

Minutes: Community Advisory Committee, March 8, 2021

Minutes: The minutes for January 13, 2020 and for January 11, 2021 were approved.

2021 AFG Grants: The RFA applied for four grants at the same time this year. As of this meeting we don't know the results of any of the grants yet. The grants included: \$178,000 for five sets of extrication tools to be shared by the RFA, FD#6 and FD#3; \$685,00 Safer Grant to hire two firefighter paramedics to support the four-platoon shift schedule; \$435,000 AFG vehicles grant; and \$178,000 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant for a Smart Safety Training Trailer.

Tahuya Sign: The new LED sign has been installed and hooked up to the internet. The Tahuya Community Club paid for the sign, the RFA installed it and TCC and the RFA are cooperating to determine how emergency messages and community announcements will be made.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic: In cooperation with other agencies, the RFA continues to provide key support to the weekly vaccination clinic in Belfair. Prevention Specialist Newman is working on a fire prevention message to share with people while they are waiting in line for vaccinations.

Four-Platoon Shift Schedule: The Firefighters' union came up with the idea to change the shift schedule from 48 hours on/96 hours off, to a schedule that adds another shift with a different hourly framework: 1 day on, 1 day off, 1 day on, and 4 days off. The 48 hour shift is a long time to be away from family, and is very challenging especially if the two days in a row have very tough calls. The change will require the addition of two new paramedics. The revised schedule will add to firefighter wellness, will allow for additional promotions, and will enhance recruitment. Larger cities already embraced such schedules.

Paramedic Hiring Process: The process for hiring new paramedics is going well, with one hired so far.

Headquarters Station Update: The RFA has received its Special Use Permit. We have our general permit package submitted as of January 19 and this process may take 90 days. Almost 90% of the design phase has been completed.

CAC Meeting Schedule: Those members present at the March CAC meeting decided to go to a quarterly meeting format for the CAC. We will have a meeting each quarter (the second Monday in January, April, July and October). We will call additional meetings if needed. The first meeting of the new schedule will be April 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm and it will be a Zoom meeting.