

PUBLIC SAFETY STANDING COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting
Oak Harbor Fire Department
September 16, 2010

ATTENDANCE

The meeting began at 7:00 a.m., with the following in attendance: Council Members Severns, Munns, and Dudley, Mayor Slowik, and City Administrator Schmidt

Staff present: Police Chief R. Wallace, Fire Chief M. Soptich, Battalion Chief R. Merrill, Lt. Sterkel, and Administrative Assistant R. Velasquez-Fire Department

PUBLIC COMMENT

None present for comment

REVIEW OF JULY 15, 2010 MEETING NOTES

No questions or comments

POLICE

Jail Contract – Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) Update

Chief Wallace reported this item has come before the committee 3 times. The state is forwarding the signed contract; this may be on the September 21 council agenda. There are no contract changes regarding principle matter.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Dudley asked if the issue of reimbursement or direct billing for medical and pharmaceuticals was resolved. Yes, a local pharmacy agreed to provide the same discount to the city jail for inmates. DOC is providing an average of 2 prisoners daily. Revenue through August 2010 is estimated at \$22,000.

Jail Contract – San Juan County (SJC) Update

Chief Wallace reported SJC resolved matters on contract language. Talks resumed thanks to Tim Sterkel and Bill Hawkins.

Committee Discussion

No discussion

Prescription Drug Take Back Day - Information

On Saturday, September 25 from 10 am – 2 pm, in a national effort with DEA, law enforcement agencies will host a "take-back" program where unused, unwanted and expired prescription drugs and over-the-counter medicine can be dropped off at designated sites for safe disposal in secured lock boxes.

FIRE

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agreement with Whidbey General Hospital (WGH)

Chief Soptich reported the EMS agreement, effective January 1, 2009-December 31, 2010, was sent to WGH. The agreement reimburses fire, in part, for pre-hospital emergency medical responses.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Severns asked if there was a past agreement. Yes, the last agreement was for 5 years: January 1, 2004-January 1, 2009. The agreement is retroactive, however, it was thought to have expired January 1, 2011; the agreement expired January 1, 2010. Rates did not change in the current EMS agreement [01.01.2009 – 12.31.10]. The agreement will come before council in October. A new agreement will be negotiated to take effect January 1, 2011.

State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) Update

Chief Soptich reported the fire department is the recipient of the SHSGP Grant for \$27,270 in approved equipment. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) awards the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) to states to prepare for, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks and other major disasters.

Committee Discussion

No discussion

Recent Incidents

Chief Soptich reported on the recent motor vehicle collision with fatalities that occurred north of Oak Harbor. The fire department set up landing zones for helicopters. This was the first time some responders witnessed a fatality. An incident debriefing was held for responders.

Committee Discussion

Ms. Munns asked if there is written policy stating debriefings are to be conducted within 24 hours. No, most departments try to conduct debriefings right away. In addition, there was another incident that involved an officer's child. Our people are our greatest asset and we want to be there for them if they need us. Chief Wallace said the police department, other organizations, and the family's church are providing assistance.

Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 3-9, 2010

Chief Soptich reported there will be a proclamation for National FPW at the September 21 council meeting. This year, NFPA's official theme is "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!"

Committee Discussion

Mr. Dudley asked about a future agenda; What changes are anticipated from the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) Amendments? Chief Soptich said one change addresses radio infrastructure and inadequate emergency radio coverage within a building; for example, dead zones in the high school. Battalion Chief Merrill said some of the changes apply to sprinkler systems to Group R Occupancies; gas detection systems; carbon monoxide detectors; fueling stations; and storage, use and handling of hazardous materials [haz mat]. Discussion followed.

Military Appreciation Picnic - Information

Chief Soptich reported approximately 140 bicycle helmets were distributed to children during the picnic. Mr. Dudley asked if more helmets could have been given out and if there was a demand for them. Yes, more helmets could have been given; however, the department ran out of helmets due to back order. Mayor thanked fire and police for their efforts and making the event special. Especially, the 2 ladder trucks holding up the U.S. Flag; a great visual of cooperation between military and community. Mayor congratulated Beth Munns for chairing the event and making it great. Ms. Munns thanked fire, especially Battalion Chief Merrill, for getting generators there on time.

Full Scale Exercise, September 20 - Information

Chief Soptich reported the full scale exercise is scheduled for 6 pm, Monday, September 20. WGH is the host agency. The exercise is a simulated explosion at Keystone Ferry. Fire will assist with set up Monday morning and participate in the exercise later in the evening. Mr. Dudley asked about the mobile command. The back of Command 8 serves as mobile command. Fire hopes to obtain a bus for mobile command which would be available to other agencies through mutual aid.

FEMA Earthquake Emergency Management - Information

Chief Soptich reported 5 applications were submitted to attend FEMA: Earthquake Emergency Management Course. It is a cost effective course, \$18 daily. Applicants are Chief Soptich, Lt Anderson, Lt Dyer, Public Works Operations Managers Tyhuis and Bebee. Notification is forthcoming on whether or not they are accepted for the course.

NEXT MEETING: October 21, 2010

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:31 am