



**Sumner City Council
Public Safety Committee
Minutes of the June 16, 2021, Meeting**

Members present: Barbara Bitetto (Chair), Curt Brown, and Patrick Reed

Staff present: Chief Brad Moericke and Chief Jon Parkinson

Others present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chair Bitetto

I) Monthly Activity Reports – Fire, Chief Parkinson

Year over year overall call increase remains high which is expected due to call volume reductions in 2020 due to Covid.

II) Monthly Activity Reports – Police, Chief Moericke

Chief Moericke provided the committee with police the activity report for May. Activity for May was down slightly from prior months. We are still down two patrol officers, one Officer was off most of May and we had a lot of absences due to training and vacations.

III) Department Updates - Both

Fire: There will be a retirement celebration for Bud Backer this Friday, June 18th at 10 am at EPFR Headquarters. It is anticipated that commission board meetings are expected to return to in-person meetings starting in July.

EPFR hosted a large town hall/media event with Congresswomen Schrier and Strickland. The topic was wildland urban interface (WUI) and what homeowners can do to protect themselves. The event was received very well in the community.

Groundbreaking for the new station 118 in Edgewood was on June 15th. Also discussed the July 1 transition of fire plan reviews and construction inspections in Sumner and Bonney Lake. Staff has been working with all of our policing agencies (Bonney Lake, Sumner, Milton, and Pierce County) regarding changes in police protocols. Changes in State law have impacted both police and fire as it relates to drug usage and use of force. The long-term impacts are still unknown, but our units are already seeing significant changes in the field. Thanks to Chief Moericke for his involvement in these meetings.

Police: Chief Moericke updated the committee on current staffing including the recruitment and outcome for the Deputy Chief replacement, background of a lateral police officer from Florida, and today's interviews for Animal Control Officer. ACO Kiel has given notice that June 30th will be her last day. ACO Supervisor Thawsh is still out on medical until July 19th so we will be operating with one ACO for all seven cities for a few weeks.

IV) Body Worn Cameras Update

Chief Moericke gave the committee a brief update on the status of the BWC program. The BWC policy was posted to a dedicated Sumner Connects page and invited public input on April 28th. Public input on the BWC policy was also solicited on social media and newsletters. So far, there has been no public comment or input.

The department conducted a free “field trial” of Axon BWC May 10th to June 7th. Four officers wore a BWC during the performance of their duties and generated 60+ video files. Staff also had the opportunity to try the redaction features Axon offers. The video quality was extremely good both at night and daylight. Feedback from officers was positive.

Chief Moericke also briefed the committee on the Axon Core + Plan. This program combines the Axon Body Cam 3 and the Axon Taser 7 in a single plan for a monthly fee of \$159 per month, per officer. 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 12 out of 20 tasers were purchased in 2015 or earlier. 7 of the older Taser models have defective LED displays and 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 5:48

Next meeting will be July 21, 2021, either in-person or via Zoom TBA.