

**CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, October 7, 2021
Birch Bay Station 63**

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

FIRE CHIEF

Levy Lid Lift

There was discussion regarding how the additional levy lid lift messages will be disseminated to the community.

- Coffee with the Chief Meetings – 2X per week 20–30-minute outreach
- Reader Board Messages (BB St 63)
- Facebook messages

Chief Van der Veen stressed that regardless of the levy lid lift outcome, all members will keep their jobs.

On-duty members can remind community members to vote and steer them to the district's website for additional levy lid lift information.

It is unsure what will happen with District 4 if their levy lid lift does not pass. The district will be transparent with any and all information regarding District 4.

BFD Auto Aid

It was noted that Bellingham is aware that the auto aid agreement is more favorable towards the Bellingham Fire Department. Although the District is collecting additional transport and GEMT funds, they are utilizing a lot more overtime and there is additional wear and tear on the apparatus. It is unclear what changes will be made in the future to rectify the unbalance.

B-76 Job Description MOU

The temporary B-76 MOU has been approved by Labor. A new group has been added into Crewsense to allow qualifying members to take part in B76 overtimes. Labor is in charge of scheduling overtime. The posting closed on Friday, October 8.

Upcoming Promotional/Testing Process

Both the lieutenant and training captains process will take place in January 2022. At this time there have been five external applicants that have applied for the training captain position.

Performance Evaluations

The deadline for the self-performance evaluations (step 1) was April, however some exceptions had been made. HR will send out information regarding who has yet to complete step 1 as well as information regarding step 2.

Pump Ops

Chief Van der Veen reported that the pump ops class led by Lt. Freeman went well, with no major issues. Chief Van der Veen expressed his appreciation to Lt. Freeman for a job well done.

Possible Future Training Opportunities

There was discussion regarding possibly utilizing qualified members and have them take on additional in-house instructor opportunities in the future along with creating a syllabus for each activity. Chief Van der Veen plans to have additional discussions with labor in the near future to ensure anyone interested has an equal opportunity.

Opportunities may include:

- On boarding new personnel
- Pump ops
- SCBA

District Training Program

There was discussion regarding developing a three-year training program, based on the best practices, which will identify quarterly training and may include task sheets before a training captain is hired. There was additional discussion regarding utilizing training platforms in Vector Target Solutions and/or ResQHub. Chief Van der Veen plans to meet with the captains after the October 19 NWFR Board meeting to create a calendar regarding what training needs to be accomplished in 2022.

There was discussion regarding revisiting the training captain's assessment process including the written exam. Chief Van der Veen requested assistance from the captains and will most likely have discussions with the labor in the near future.

Probationary Members

The probationary members are doing well. Their six-month evaluation is in process. All are working through their probationary task book and staying busy.

The newly hired lateral member is also doing well.

Rumors

Medics will not be working out of Britton Loop St 12 by the end of the year.

The District is not aware that they will lose most of the volunteers if they are mandated to receive the COVID vaccine. It is unsure of how many volunteers have been vaccinated or whether due to their volunteer status if the vaccine mandate applies to them. The district is waiting for clarification.

OPERATIONS**Facility and Apparatus Maintenance**

The dishwasher at BB Station 63 Dishwasher is expected to be replaced on Friday, October 8.

The roof repair at BB Station 63 will begin in the next few weeks.

A date for plumbing the staff washer at BB Station 63 has yet to be confirmed.

A date for the HVAC upgrade at BB Station 63 has yet to be confirmed.

All septic inspections with the exception of Laurel St 69 have been completed and passed. Laurel St 69's inspection will be completed in the near future.

HVAC – A timeline for the update of St 63 has yet to be determined.

An engineer has completed an inspection of the BB St 63 tower. A final report has yet to be provided.

The district is waiting on bids for station painting at Britton Loop St 12 and the fascia boards at Odell St 61. These projects are expected to be completed in 2022.

The painting of bay doors at various stations have been completed. Please forward any feedback regarding the project to Chief Van der Veen.

A sprinkler leak at Semiahmoo St 62 caused substantial damage. The carpet in the training room, hallway, sub floors, partial walls and possibly the training room door will need to be replaced. Due to the removal of two back up compressors in the past, the alarm was not activated. The district plans to work with the insurance company to complete the repairs. The two compressors will be replaced by a reputable company.

Security Solutions

Some station cameras are no longer working. It is expected that the station cameras will be upgraded sometime in the future and only if the levy lid lift passes.

SHIFTS

AShift

Chief Van der Veen will contact District 7 regarding providing Medic 45 feedback.

Vehicle Daily Checks

There was discussion regarding the amount of time being spent on daily rig checks and how they could be sped up. The importance of a thorough rig check was stressed. An update to the program next spring should speed up the process. In the interim, Chief Ward asked for patience while glitches get resolved. It was suggested to eliminate the consumable portion and have them completed in Operative IQ, which would also speed up the EMS supply turnover. Chief Ward will work with FF Hollstein regarding speeding up the process.

Ladder Testing

Ladder testing will commence in the near future.

New Engine

The new engine has yet to be put into service however, hose can now be loaded onto the engine. Chief Van der Veen will check with the shop regarding the timeline.

BShift

Future Hiring Process

The district is considering utilizing a company other than PST for future hires.

Image Trend Reports

Chief Ward will ensure that all captains have access to be able to delete reports in Image Trend. There was discussion regarding considering a coding class in the future. There was additional discussion regarding having input into the Image Trend committee. Chief Ward will investigate.

BFD Engine Placement During the Academy

The concern regarding having a BFD engine in the open bay at Britton Loop St 12 has been addressed. The plan is that BFD's engine will be parked in the ap bay at the station during the BFD academy only. Engine 1202 will be relocated to either St 4 or St 6 during the academy. It was recognized that this will affect the crews at Britton Loop Station 12.

Possible Future of Britton Loop Station

- Medics may build their own building on the grounds
- Fit pit may be in a separate room
- BFD may take over building D and renovate / make bigger
- Growing pains are expected

CShift

Crewsense

There was discussion regarding allowing outside agencies (District #7, LFD, BFD) access to see who is on duty via Crewsense and vice versa. The information could be utilized to invite future training opportunities. Chief Ward will set up a view only account.

Image Trend

Chief Ward will investigate if the report auto generate feature can be activated in Image Trend.

Station Tender Response

There was discussion regarding when crews will respond with a tender (hydrated vs non-hydrated areas) and if there was a benefit to relocating tenders. Chief Van der Veen noted that he will support the officers to do what is needed with the resources available and their experience. Chief Van der Veen further stated that he may ask the reasoning behind the decision, not to second guess, but to understand.

DShift

Mail runs

There is a need to have a contingency plan when the mail run volunteer is not available. The company officers will be more observant and reach out when the mail overflows.

Goggle Teams

Oasis/Tech Help have been notified to add Cpts McPhail and Smith to Microsoft Teams.

ALS Units Cancelled

On more than one occurrence, a requested ALS unit (via Dispatch run cards) was cancelled by the EMS Medic supervisor who had gone in place of the ALS unit. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 3, 2021