

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, October 1, 2020
Station 63 – Birch Bay

Attendees: Chief Van der Veen; Captains Ahrenholz, Davidson and Schmidt.

FIRE CHIEF

Update Regional Fire Authority (RFA)

Chief Van der Veen noted that RFA discussions continue to move forward. The Planning Committee plans on meeting twice a month. It is expected that the taxpayers will vote on the RFA during the August 2021 ballot. The district has retained the services of Consultant Karen Reed to assist with the process. Karen has extensive knowledge and expertise with RFA planning.

In addition, the district has reached out to retired Snohomish 1 Fire Chief Bill Cushman. Cushman who is also a financial analyst, is expected to research the financial needs (levy, staffing and apparatus goals, financial plan) of the RFA for the future. Cushman will utilize the current ESCI and Capital Facilities Plan for crucial information.

Chief Van der Veen noted that other districts can join the RFA in the future.

H St Development

The H St development is once more gaining traction. There is a potential to collect impact fees over next 15 years.

2021 Budget

Chief Van der Veen has begun working on the 2021 budget. He is currently reviewing capital requests. Due to potential COVID impacts it is expected that the district will review the budget requests cautiously.

OPERATIONS

Surplus

The district expects to surplus items at Y Rd. Station 11 and the Birch Bay Station 63 mezzanine. The district will utilize both the light duty personnel and Henry Hollander to assist with these projects.

Apparatus

The new engine is expected to arrive later this year. Another engine and aid units will be ordered in 2021 to keep on track with the two year cycle.

It was noted that the shop budget may increase for 2021 to allow maintenance to purchase diagnostic tools to work on the district's aging apparatus.

Whatcom County EMS

Whatcom County EMS is will be funding power gurneys for various agencies. The district will receive seven power gurneys. NWFR will be responsible for purchasing any power load systems.

Fire Investigator

The County Fire Marshal's Office is contemplating offering fire investigation classes to outside agencies hopefully in the near future, dependent on COVID restrictions.

Paramedics

Two members will attend paramedic school in March. Two current district paramedic students will be leaving the district to become full time BFD paramedics in March 2021 (anticipated).

2021 Firefighter, Lateral Hiring and Lieutenant Promotional

The group discussed the plan and process for hiring entry level firefighters, laterals and the upcoming promotional. The district will follow the current contract.

A hiring committee will be formed to refine the current speed, oral and chief's interview questions. It is expected that the committee will only meet twice. It is expected that two entry level firefighters and two laterals will be hired. The goal is to have the process completed before the upcoming academy begins January 28. Laterals will complete a mini academy in-house.

Members who have not completed the FFII section of the academy will also be able to attend that portion of the academy.

A committee will be formed to review the lieutenant promotional and refine the current assessment center. More information is expected in the near future. The goal is to have the lieutenants in place before the recruits return from the academy. It is expected that the promotional will take place in February.

Assistant Operations/Training Chief

It is anticipated that an internal/external process to hire a new assistant chief of operations/training will begin in early 2021. Once completed and in place, a training captain's process will commence.

TRAINING

Training Consortium

The training consortium continues to meet to work on scheduling for 2021. Chief Van der Veen and Captain Davidson plan to attend those meetings which is made up of training officers from around the county.

NWFR Training for 2021

There was discussion regarding what training will be offered in 2021. A plan will be solidified following an additional meeting with the captains.

There was additional discussion regarding the necessary volunteer training. Captain Davidson suggested a mini academy for the two new volunteers who already have a firefighter/emt background. It is expected that a probationary manual will be mandatory. The goal is to have one volunteer on each shift.

The district has recently brought on two tender operators.

Tender operators will also need to complete a process (EVIP, RODEO, pump testing, road test) before they can operate a tender. Captains will set and share their expectations.

Instructor Pat McVicker

Retired Skagit Valley College instructor Pat McVicker has offered the district training assistance if needed.

Ground Emergency Medical Transports (GEMT) Reimbursement Report Issues

There was discussion regarding the issues found with the GEMT Image Trend reports. The captains will investigate.

SHIFTS

L61 will be put into service shortly. The captains will determine the best implementation process. A SOPs will also need to be determined before L61 is put into service.

There are no Operative IQ updates at this time. It is expected that an onsite visit to Birch Bay Station 63 in the near future, will help with finalizing the inventory system.

Vacation picks will be done by seniority via CrewSense. There was concern expressed that CrewSense can be easily manipulated. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, November 5, 2020, 0900 Odell Station 63

(All Officer TBD)