



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the April 21, 2021, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), and Josh Hamilton

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke, Deputy Chief Jon Parkinson, Chief Bud Backer

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Bitetto

I) Monthly Activity Reports – Fire, Deputy Chief Parkinson

No monthly stat report. Implementation of new RMS creating a different reporting style that does not align with previous methodology for reporting activity by city. E113 and Ladder truck both based out of Sumner continue to bust the busies apparatus for call responses. Also discussed the uptick of wildland fires in the region, causes some concern this early in the year.

II) Monthly Activity Reports – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for March. Activity for March was fairly consistent with January. Chief Moericke also shared with the committee a report from 1-1-21 to 3-31-21 that showed 50 calls for service involving homeless persons. The bulk of these were either unwanted person, suspicious person, welfare checks, or homeless encampment security checks. This will be a broader topic for discussion with the full council on April 26.

III) Department Updates - Both

Fire: Covid update, increased vaccination opportunities for the public. EPFR has participated in several clinics. About 70% of EPFR staff are now fully vaccinated and no current COVID cases reported. The 9 recruit firefighters graduated the fire academy and starting post academy training, they should be deployed in June. Started recruiting for a Fall Class of 9 paramedic/firefighters. This will provide additional medics to Milton and Tehaleh with the increase in ESM levy.

Bond projects update:

- a. 2 engines at final build
- b. Ladder training in progress
- c. Sta 118 moved out to Milton
- d. Sta 111 still working through permits

The Board vacancy announced last month has been filled by Cynthia Wernet just last night. Cynthia is a resident of Edgewood. Strategic Plan in progress, Jason Wilson has been providing input for the City of Sumner. Deputy Chief recruitment is in the final phases and 3 finalists will be interviewed next week by Chief Parkinson and Chief Backer. They still expect to have the replacement on board by July 1. Chief Backer will be retiring in mid-June and it is anticipated that DC Parkinson will be sworn in as the new Chief at the May commissioners meeting.

Fire and EMS levies:

- Board approved two resolutions last night for the August ballot
 - EMS Levy renewal
 - 10 years at 1% per year cap
 - Fire Levy lid-lift
 - 4 year lid lift up to 6% per year

These levies are needed to continue to provide the staffing needs of the district.

The Board of Commissioners also approved the new ILA with the City of Sumner.

Police: Chief Moericke updated the committee on current staffing issues, including the release of two probationary police officers, light duty and absences, and a recent animal attack to a long-time METRO volunteer.

IV) Body Worn Cameras Resolution

Chief Moericke introduced Resolution 1582 which, if approved, would provide council authorization for members of the Sumner Police Department to use body worn camera technology in the performance of their duties. It also allows the Chief to develop the necessary policies governing their use with community input, and authorizes the chief to proceed with the procurement process. This resolution follows the recommendations outlined in RCW 10.109. Chief Moericke explained that the department has the opportunity to participate in a 4-week body camera field trial with Axon and will need council's authorization not only to use the cameras, but also authority to develop the necessary policies. The trial period is targeted for June of this year. The committee gave the Resolution a "Do Pass" for presentation at the May 3rd RCM.

Chief Moericke also briefed the committee on the Axon Core + Plan. This program combines the Axon Body Cam3 and the Axon Taser 7 in a single plan. We currently purchase our Taser conducted electrical weapons out right and then replace them as needed or after their useful life. A recent assessment determined that 7 older Taser models currently need replacing. Chief Moericke explained that this Core + bundle package plan may be a better option than the body cam only program offered by Axon. The committee was favorable of this program.

V) Good of the order: None

VI) Adjourn – Meeting adjourned by the Chair at 5:51

Next meeting will be May 19, 2021 via Zoom.