

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, February 3, 2022
Birch Bay Station 63

Attendees: Fire Chief Van der Veen; Division Chief Ward; Captains Ahrenholz, McPhail, and Smith.

FIRE CHIEF

Credit Cards

The district will no longer have an open purchase order policy at Pacific Building Center. The district plans to have a discussion with finance regarding having one of the chief's credit cards on file for small purchases. All receipts must be forwarded to the chief for reconciliation.

Promotions

Newly promoted officers were pinned at their assigned stations this week.

Lt. Chris Hollander

Lt. Scott Brown

Cpt. Burr McPhail

Future Hiring Process

Currently, the district is down five firefighters. At this time, there are no immediate plans to conduct a hiring process.

Meetings

One Commissioner from each board, Chief Van der Veen, and subject matter experts are expected to begin meeting in February to discuss future funding of both districts. The group will report back to their respective Boards, who will ultimately determine the future of each district.

Whatcom County BLS

At an upcoming Whatcom County BLS EOB meeting scheduled for February 9, Chief Van der Veen plans to present a letter requesting \$5 million of BLS funding to be split between all fire districts in Whatcom County. More discussion is expected.

Chief Vander Veen noted that calls have gone up 70% over the past ten years. If granted, the funds will be utilized for a peak hour BLS aid unit at Semiahmoo Station 62 to assist with concurrent calls.

BFD Auto Aid

After discussions with the BFD fire chief, it appears that Britton Loop Station 12 and Laurel Station 69 are not being over-utilized by the City. In addition, Chief Van der Veen has requested consistency from the BFD battalion chiefs regarding requesting auto aid. Ongoing discussions are expected.

District Website

The district website will be undergoing some significant changes in the near future.

Training Captain

Mike Finely has been given an unconditional offer. It is expected that he will fit in well.

The training captain is expected to focus on the members and culture of the district during the first year. He plans to meet with the captains to find out the needs of each shift. The training captain is a peer. There was discussion regarding how the shift captains could help him accomplish the mission.

A training consortium component will be determined at some point.

There was discussion regarding having captains take on specific aspects of training until the newly hired training captain is ready to take over. The discussion included the benefit of being initiative-taking now rather than reactionary later.

OPERATIONS

Facility and Apparatus Maintenance

Birch Bay Station 63

Leaks in the ceiling are being dealt with as they are located.

It is more cost-effective to repair than tear down the tower. There will be some modifications to the door to allow for a removable hinge. The dry system will be removed so flammable items can no longer be stored in the tower.

AP513

Expected to be back in service within the next day or so.

Repairs

All apparatus repair requests need to be inputted into Operative IQ immediately for tracking purposes.

If an engine gets stuck, officers have been instructed to contact Elliot. In addition, if one of the chiefs is not the on-duty officer, one will need to be alerted them about the issue.

Phone System

The district's current phone vendor has closed up shop. There is currently no voice mail available. The district is in the process of updating the phone system. Oasis Tech Help will be able to offer technical support of the new system in the future.

Apparatus Alarm System

There was a discussion regarding silencing or covering up the apparatus alarms with layers of duct tape. It was noted that the alarms are for more than just seat belt alerts. The new engine is having to be serviced as a result of a missed alarm. Only one piece of duct tape to minimize but not eliminate the sound is permitted.

Vector Solutions

All the member training has been successfully moved to Vector Solutions. The EMS information is still available on ResQHub (skill sheets) through the County and EMS Connect.

Upcoming NFA Class

Chief Ward sent out information via email on an upcoming free leadership class. The credited class will be beneficial for new officers.

Helmet Numbers

The district plans to update and renumber all helmet numbers by seniority. Due to the project's complexity, the district will need to investigate the cost prior to moving forward.

Hose Groups

Cpt. Schmidt, Lt. Hofstad, FFs' Brown, Lathan, McDermott and Stewart.
No report.

County Ops

Chief Ward is representing the district at County Operation meetings.

BLS iPad

A BLS iPad at Laurel Station 69 was recently lost. The district was able to utilize another one at no cost. It was agreed that the district needs to be more diligent about assigning and tracking the iPads.

SHIFTS

AShift

Pump Op Academy

There was discussion regarding the best time to have the pump op academy. For now, the academy will remain the same; however, there may be changes in the future.

EMS Reporting

CQI has renewed its focus on appropriate time stamping for data gathering purposes. Chief Van der Veen will research the importance of collecting the data and their intended use. There was discussion regarding providing officer tablet training (Image Trend) in the future. Chief Ward will investigate how applicable training can be provided.

BShift

EMT Renewal

Some members' EMT certifications must be renewed in August. Members are encouraged to reach out to either FF Mulrooney or FF Warne to review their certification progress.

CShift

Nothing to report

DShift

Station Calendar Pictures

It was noted that some of the pictures on the 2022 calendar present members who are not wearing the appropriate safety equipment. Please make sure you are wearing the correct safety equipment at all times when training.

Cameras

The old cameras will be removed from all engines.

Monthly Medic Reviews

Cpt Smith will investigate participating in monthly reviews with D7 medics.

BFD Recruit Academy

There was discussion regarding having NWFR recruits take part in the BFD recruit academy in lieu of attending the North Bend Academy. It was noted that the BFD academy does not follow the Whatcom County Operations Manual or Best Practices. It was noted that the North Bend Academy has undergone some beneficial changes moving forward.

Chief Van der Veen's Goals for the Future

It was requested that Chief Van der Veen provide his 2022 vision of the district to provide some clearer direction.

Chief Van der Veen will send out information regarding his future vision for the department in the near future.

Topics may include the following:

- Rebuild the department
- Regain confidence of
- Reengage members and regain their confidence in the department
- Keep everyone employed now and for their careers
- Succession planning
- Maintain a competent training department

Rumor Mill

The rumor regarding Chief Ward not returning to full duty as B76 and that his current position was created specifically around his injury is unfounded. Chief Ward is expected to return to full duty once cleared.

At the same time, the district hopes that the new training captain will bring consistency. Chief Van der Veen stressed the importance of ensuring that both the facilities and equipment are safe for members before focus is redirected to the operations of the district. Operations will continue to function because of the members and their ability to comprehend what needs to be done.

Future Officer Development Training

There was a discussion regarding how those members wanting to promote can best shadow officers. The captains are expected to work alongside the training captain; any recommendations will be forwarded to the fire chief. Any changes to officer development will need to be negotiated.

Mandatory Overtime List

It was requested to give all members access to view the mandatory list.

Facility Calendar

All officers should have access to view the facility calendar.

Master Calendar

There was a discussion regarding the best process for updating the master calendar. It was agreed that only HR Kelly Freeman and Captain Smith would have permissions to edit/update the master

calendar. Members are expected to use the chain of command to request any changes. Captains and lieutenants will be able to view the master calendar to ensure the change will work before forwarding any request. An email group will be formed (HR/Cpt Smith) to allow for an email trail to review if deemed necessary.

Unjustified Transportation to Bellingham

There was discussion regarding how to handle individuals who call 9-11 as a means to coordinate transportation to Bellingham not related to receiving hospital care. Chief Van der Veen will investigate and report back to the group.

Wiser Lake Station 70

It is anticipated that during the February 17, 2022, NWFR Board of Commissioner's Meeting, the Wiser Lake Station 70 will be surplus. Chief Ward will collaborate with Commissioner Crawford to organize the surplus of items currently in the station. Some of the items (air packs, bunker gear) stored at the station will be donated to other departments, most likely in Mexico.

It is expected that the money from the station's sale will be used to replace the district's old tenders.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022