

OFFICER'S MEETING
Thursday, September 7, 2017
Station 61 – Blaine

Attendees: Chiefs Noonchester and Hollander; Captains Davidson, Johnson, Schmidt and Ward; Lieutenants Ahrenholz, Esser, Hofstad, McPhail, Nielsen, Paige, Riehl, LSmith, Van der Veen and Zylstra; Volunteer Support Rutgers.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION / FIRE CHIEF

Annexation Update

The district continues to meet with the City of Bellingham to work on a draft inter-local agreement regarding District #4's current and future annexations, including revenue impacts.

Auto Aid Agreement

The district and the City of Bellingham have completed the first draft of an auto aid agreement. The draft is currently being reviewed by the City of Bellingham's legal department. Both departments are committed to providing like for like resources.

Chief Noonchester noted that the Bellingham Fire Department has lost one of their chief officers (Kinsel) who has chosen to step down and return to the line.

Battalion Duty Officer (B76-B41)

District #7's Battalion 41 has agreed to assist the district (*including Lynden Fire Department*) with battalion duty on a temporary basis. This is their second week of duty. Chief Hollander will take over the duty rotation on Monday, September 11. Plans to re-evaluate their assistance for the future is expected.

There was some discussion regarding training for B41 regarding when to request tender and rehab assistance. B41 are also available for hospital pickups during their duty rotation. Chief Hollander will add the B41 phone numbers to the officer phones. Please address any concerns or issues regarding B41 to Chief Noonchester so they can be brought forward.

B76 can always be called for backup when needed.

Contract Negotiations

A mediation session with the district, Local 106 NW and the state mediator has been scheduled for mid-October.

Capital Items 2018

The finance department has sent out the 2018 capital request forms. The requests must be submitted to Chief Pernet for review by September 30.

2018 Budget

The Commissioners will also be involved in several budget study sessions which have yet to be scheduled. Chief Pernet also plans to meet with division heads in the near future to review their sections of the budget.

SAFETY

Hearing Conservation

Chief Noonchester noted that the all ordered ear plugs have arrived and been placed on rigs as a part of the district hearing conservation policy. Signage has also been placed in strategic areas alerting members to the potential for increased noise levels and hearing damage if ears are not protected.

Vegetation Fires

Chief Noonchester advised crews to hydrate during the dry hot weather.

Lieutenant Van der Veen reminded everyone to stay well hydrated during fires and ask for assistance from rehab when needed. Officers were asked to stay aware of their firefighters' condition as well as tender support personnel during challenging incidents.

Chief Hollander recommended crews at Birch Bay Station 63 check daily for the next few days (Fri. / Sat. / Sun.) on a fire in the Semiahmoo area which has been smoldering for the past nine days.

Captain Ward noted that the air conditioning on A69 (AP114) is not working. Although, the concern has been written up, it may not have been addressed due to the current hose testing schedule.

LOGISTICS

Knox Keys

“Light duty” Lieutenant Adam Smith has completed the inventory of all district Knox master keys. A total of four master keys have been placed in all first out apparatus. It was agreed that the four brush trucks will also need a set of keys and Laurel Station 69 apparatus should have a set of Lynden master keys (Knox / Supra). It was also pointed out that certain keys may be required to unlock certain hydrant caps in the Lynden area.

Chief Hollander will organize adding keys to tenders, discuss acquiring additional keys from the Lynden Fire Department and inquiring about hydrant keys.

It was noted that if B41 continues to assist the district in the future with duty rotation, they may also benefit from a set of master keys.

Insurance Update

The district has changed insurance from Enduris to Guide Insurance. All cards have been updated with fleet insurance cards that do not include nor need vehicle VIN numbers. Chief Hollander will be meeting with Guide Insurance and Training Captain Kris Jorgensen to review the insurance group's training opportunities for the district.

Blaine Police Department Protocols

A training is expected regarding minors and medical emergency authorization protocols with the Blaine Police Department in the near future. In the interim, keep in mind that the Blaine Police

Department has the ultimate authority regarding transporting a minor. Captain Schmidt is in the process of researching a potential district autism training opportunity with Captain Jorgensen. Additional information is expected in the near future.

