

South Bay Fire Department – Citizen's Advisory Team Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2016

Underlines indicate action items (no items)

List of Attendees: Todd Eckstein, Cora Morley Eklund, Susan Goff, Ray Harry, Uta Harry, Victor Karpovich, Richard Kisler, Bill Pedersen, Camille Pedersen, Sandra Parker, Marie Potter, Tom Thayer, Cynthia Walker, Commissioner Engle and Chief VanCamp.

I. Call to order.

Camille Pedersen opened the meeting of the Citizens Advisory Team at 6:07 PM on 10 March, 2016 at South Bay Fire Department, Station 81.

1) Open issues

- a) Camille started the meeting with introductions and then provided some highlights from the last 4 months of Fire District board meetings. These include the board applying for an ambulance license with the health department, the board approving a budget, a brief discussion of current staffing levels and how they compare to other departments and how SBFDF is proportional to other districts. She gave a brief update of discussions and decisions which have occurred at Board meetings since the last CAT meeting.
- b) Camille also discussed how our district gets more money from taxes proportional to size due to the high value of waterfront properties and how this funding enables us to staff our departments well compared to some of the other districts.

2) New business

- a) Chief VanCamp then discussed some of the budgetary efficiencies that they've seen since the merger. The district compared the separate expenses from 2013 and 2014 to the 2015 combined year. Chief VanCamp said that some of the savings may not yet be realized, but the costs were 4% lower overall last year. Most of that saving was in administration, but there was also a savings of 20% in overhead costs. They also increased from 9 to 11 career firefighters during the same time period. The Chief also mentioned that equipment costs went up due to maintenance and purchases, but that was somewhat offset by the facility costs which were down 25%.

- b) Chief VanCamp then discussed staffing levels and the fact that there were 3 x full time firefighters available at the station during the daytime. He also said that there were 11 candidates currently enrolled in the Fire or EMT programs. One of the CAT members asked if there was any way that we could help with recruiting, and the Chief stated that he welcomes the interaction and feedback that he's received thus far.
- c) Chief VanCamp also discussed the different types of fire engines that they currently utilize at the different stations. There was also some discussion on how the SBFD board has considered purchasing another smaller engine truck. The smaller truck would give the department greater access to certain properties that have narrower driveways or tight corners that couldn't be negotiated with some of their larger trucks. Chief VanCamp stated that he might list the dimensions for the two different trucks and their turning radii and seek the public's feedback in the next newsletter.
- d) Chief VanCamp briefly discussed their search for a new sign for the North Olympia Station. They've received a bid for \$20K, but are looking for other options due to the high cost.
- e) Camille then handed out copies of the SBFD 2016 Budget and a flyer on FD responses to medical calls. The flyer generated a number of discussions on the differences between EMTs and Firefighters as well as different types of response situations and when it was okay to self-transport to the hospital, etc.

3. Next meeting is on the 9th of June at 6:00pm.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Todd Eckstein

Minutes approved by: Camille Pedersen