



POLICE DEPARTMENT
John M. Billester, Police Chief
(360) 354 - 2828

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4:00 PM May 2, 2019
Police Department Training Room

COMMITTEE

1. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilors Brent Lenssen (chair), Gary Bode
Other Council members present: Kyle Strengholt
Absent: Mayor Korhuis, Mark Wohlrab

Staff present: Chief John Billester, Chief Mark Billmire, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos,
City Administrator Mike Martin, Support Services Manager Holly Vega

2. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Approve minutes from April 11, 2019 meeting.

The approval of the April 11, 2019 minutes was tabled until the next meeting due to absent committee members.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Update on interim Police Chief search

City Administrator Mike Martin advised they are still in the process of looking for candidates, and hope to have someone in the near future.

B. Update on Fire Assistant Chief position

Chief Billmire is still in the evaluation process to determine what the department needs are.

C. Golf carts – Any new information from PD?

No additional information to offer from the PD. Councilor Lenssen expressed he is not comfortable advancing with permitting golf carts at this time, and recommends to table the request for a year or two.

D. 2020 major budget initiatives from PD and FD

Chief Billester advised major budget items for the Police Department are exterior building maintenance, two vehicles (one detective and one patrol), and audio/visual equipment for evidence and surveillance purposes.

Chief Billmire noted two significant items for the Fire Department; a new fire station, which is currently scheduled for 2020 in the comprehensive plan, and the existing ladder truck, which has undergone extensive maintenance and continues to need additional repairs.

E. Stonegarden grant status – Total amounts and allowed expenditures

Chief Billester relayed the Stonegarden grants are still being applied for and received; however, equipment purchases have been cut back significantly.

F. Federal Court ruling regarding marking tires for parking enforcement

A recent federal court decision ruled chalking tires as unconstitutional. Chief Billester advised they will have to use other creative ways to enforce parking.

4. ITEMS ADDED:

Citizen Gerald Sebens, 8821 Northwood Rd, Lynden, requested the City review the speed limit on Northwood Road, suggesting it be lowered to 25 mph. Councilor Lenssen advised that Public Works can put out traffic counters to capture data including counts, time of day, and vehicle speed that will help evaluate the current traffic trends. The PD will request Public Works put traffic counters on Northwood Rd and Kamm Rd, and revisit in approximately 3 months.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. ACTION ITEMS: None

2. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. April monthly report

Chief Billmire presented a monthly report for April, noting it was another busy month for station tours, fire prevention and inspection, and training hours. He also noted a call that was handled particularly well with Police, in which an officer first on scene applied a tourniquet to a subject who had shot himself in the leg.

B. Ladder truck update and repair report

The ladder truck was purchased in 2012 for \$194,000, and maintenance costs total \$135,000 to date. The ladder still exceeds the allowed amount of torque, although the manufacture, Pierce provided a letter stating it's okay.

C. Volunteer update and participation report

Volunteer hours in March and April decreased due to losing several volunteers to fulltime jobs, and 2 more are potentially leaving. Chief Billmire inquired if our current model is still working for us, as many volunteers leave soon after we've spent the resources training them. There are currently 13 new applicants in the recruitment process; however, only 25% usually make it to the final selection.

3. ITEMS ADDED: None

POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. **ACTION ITEMS:** None

2. **INFORMATION ITEMS:**

A. Update on letter regarding calling 911 for police assistance

Chief Billester provided a letter for review to be distributed in the City water bills. One minor revision was made, and it will be provided to Finance for mailing.

B. Lynden Watch update

Councilor Wohlrab wrote a letter in his absence, updating the status of Lynden Watch. Chief Billester also spoke at the Lion's Club about the program and many showed interest.

Councilor Lenssen noted the need to budget funds to support the Lynden Watch Program.

C. April monthly report

Lieutenant Bos presented a monthly report for April including a new format for crime statistics. Noteworthy incidents included 2 recent accidental discharge of firearms, one resulting in a citation for reckless endangerment.

3. **ITEMS ADDED:**

Officer Fiksdal started May 1, 2019.

Meeting adjourned 5:30 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: June 6, 2019 (Rescheduled June 13, 2019)