Blaine High School Update (standpipe and lock box)

Chief Hollander noted that the new Blaine High School building is open. The entire school district project is expected to be completed in three summer phases. The old standpipe remains in the same place although it will be more difficult to get to with the new building in place. A new standpipe has yet to be installed. Until a new Knox box arrives, keys to the new building will remain in the old box. Chief Hollander recommended that Blaine 61 crews become familiar with the new building, along with the location of hydrants and the current standpipe.

Sea Smoke Driveway Update

The driveway to the Sea Smoke development (*147 homes and some commercial*) is narrow but usable although turning apparatus remains a challenge. Chief Hollander recommended exiting through Semiahmoo Drive as it remains more manageable.

Semiahmoo Shores Update

The Semiahmoo Shores project is fifty percent occupied. The project consists of twenty-eight duplex condominiums.

District Map Books

There was discussion regarding the need to update district map books to include the numerous new vicinity addresses established since 2009. The updates are expected to be inputted into CAD in the near future, however a paper back-up is crucial in case of an electronic failure. Chief Noonchester noted that a map book update is being considered for 2018.

Annual Marina Inspection Update

Chief Hollander noted that annual marina inspections are mandatory. "Light duty" Lieutenant Adam Smith has created an inspection form which includes both pertinent codes and ordinances. The Semiahmoo Marina inspection has been scheduled but the Blaine Marina has yet to be arranged.

Mobile Data Computer (MDC) Update

A12 (AP 103) and A63 (AP101) MDCs have been ordered. A69 (AP 114) is in need of a new tablet.

9-11 Memorial Barbeque Fundraiser

Chief Dean Crosswhite is hosting a 9-11 Memorial Barbeque to assist with expenses of the New York 9-11 representatives who will attend the 9-11 Peace Arch Memorial on Monday, September 11. The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, September 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Labor group is also hosting a dinner for the 9-11 representatives which will be held at Uisce's on Monday, September 11. The Labor group is expected to provide additional information.

9-11 Peace Arch Memorial

The 9-11 Peace Arch Memorial will be held at Peace Arch Park on Monday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m. The event will remember and honor those who sacrificed all on September 11, 2001. A barbeque luncheon (*by donation*) will be held following the ceremony. All proceeds will benefit Behind the Badge Foundation and Honour House.

Chief Hollander requested assistance from Blaine Station 61 on the day of the event with moving chairs and flag poles. Acting Lieutenant Jeff Hofstad offered to assist with L61 (AP401) during the event.

Tender Back-Up Cameras

Back up cameras are being installed in all tenders. The new cameras are GPS capable.

OPERATIONS

Birch Bay Station 63 Layout

Chief Noonchester recently met individually with each captain to discuss the current Birch Bay Station 63 sleeping layout concern. Chief Noonchester noted that the issue is being addressed.

2018 Scheduling

The 2018 scheduling is on track. Chief Noonchester noted that Labor and Management are discussing a potential shift bid process for all open positions in the near future. More information will be available soon.

The three new recruit firefighters currently attending Washington State Training Academy are schedule to complete their training in mid-November. They will be assigned to the training division for two weeks prior to being assigned to a specific shift and station for their probationary year.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Directives

A draft PPE policy has been completed and will be reviewed by the captains for input in the near future.

Dryers and Extractors

All procured washers/extractors and dryers have been installed at career stations. The electronic soap feed dispensers have also been installed at both Laurel Station 69 and Blaine Station 61. Electronic soap dispensers may be added to extractors at both Birch Bay Station 63 and Britton Loop Station 12 in the future.

On average it takes approximately three hours to wash and dry an entire set of bunker gear.

The new recruits attending the North Bend Recruit Academy have been advised to launder their bunker gear at Laurel Station 69.

Movement During Training

There was discussion regarding crew movement during recent training at Britton Loop Station 12. Concerns included timing, maintaining coverage, scheduling and cancellations due to calls. It was also noted that it makes sense for Blaine Station 61 and Birch Bay Station 63 to train closer to home (*with the exception of live fire*). Laurel Station 69 should continue to train with Britton Loop Station 12.

Captain Schmidt suggested working with the training division budget to allow members to come in on overtime for four hour blocks to complete specific training once per year. This would allow members dedicated training time without being part of the daily planned response.

