

Minutes

Workshop April 9, 2014 - Chief's Goals

Workshop called to order by Vice-chair Jerry Kolke at 2:00.

Present: Commissioners Larry Bartel, David Town, Bob Johnson, Jerry Kolke. Chief Dennis Mason. Recording secretary Maureen Groat.

Chief Mason stated that he has provided each Board member with a copy of the list of items brought forward by Commissioner Bartel at the last Board meeting. Commissioner Kolke posed the question of how the list was to be approached; will items be addressed or will there be a smaller number specified to work on for the year? He stated that the entire list seemed like a large amount to cover all at one time. Chief Mason asked for clarification on several of the listed items. Discussion as follows:

Item #3 – Discussion took place regarding the best time to place the RFA issue on a ballot; should November be the target date? After discussion, it was agreed upon and recommended that a date prior to July, 2015 should be a goal date. Other items being placed on the ballot should be considered due to the costs involved when running an election.

Item #7 - Projected staffing at all stations including 151 was discussed. Chief Mason clarified that staffing at Station 151 is low priority. Staffing at 151 should at least be on a 5 year timeline. Chief Mason will develop a staffing plan with a timeline attached.

Item #9 – The topic of producing and distributing a newsletter was discussed. Commissioner Bartel stated he feels a newsletter is well received by older citizens. Chief Mason responded that he does not feel that the hours and efforts put into producing a newsletter is a worthy use of tax dollars. He responded that Chief Dawdy continues to get information out through FaceBook. Chief Mason sends out a monthly report to the members of the department and makes it available to citizens entering Station 21. It was recommended that Chief Mason's report be placed on the web-site along with Chief Dawdy's continued posting of events on FaceBook. The majority of the Board agreed that written communications are outdated and the best way to get information out to our citizens is through social media.

Item #14 – Rebuilding the Part-time program was discussed. Chief Mason stated that we have the part-time program to supplement the full-time staff. Through the consolidation of departments and ability to hire more full-time staff, the need for a large part-time pool has lessened. Chief Mason stated that you cannot replace the skills of a career Firefighter, who is on shift on a consistent basis with a part-time person, who works on a less regular schedule. It was agreed that this item is probably operational and should be removed from the list.

Item #15 – Secure ambulance transport program – This issue has been completed.

Item #16 - It was suggested that Chief Mason complete 20 hours of continuing education hours focused on leadership each year. Chief Mason stated that every 3 years he is required to re-certify to stay current with his Chief Fire Officer certification. He questioned whether the requirements for his re-certification would satisfy the continuing education? He will submit the re-certification requirements to the Board for review.

Item #1 – Make contact with the Cowlitz Tribe in reference to a contract. It was advised that contact be made with the Cowlitz Tribe to make sure they know we are ready to work with them when the time comes. Communications and agreements made in the past have been voided. It is important that we be the best option for them.

Item #4 – Complete deployment/response time goals. Chief Mason stated a standard of cover was done once – it is in the process of being re-done at this time.

Items #6 and #8 – Produce a plan to re-establish Public Education Plan per Strategic Plan and Plan to get ourselves back in the elementary schools with messages – Bartel stated these two items go hand in hand. He would like to see a plan to re-establish a Pub Ed program. Chief Mason stated that our engine crews are participating in programs within the schools – Reading and Flash programs are examples. Chief Dawdy stated that education takes money and people. Dawdy would like to see safety seat and smoke detector education being addressed. Chief Mason will develop a timeline and plan to get programs implemented as we are able to do so. Bartel stated he would like to see a presence at the city council meetings. Chief Mason responded that he has addressed this issue.

Item #11 – Identify funding source/plan for all Fire Grant employees. Commissioner Bartel stated that he would like to see a plan put in place to ensure that when employees hired through grant funds and grant periods expire, we are able to keep them employed. He stated it is important to plan ahead. Chief Mason responded he can project, but there are no guarantees. He stressed the past history of our ability to fund positions through very difficult financial times. He agreed with Bartel, and while there is only so much you can plan for with unknown revenues he does believe a developing a plan will send a positive message. Based on current trends things are looking good now.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that workshops be scheduled regularly.

Chief Mason will take suggestions and revise items discussed.

Workshop adjourned at 3:00 PM.