

CITY OF LYNDEN

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve Taylor, Police Chief

(360) 354-2828



Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Online (Microsoft Teams)

4:00 PM December 03, 2020

Call to Order

Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Korthuis and Councilors Mark Wohlrab, Brent Lenssen and Gerald Kuiken.

Staff present: Chief Mark Billmire, Chief Steve Taylor, Assistant Chief Tom Hatley, Lieutenant Jeremy Bos, Support Services Manager Holly Vega.

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of October meeting minutes

The minutes from the October 2, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Approval of November meeting minutes

The minutes from the November 5, 2020 meeting were approved.

Items from the Audience

None

Unscheduled (20 Minutes)

None

Committee Items

3. Public distribution of Lynden COVID testing results

The COVID testing of sewage samples is occurring 3 times per week currently. Mayor Korthuis noted that if there are 3-4 high readings in a row trending up, that information should be publicized to the community through the Lynden Tribune, Chamber of Commerce and Lynden WATCH.

4. Lynden WATCH Update

The Facebook page had 26,000 hits in November and continues to grow approximately 5% each month.

5. Public Safety Overtime - October 2020

Fire Dept overtime was at 360 hours for October, but down to 190 in November with 379 volunteer hours. Police Dept overtime was 107 hours in October. November will be significantly higher as there were 3 holidays to account for.

Fire Department Items

6. Assistant Fire Chief replacement process

Chief Billmire has been working with Mike Martin and Kara Turner to review the job description and position opening. The announcement has been posted with applications due by 12/28/20, online interviews on 1/5/21 and in person interviews on 1/18/21. Chief Billmire hopes to have the position filled by the end of February to beginning of March. Councilor Lenssen expressed some concern with the aggressive timeline and suggested a date of 4/1/21 to fill the position.

7. Fire Monthly Report - November 2020

Call volume was down slightly, average response time was under 4 minutes. There were 5 responses to possible COVID cases, and 205 training hours. There was a structure fire in which mutual aid responded as one of our units was already out on a call.

The first ever East County Recruit Academy took place with great success. Assistant Chief Hatley shared some of the highlights including a 98% graduation rate, a valuable bond between the recruits, and also reduced cost from \$1200-\$1600/student to about \$500. Lynden had 3 recruits in the program and gained 1 more from another district; 2 of the 4 already have their EMT certification and will be ready to go.

Police Department Items

8. Police Monthly Report - November 2020

Chief Taylor presented the monthly report noting an uptick in domestic violence calls, probably related to COVID stress/fatigue. There was an incident involving a transient subject trespassing on the NWWF grounds who assaulted officers during the struggle to detain him. Several officers sustained minor injuries including bite wounds, and the subject was arrested on felony charges, still currently in custody.

Added Items

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.