a vehicle that rolled half over the road, tires in the air, and he was on site. Hall made several calls: first he called Deputy Pitts it was his day off, then he called dispatch which had an hour response time and finally he called the Forest Service which they were not available. If this individual would have rolled one more time, he could have been critically injured with no one to respond. The city just set up a trailer for a new employee for the Chamber and the City, the city also allows businesses owners to set up trailers for employee housing, so why is the County not doing the same? Our extremely busy season starts in just 12 weeks, if there is something we can do to help secure a RV spot to ensure summer deputy coverage, please let us know.

We have five times more tourists in our town than they do in Challis. They need to give Stanley an additional deputy.

Commissioner Corgatelli: We try to retain deputies, once we train deputies then they go to a larger town, and of course housing is also a problem. Hall responded by suggesting they start a Reserve Deputy program. Marvel asked, if we had housing right now would there be another deputy to fill the position? Corgatelli stated, yes, if we had housing right now there would be another deputy in Stanley right now. Corgatelli responded to Hall and said on May 27, 2023, they plan on meeting with the SNRA. Per Corgatelli the County will start acquiring a trailer immediately and he confirmed that they do have the funding for another deputy.

Councilmember Cardoso: Asked on Pitt's day off no one comes to Stanley to cover the City of Stanley? Pitts responded by saying, we would like to cover Stanley with a Challis deputy when it is possible to send a deputy but usually, they are tied up in other court cases or investigating other crimes. Cardoso asked if this happens repeatedly. Pitts responded "Yes". Corgatelli responded, that unfortunately we are a big County if we get a call for the Pahsimeroi Valley it still takes us an hour to respond to them also. Cardoso would like to discuss this in our regular monthly meetings until everything is resolved with the contract.

Ron Pumphrey: there are only six deputies covering the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest county. A Reserve officer cannot work alone, they are only able to assist.

Gary Gadwa: How long has it been that we have had only one deputy? It has been over a year and sporadically on other occasions.

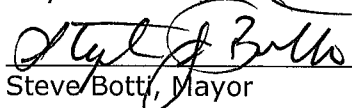
Adam Marvel: Approximately six years ago, the contract was signed so why is the housing problem just now being worked on. SNRA has been established for 50 years and a few years ago the property prices were not so expensive, why didn't they purchase property then. In the meantime, why not put summer housing in, even if it's only for 3 months of coverage. The Pahsimeroi Valley is not a tourist town and Stanley is, we should be a higher priority. It would be nice if we had dates when certain things were going to occur, for instance: by a certain date we will have a trailer here, by a certain date we will have a new deputy here. Custer County needs to deliver a timeline to deliver on their obligation. This gives the public confidence, knowing dates certain upgrades will occur. The contract has not been adhered to for over a year now.

Council President Gadwa: In the past the Forest Service was not agreeable to allowing a special use permit for housing.

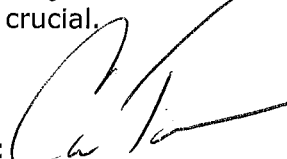
Joel Peterson: we should demand a work schedule from Custer County and have a deputy here on Deputy Pitts days off.

Councilmember Clegg: there is a lot of frustration, he sees deputy Pitts working hard with no help. If we get past July 1, 2023, at a contact price of \$56,000, Clegg will no longer be supporting this Law Enforcement Contract. We need to have coverage in this extremely populated area during the summer. This area is so busy, it's just a matter of time before something occurs when immediate response times will be crucial.

Mayor Botti adjourns the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

  
Steve Botti, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Cari Tassano, City Clerk

