

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting - 04/17/2025 Minutes

Police Department - 203 19th Street

4:00 PM April 17, 2025

Roll Call

1. Committee Members Present: Mark Wohlrab, Lee Beld and Gary Vis

Others Present: Mayor Korthuis, City Administrator John Williams, Fire Chief Michael Noonan, Assistant Fire Chief Kristie Watson, Police Chief Steve Taylor, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Lieutenant Randy Humphreys, Sergeant Holland, Sergeant Lipton, Officer Dunn and Council Member Lenssen

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order

1600

Approval of Minutes

2. March 2025 Meeting Draft Minutes: Approved

Items from the Audience

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

Cynthia Ripke – 7000 block Guide Meridian: Appreciated that the Pledge was performed. Expressed concerns over the new apartment building at 19th and Front Street.

Unscheduled

Len Fakkema, Interim Superintendent of Lynden Christian Schools (LC), presented a proposal to have a School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to LC beginning at the start of the year. Mr. Fakkema emphasized the importance of taking a proactive approach to school safety and highlighted the value of the SRO serving as a positive presence and role model for students across the district.

LC has secured full funding for the SRO position for the first year. Mr. Fakkema also noted that there are potential funding solutions for maintaining the position into the second and third years.

The City of Lynden Finance has provided the cost for the first year of an officer would be \$155,000 including salary and benefits plus another \$15,000 in the first year for equipment costs. There is an adequate spare vehicle for this SRO.

David Vanderyacht, Superintendent of Lynden School District (LSD). Last year LSD put together a Safety and Security Task Force that included members from Lynden PD, Homeland Security, FBI and Border Patrol. The recommendation of that task force was a partnership with the City of Lynden for a uniformed officer. This led the district to put aside \$175,000 from the

operating budget for an SRO. There is currently a non-armed safety and security officer at the high school and there is still the intention to have an armed uniform officer for the district however, what that looks like is still under consideration and a decision has not been made.

Committee Items

No Items

Fire Department Items

3. Chief Noonan stated that Thursdays are being dedicated to Fire Marshall activities. The Community Outreach programs are still very active. Emergency responses are not as busy as March but up a little. On March 13th, there was a period of time where there were back-to-back calls from 2:00 pm – 8:00 pm, 5 in a row and they all had an element of transport to them. Chief Noonan will go over back-to-back calls more at the next meeting.

AC Watson has overseen getting Ladder Truck 75 into service. The truck pulled into town on April 4th and immediately following there was training regarding the use of the truck. There is an assembly group that is working to outfit the rig. The push in ceremony is scheduled for Monday April 21st at 6:00 pm. The old rig will be surplussed and donated to the NCTA Program at Meridian campus so that the recruits will have an engine to practice off of. The new engine will be in service next week.

There were a lot of lessons learned during the recent fire at Dairygold.

Police Department Items

4. Public Safety Stats - March 2025. 868 total calls, up from 631 last month and up from 798 last year.

Significant cases since last month, there was a rash of windows being shot out by a BB Gun. There were approximately 50 cars and several businesses reporting damage. The total dollar value of loss to date is just shy of \$26,000. There was an arrest made within 29 hours for felony malicious mischief.

There is also an uptick in fraud cases and the Detectives put together a program for educating the community. There are also more planned for the future.

Committee member Beld inquired where the PD is for Lexipol policy. Chief Taylor explained that we have issued 32 policies, including 10 critical policies. Lt. Humphreys and Sgt. Lipton are working on issuing more.

Added Items

No items

Adjournment

1732