Chief Noonchester noted that there is a potential to utilize the budget for dedicated training in the future.

Company Officer Command and Control

Chief Noonchester acknowledged the captains' continued stellar command and presence during working fires throughout the district. He noted that captains provide clear and concise reports and consistently model good decision making skills on the fire grounds.

NEW TOOLS IN TOOL BOX

Holmatro Extrication Tools - Hydraulics are waiting to be installed on Engine 61 (AP513). At this time hose testing remains the priority.

TRAINING

Officer Development

Lieutenant LSmith led the group through a discussion regarding the importance of behavior modeling in the fire service.

- “Our actions, our behaviors tell others a lot about our integrity, commitment and our enthusiasm.”
- We all remember the influential people in our lives; positive and negative.
- Modeling is more powerful than what we realize. Modeling can teach or reinforce either positive or undesirable behavior.
- Members can learn what behaviors are expected and how and when to apply them.
- Reinforcement = acknowledgment, compensation, bonuses, recognition, promotions.
- Senior firefighters, company officers have the chance to define excellence which in turn can foster teamwork, comradery, improved knowledge and skills, motivation and buy-in.
- As you retire and move on those you taught will become the district role models and our legacy for the future.

Whatcom County Recruit Academy (WCRA) Update

Firefighter Kenneth Cunningham acting as a company officer and Volunteer Tommy McAuliffe, will be representing the district during the WCRA.

The WCRA will be utilizing the grounds / apparatus bay area at Britton Loop Station 12. In addition, they may request the station 12 crews to move apparatus during PT on Saturdays. Chief Noonchester noted although crews will be available to assist when necessary, the crews' priority remains the community.

Captain Jorgensen requested to be notified if any issues / concerns arise during the academy.

Career New Hire Update

The three new career recruits are currently attending the WA State Training Academy. All recruits are learning a great deal and receiving favorable evaluations. Captain Jorgensen recently visited the recruits at North Bend. He intends to visit the academy on a regular basis.

Tender Operator Hire Update

One tender operator Michael Peetoom, will begin tender operator training in the near future.

Multi-Company Operations

It was noted that live fire training will be conducted sometime in the fall.

Captain Jorgensen thanked members for their honest feedback during the recent MCO training with the Bellingham Fire Department. He hopes to improve on these trainings in the future.

Recent joint multi-company officer training with the Bellingham Fire Department raised an awareness that some terms and practices used were unfamiliar to the other department. All agreed that it is important to be aware of terminology differences and ask for clarification when needed. It was further noted that both departments need to learn each other's training ground procedures.

Harassment / Diversity Training

All but one shift officer has completed this year's harassment / diversity training.

Football Helmet Removal Training

All loaned football equipment has been returned to their respective schools.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED's)

The training division continues to work on getting each station free software and a downloading device so all AED information can be downloaded following a CPR call for review.

Quarterly Requirements

Third quarter requirements need to be completed by the end of September. Fourth quarter requirements will be sent out to all company officers. It was noted that hose testing has effected the recent amount of training completed.

SHIFTS

A-D Shift – Nothing to report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Hollander announced that the 9-11 New York representatives will also be attending a B.C. Lions football game on Friday, September 8. Reduced tickets are available for first responders.

Lieutenant Stefen Paige announced that Seattlefireofficer.com provides good no cost training opportunities. Although the single day courses do fill up fast, he notes it is well worth checking out what they have to offer.

Lieutenant Leslee Smith noted that October is fire prevention month. The district has reserved the fire safety house the week October 9 for public education opportunities.

The Blaine Police Department relayed that the banners hung on engines near the Blaine School District during the first couple days of school were most appreciated. The signs were the brain child of FF Kenneth Cunningham.

Blaine volunteer firefighters are expected to attend Blaine High School home football games to provide BLS coverage. Laurel Station 69 crews will also provide BLS coverage when available to Meridian High School during home football games.

Members can still donate to the Benevolent Fund to assist Chief Pernet and his family by providing meals from Make Take Bake located on Hannegan Rd. Money can also be dropped off at the facility (6912 Hannegan Rd. #105) through the middle of the month.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 5