



TUALATIN VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS &
WEST LINN CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015
WEST LINN POLICE DEPARTMENT
1800 8TH AVENUE, WEST LINN, OREGON

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Clark Balfour, Brian Clopton, Gordon Hovies, Randy Lauer
Absent: Robert Wyffels

City Council Members: Russ Axelrod, John Kovash, Brenda Perry, Jenni Tan
Absent: Thomas Frank

Others present: Bob Blackmore (Attorney), Stacey Dukes, Mike Duyck, Debra Guzman, Mark Havener, Dustin Morrow, Brian Sherrard – TVF&R; Chris Jordan, Tim Ramis (Attorney); Bill Barger, Anne Fiola, LA Linker, Alice Richmond, Daniel Vasquez – Citizens

DISCUSSION

DEPLOYMENT EXPANSION

Deputy Chief Dustin Morrow relayed that the District is moving forward with extensive local option levy development, which is meant to address current and anticipated demands. It is focused on the entire District, but targeted towards Board response parameters. Considerations include distribution, concentration, and reliability. The evaluations resulted in the identification of 7-8 new sites, two of which are directly associated with West Linn. The expansion will include 18 additional firefighters, and two new pieces of equipment. Chief Havener relayed that staff is in the process of evaluating two sites for Station 55 in West Linn; the sites are located on Hidden Springs Road and Wisteria Lane. He noted that the Planning Staff at City of West Linn had been very helpful with the process.

Councilor Axelrod asked about the status of Rosemont. Chief Havener responded that the building was demolished and the site has been cleared and leveled, with the exception of a pole barn. He noted that the parcel is not the correct size and shape for an appropriately sized fire station.

AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

Chief Morrow shared that staff is working on a proposal for a motorcycle unit. The purpose is to have the right size resource for the call type.

Chief Morrow relayed that the District recently entered into a partnership with American Medical Response to assist with ambulance transports in Clackamas County. The medic unit placed in West Linn services the District needs, as well as assists with transport services, and has proved to be successful.

Mayor Kovash asked about the purpose of the motorcycle unit. Chief Morrow responded that the purpose includes early intervention and notification, and handling areas of high

congestion; the goal is to impact the Board adopted response parameters. City Manager Jordan asked if the unit would be used on congested highways to reach an accident. Chief Morrow confirmed. Mayor Kovash asked if this is a new concept, and if any company creates an equipment package. Chief Morrow responded that the model is extensively used overseas, and they have prepackaged motorcycles; there is no off the shelf package here. Councilor Tan asked if this would be the first in the nation. Chief Morrow responded that other organizations are using motorcycles, but mainly as event based motorcycles.

STAFFORD BASIN

Chief Duyck relayed that the District conducts planning for issues such as population growth, transportation changes, etc. As of today, the District serves all of Stafford Basin and the District has an interest in continuing to serve the area; with the urban renewal reserves process, the area may not stay within the same jurisdiction. The District would like to hear the plans for the area. The area was included in the local option levy process, and the District has built it into the plan to continue serving the area. Mayor Kovash noted that the process and conversations are ongoing, and he appreciated the reminder that the District is interested.

FIREWISE COMMUNITIES

Division Chief Brian Sherrard shared that the District participated in a project with the Barrington Heights Neighborhood Association and other agencies, regarding a hillside that had been identified as an at-risk area for wildfire. The Firewise Community Program has resources to educate residents on protecting their homes from wildfire. Staff worked with the neighborhood association, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on the program. The group provided residents with input on making their homes safer, completed mitigation work, and created a fire break between the community and the majority of the timber located on the land. An agreement was signed between ODOT and the neighborhood association that will allow maintenance of the fire break moving forward.

Councilor Axelrod commented that there are many narrow ravines between homes, and it may be worth coming up with a program to educate residents on mitigation. Chief Sherrard responded that there is literature available to teach residents about defensible space, and staff is willing to do presentations. Chief Morrow added that new data has driven the conversation about renewing the wildfire protection plan for the District.

ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Chief Duyck thanked the city for being a great partner. He complimented the police department for their response assistance and lifesaving work. He noted that several cardiac arrest saves in the past year have been in West Linn, and are a direct result of the collaboration with the police department and city staff.

Councilor Perry shared that she is the liaison to the Public Safety Advisory Board. The group recently discussed disaster preparedness, and wants to develop a program to raise awareness and promote preparedness. Chief Morrow noted that the District has an Emergency Manager, and would be happy to renew those efforts between the District and the City. He agreed that it is important for individuals in the community, city staff, and the District to be self-reliant.

Councilor Axelrod added that the discussion and dialogue is starting at the neighborhood associations.

Chief Morrow shared that there are communities within the District that have a Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). He encouraged city staff to take some of the fundamental steps, such as an emergency operations plan for the city and Map Your Neighborhood, prior to launching a CERT. Chief Duyck noted that CERT programs can require a lot of resources. Chief Sherrard shared that District and City staff have worked together to produce an annual Emergency Preparedness Fair, during which many organizations are brought together; a date has not been selected yet.

Mayor Kovash asked if there is information on the sequence to follow. Chief Morrow responded that he would connect him with the District's Emergency Manager, Jeff Rubin. Mayor Kovash commented that public relations on disaster preparedness would likely be welcome by the community.

City Manager Jordan asked about the property that is outside the city and urban growth boundary. Chief Duyck responded that staff is navigating the statutory issue now, and working with legal counsel to understand all the issues prior to finalizing a purchase. Councilor Axelrod noted that one of the properties has a house located in the middle of it. Chief Duyck responded that staff is aware that removal of existing structures and modifications may be involved. Chief Morrow explained that the District can identify the ideal station location by looking at retrospective data. He reiterated that staff is looking at two pieces of property because they are aware of the issues raised by City Manager Jordan.

Councilor Perry asked about the location and number of motorcycles. Chief Morrow responded that the District will start with one, and shift it across the District to determine the best performance.

On behalf of the City, Mayor Kovash thanked the District for their work, and commented on their sterling reputation and effectiveness.

Approved this 17th day of March, 2015.


Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes recorded and prepared by Stacey Dukes