

CAPTAIN'S MEETING
Thursday, July 8, 2021
Birch Bay Station 63

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

FIRE CHIEF

Levy Lid Lift

Chief Van er Veen provided a levy lid lift update. The union will be putting out signs in both districts in the near future. Mailers will also be distributed around the same time that ballots are sent out.

It is vital that the community sees the districts at various events such as the upcoming Birch Bay Discovery Days. Commissioners have also been attending community meetings in both districts.

Washington Survey Rating Bureau (WSRB)

There was a discussion regarding the sale of District 4's Agate Bay Station 11. The sale of the station resulted in a higher insurance rating in the Agate Bay area. In addition, recent legislation forbids the use of credit scores which also affected insurance rates.

Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations should be ongoing. Any questions can be directed to HR.

Response with Law Enforcement

There has been discussion to have former volunteer and Sherriff Deputy Jerilyn Klix provide a presentation regarding the upcoming changes to law enforcement response in the near future. There is no update at this time.

The administration will continue to investigate and pass along information as it becomes available.

Probationary Members

Captains noted that the probationary firefighters are doing well. They continue to finetune their skills.

Officers need to continue to follow the probationary handbook guidelines.

It is anticipated that a pump academy will be provided sometime in September.

Paramedic Issues

There was discussion regarding paramedic concerns at calls. All concerns/issues need to be documented and forwarded to the chiefs.

Chief Van der Veen will request medic student evaluation forms from Chief Boyko.

New Hire

Volunteer Noah Silverman has been given a conditional offer. He has completed his psychological testing and is expected to complete his medical physical in the near future. If

passed, Noah will complete his onboarding process in early August. His start date will be August 2 and he will attend the North Bend State Fire Academy beginning August 12.

North Bend State Fire Academy

The district is looking for a company officer to attend the North Bend Academy.

Firefighter II Certification

It was also noted that some members have not completed Firefighter II and may be able to take the county firefighter II test in the fall to receive their IFSAC certification. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

Lateral Process

A panel interview was recently conducted for a lateral position. The candidate completed a successful panel interview and will move to the chief's interview on August 14. The union has been invited to attend the chief's interview.

It is not clear if laterals will attend the North Bend State Fire Academy.

Training Captain

Chief Van der Veen recently met with someone interested in the training captain's position, gave him a tour of the district, and introduced him to some members of the district. They expressed an interest in applying for the vacant training captain's position if posted.

The district is expected to move forward with a training captain's process which will be open to both internal and external candidates. The process including a full assessment center may be scheduled alongside the lieutenant's process.

Lieutenant Process

The district will be looking for assessors for the upcoming lieutenant assessment center which will be scheduled for the third week in August.

OPERATIONS

Facility and Apparatus Maintenance

Chief Ward stressed the importance of selecting the correct button in Operative IQ before submitting.

Work is being done to provide a status on requests.

Chief Ward emphasized the importance of checking fuel levels and ensuring rigs are cleaned regularly. Routine cleaning can uncover damages that may otherwise go unnoticed. It is vital to submit repair requests and accident reports as soon as possible.

New Apparatus

The new ambulances and engines should be in service within the next two weeks.

Extrication Tools

Chief Ward noted that recently the extrication tool hose on one of the engines was put away too close to the muffler, resulting in the hose melting. The tool needs to be turned 180 degrees, with the muffler on the left side, to avoid damage.

Operative IQ

Firefighters Scott Brown and John Hollstein continue to update inventory and fine tune the request process.

Crewsense

Since the district is disappointed with ResQHubs' training feature, they are looking at possibly utilizing the training feature in Crewsense. The district will continue to use ResQHub for storing completed training and EMS Connect for EMS training.

I am Responding

Although the district is not utilizing I am Responding, there continues to be a cost per member.

Both the chiefs and captains are reviewing another program that may be more beneficial (E Dispatches) as a backup system. This program will not replace the current pager system.

Lieutenant Hofstad is investigating the cost of new radios.

RFLs

It is expected that the RFLs and tone packages, specifically as they apply to mutual an auto aid in Bellingham, will be updated in the near future.

SHIFTS

A Shift

Station Lawn Maintenance

There was discussion regarding purchasing a new riding lawnmower which could be located at Birch Bay Station 63. The current Station 63 rider may be relocated to Odell Station 61. A new rider will be added to the 2022 budget.

Chief Ward will investigate the cost of having a recycle grass bin placed at Birch Bay Station 63.

Britton Loop Station 12 needs multiple weed eaters.

Lawn and weed maintenance need to begin early in the season.

There was also discussion regarding the importance of regularly scheduled maintenance on all lawn equipment.

FF Bowen will be in charge of documenting what each station has in terms of lawn maintenance equipment and the needs of each station.

Ladder Issues

Ladder 61 will be put in reserve in CAD.

It was suggested to add a ladder response in Bellingham's area to the "best practices". Policy 0900.0302.00 Residential Structure Fire will also need to be updated with regards to ladders.

There was discussion regarding training all members on the ladder.

Image Trend

There was discussion regarding addressing issues and concerns with Image Trend coding. Once all the concerns are brought to light, a step-by-step guide or video tutorial will be circulated addressing those issues along with the logic behind the coding.

Burn tower Class

A burn tower operator class is scheduled for August 20-22. There needs to be fifteen people signed up for the class to move forward.

Light Duty

A continuous list of light-duty priorities will be maintained by the chief. The captains will submit their light duty needs to the chief.

BShift

Engine Location

One of the new engines will be located at Laurel Station 69. Engine 69 will become 1202 and be stationed at Britton Loop Station 12.

CShift

Station Repairs

Please submit station repairs in a timely manner so they can be addressed sooner rather than later.

DShift

Ladder Sign Off

Cpt. Smith inquired as to which members have been signed off to drive the ladder at Birch Bay. Apparently, there is not a list nor has any member been officially signed off. There was a discussion regarding completing a one-time rodeo to address all apparatus and then participating in a yearly EVIP.

BLS Evaluator Refresher

At this time both a refresher and first-time BLS evaluators are required to complete an eight-hour class. Chief Ward is investigating. The goal is to have one certified evaluator on each shift by the end of the year.

Retirement

Lt. Zylstra is in the process of completing the retirement process with HR.

Officer Task Book

Work continues on an officer task book. Many questions were brought up including:

- Does the book need to be completed before a promotion or to act?
- Will there be ample officer training opportunities?
- Will classes be required before receiving the task book?
- Is there a timeline to complete the task book?
- Will the task book be utilized for promotions?

More discussion and multiple reviews are expected during the development of the task book.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 5, 2021