

## **Town Marshal Duties**

**It has now been about six months since Granite Falls contracted with Snohomish County to provide police services in the City. There were many concerns expressed before the transition took place, but I think it's fair to say that almost everyone has been thrilled with the results, from both financial and service perspectives.**

**Chief Dave Bowman and his deputies have become stalwarts in the community, and it is with this admittedly editorial (not necessarily historical) viewpoint that I offer the following information taken from early Granite Falls ordinances, when the City was first being formed.**

**The very first city ordinance established the position of Town Clerk. The second ordinance established to details surrounding the position of Town Marshal. It was a different time . . . it was a different job . . . and I think it will bring some smiles to review how we've progressed over the years.**

# DUTIES OF THE TOWN MARSHAL - GRANITE FALLS, WA

*Ordinance No. 2.*  
*An ordinance providing for the appointment and confirmation of a Town Marshal and for filling vacancies in said office: defining the duties and fixing the compensation of said Marshal of the Town of Granite Falls*

**Ordinance No. 2 Jan 11, 1904**

In addition to the expected services of a Marshal, the ordinance went on to stipulate that the Marshall shall:

“ . . see that the laws and ordinances of said town are strictly enforced . . .”

“ . . arrest and prosecute persons for the violations of the conditions of the ordinances of said town . . .”

“ . . be custodian of the city buckets, ladders, and fire apparatus . . .”

“ . . be ex-officio Street Commissioner . . Keep the street crossings cleaned . . Collect all poll tax due the town . . Superintend all street work . .

“ . . have charge of and be responsible for the safekeeping of all the spades, picks, shovels, hammers, and other tools kept by the town.”

“ . . ex-officio jailor and shall have charge of all persons confined in the town jail and shall furnish food and bedding for prisoners . . .”

“ . . be responsible for the safekeeping of all hand-cuffs, balls, and chains and such other property as may come into his hands as jailor.”

“ . . be ex-officio pound master and have charge of and keep in repair a pound for the impounding of stock and shall feed and care for all stock impounded . . .”

ORDINANCE NO. 29.

An ordinance to amend Ordinance No.2, entitled, "An ordinance providing for the appointment and confirmation of a Town Marshal, and for filling vacancies in said office, and defining the duties and fixing the compensation of said marshal of the Town of Granite Falls, Washington".

Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Granite Falls, Wash., as follows:

Sec. 1. That Ordinance No. 2 be amended by the addition of the following sections, to-wit:

**Ordinance No. 29    Mar 7, 1905**

By 1905, it was necessary to add to the Marshal's responsibilities those of the ex-officio Health Officer. The ordinance went on to stipulate that the Marshal shall:

**"investigate and adopt measures to arrest [the] progress of . . Any malignant, contagious or pestilential disease . ."**

**"enforce all laws . . In relation to the sanitary regulations of the Town, and cause all nuisance endangering public health to be abated with all reasonable promptness."**

**". . be permitted at all times from the rising to the setting of the sun to enter any house, store, stable or building and cause the floors to be raised if he shall deem it necessary in order to make a thorough examination of the cellars, vaults, sinks or drains, and to cause all privies to be cleaned and kept in good condition, to cause all dead animals or other nauseous or unwholesome things or substances to be buried or removed or disposed of as he may direct."**

**". . cause to have visited and examined all sick persons reported to him as laboring or supposed to be laboring under any yellow fever, small pox, cholera or any infectious or pestilential disease."**

**". . have power to cause any house or premises to be cleaned, disinfected or closed to visitors."**

**". . make a circuit of observation once each week to every part of the town and its environs."**

**ALL FOR THE PRINCELY SUM OF \$60 PER MONTH !**