

Cities have the responsibility and authority to provide for the safety, welfare and security of their residents. One focus of that responsibility is through policing. Police enforce laws and ordinances within city limits, including traffic, parking, nuisance complaints, tobacco, liquor and drug violations. Police are often called on to provide dispute resolution, crisis intervention, and referral services. Many incorporated cities also create a municipal court to enforce their ordinances as well as violations occurring within city limits as cited by police, and can hear misdemeanor crimes as well. Other cities choose to enforce their ordinances through the county justice court. Although Oceanside has a historically low crime rate and response record from the Tillamook County Sheriff, it is prudent to plan and discuss the various ways a new city might provide these services to residents.

The following is a review of how the other incorporated cities in Tillamook County, excluding City of Tillamook, handle law enforcement, public safety and code enforcement:

Nehalem – population 285, incorporated in 1899

www.ci.nehalem.or.us

Nehalem pays Manzanita \$19,000 per year for public safety services, and enforces their ordinances through the Tillamook County Justice Court. The City Manager Melissa Thompson-Kiefer indicates she functions as the city's code enforcement officer, but noted their very small number of short-term rentals makes the task easier and she strongly suggested having code enforcement within or backed up by a police agency as the most prudent alternative. She reports being very satisfied with the police services they receive from Manzanita.

Wheeler – population 400, incorporated in 1913

www.ci.wheeler.or.us

Wheeler pays Manzanita \$14,400 per year for public safety services and participation in Manzanita's municipal court.

Garibaldi – population 808, incorporated in 1946

www.ci.garibaldi.or.us

Garibaldi pays the Tillamook County Sheriff \$120,810 a year for public safety services for roughly one dedicated deputy, and enforces their ordinances through the Tillamook County Justice Court.

Manzanita – population 645, incorporated in 1946

www.ci.manzanita.or.us

Manzanita has their own police department providing public safety services with an annual operating budget of \$671,213 and a municipal court with an annual budget of \$68,160. In addition, they maintain a Public Safety Reserve fund with a balance of \$135,000 for police vehicles.

Rockaway Beach – population 1390, incorporated in 1943

www.corb.us

Rockaway Beach has their own police department providing public safety services with an annual operating budget of \$719,764 for four officers. Their budget includes a \$40,000 reserve for police capital projects and a small amount for code enforcement. They previously had a municipal court but in 2021 folded their court into the Tillamook County Justice Court.

Bay City – population 1359, incorporated in 1910

www.ci.bay-city.or.us

Until last year, Bay City paid the Tillamook Sheriff \$37,000 per year for public safety services. They recently hired a code enforcement officer.

Why I think Bay City is the outlier instead of the best example:

As indicated in Bay City Mayor David McCall's email to Keene 11/1/21 (included in the task force resource materials), Bay City discontinued paying the Sheriff this year. He noted they have officer(s) living in the city whose mere presence may act as a crime deterrent. He noted they recently hired a code enforcement officer and were waiting to see how that worked out. He also noted the Sheriff's Office was having problems maintaining staffing levels needed to serve smaller communities. Oceanside has no law enforcement officers residing in our city to our knowledge, and it may be unrealistic for any to move in due to the high housing costs here.

The task force also has an email from Tillamook County Undersheriff Mark Kelly which indicates his office will continue serving the Oceanside area as they have in the past. It notes they cannot enforce any city ordinances. Those emails are included in these task force resource materials. Jerry Keene asked me to note at this point that he as the head of the ONA has received zero complaints about the adequacy of the police responses to crime reports over the past 5 years other than those related to visitor-related infractions of noise, parking and fireworks laws during peak holiday periods.

All of the other incorporated cities in Tillamook County pay a part of their budget for public safety services, either for dedicated personnel or dedicated patrol time. Public Safety services are important for the health and welfare of residents, as well as their satisfaction with services provided. Code enforcement of city ordinances is separate and while also important does not substitute for those services. I believe we need to plan for both in any proposed revenue and budget analysis.