

**MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, 1/10/12, 4:15 P.M.**

Board Members Present: Dave Thomason, Bonnie LaForest, Ethelinda Larcena, Barb Buchanan, Cathy Niiro, Lauren Nelson, Gene Barner
Not Present: Jo Balda, Beth Connors
Dept. Staff Present: Chief Rick Wallace, Martha Folsom

The meeting was called to order by Thomason at 4:17 p.m. in the Police Department Conference Room.

AGENDA TOPICS

1. **November Minutes:** No discussion. Buchanan moved to approve the September minutes, LaForest seconded. Unanimous approval. The November minutes were approved as presented.
2. **Pertinent Updates:** Chief Wallace said that we have been getting hit hard with burglaries, and the County hit harder. We have been working hard with the County detectives and are making good progress. Sgt. Jerry Baker will be retiring on February 1st, after 30 years of service. ID Tech Reneé Mueller will retire January 31st, with over 28 years of service. We are going to miss them both. He said that we were down one Patrol position for all of 2011, and we hope to soon move the person in the jail back to Patrol and will be in the process of hiring a Corrections Officer to fill that position. We are looking at doing a Lateral (experienced) process hiring. We have to wait for Sgt. Baker to actually retire to go through the process of requesting a promotion process for the Sgt. position, which will then leave another patrol vacancy to be filled. Reneé Mueller's position is a civilian position, and there may be some interest internally for that position. We will look at that and go from there.

Chief Wallace mentioned that we are moving slowly but surely toward filling the High School Resource Officer (HSRO) position. It will not be an internal position, but a transfer of duties for an existing person. We are ending the Motor Officer position and adding the HSRO, and there will be an internal application process to fill that. LaForest asked how things have been with no HSRO, and some discussion was held. Chief Wallace said the real difference has to do with what we actually know as far as what is happening in the school. When we are on the "outside", we have to rely on information from the teachers, administration and deans. When we have a HSRO in place, he/she builds relationships with the students and we feel like we have an idea of what is really happening. Discussion was held on drugs in the High School.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. **Problems at Skagit Valley College:** Nelson said that she is attending Running Start at the college and she heard that, during Winter Break, there were some problems there. One was a vandalism case and another was about a man walking around looking at the women exercising in the Fitness Lab. She said the campus was shut down – that people had to call Security to get in - and she asked Chief Wallace if he had any information. Chief Wallace said it did not ring a bell and he would have to find out.
2. **Cold Weather and the Homeless:** Barner asked if there was any plan in place for the homeless population during cold weather. Chief Wallace said that if this occurs, we will open up a couple different areas – the BBQ houses at City Beach – and our officers will try to let them know that this is available. The Senior Center has also been opened up in the past. If there were an extended cold spell, our efforts could be increased. Churches have offered to open up also, if necessary. There is no homeless shelter in place here. LaForest said that the Red Cross used to open up one of the schools, but she didn't know if that plan was still in place.

Adjourn: Buchanan motioned to adjourn; LaForest seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. on 1/10/12.

The next CAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3/13/2012 in the OHPD Conference Room.
Prepared by M. Folsom