



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Steve Taylor, Police Chief
(360) 354 - 2828

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 p.m. March 12, 2020
Police Department Training Room

COMMITTEE

1. ROLL CALL

Members present: Mayor Korthuis and Councilors Brent Lenssen, Gerald Kuiken and Mark Wohlrab (telephonic)

Staff present: City Administrator Mike Martin, Chief Mark Billmire, Chief Steve Taylor, Assistant Chief Tom Hatley, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

2. ACTION ITEMS: None

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. COVID-19 update

The County Executive made an emergency declaration after the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Whatcom County. Chief Billmire has been tasked with sharing updated information to City employees, community leaders, schools, churches and long term care facilities. Three reliable sources of information and recommendations are *Whatcom County Health Department*, *WA State Health Department* and *Centers for Disease Control*.

Lynden Fire Department has responded on a few cases thus far, using protocols in place and call screening at dispatch to communicate and take appropriate protective precautions for first responders.

B. Lynden WATCH update

The Lynden WATCH page had 121,000 views in February and a 13% increase in followers. Posts included weather related updates on the flooding and road closures. A Twitter account was recently added, and window stickers have been ordered. Future meetings are tentatively scheduled to discuss expanding Lynden WATCH to Lynden businesses.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Monthly report

Chief Billmire presented the monthly report for February. Fire Marshall Baar was recognized for his extended service, and official hand off to Assistant Chief Hatley.

B. Certified new-hire list

Qualifying applicants were screened and reviewed; 20 of which were selected for oral board interviews. The top 7 moved on to Chief's interviews and ranked accordingly on the eligibility list certified by the civil service commission. Offers have been made to the top 2 candidates on the list.

C. Station renovation update – RFQ

The RFQ period has ended with 2 submittal packets received. After initial review with Public Works, Chief Billmire notes his recommendation of King Architecture, which also did the initial cost estimate.

D. 2019 Annual report

Chief Billmire overviewed the 2019 annual report. Emergency responses were just shy of 1,900 calls; a 9% increase from the previous year and 43% increase from 2008.

2. ITEMS ADDED:

A. Assistant Chief Hatley gave an update on efforts to improve the training program and opportunities to work with other agencies, as well as engaging the volunteers more. He also applied for and received a 50% matching grant from Dept of Natural Resources that will be used to purchase wildland gear and other personal protection equipment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Monthly report

Chief Taylor overviewed the monthly report for February. A suspect has been identified and linked to several burglaries from a fingerprint recovered at the scene. Officer Mack Brown was sworn in on February 3rd and is doing great.

Chief Taylor also provided an update on the implementation of the LEMAP recommendations. He and the lieutenants have been working closely with Lexipol on updating essential policies, focusing first on those that carry high potential for liability, such as use of force. Another recommendation was to *bolster the training records system*. A new cloud-based training records management software has been purchased, which will allow all the training records to be recorded and managed more efficiently. Equipment was also addressed in the LEMAP review, and with the Mayor's approval, 6 vehicles have been ordered, 2 of which should arrive in March-April.

Meeting adjourned 5:00pm

Next Meeting Date: April 1, 2020 (Wednesday)