

November 27, 2017



Fire Chief's Report

FF hiring process –

Oral Boards – Nov 16th 40% NTN written, 60% oral boards, bonus points for internal candidates
Chief's interview – Nov 22nd, top 5 candidates
Background checks on top 5 – Start Nov 17th
Medical and Psych evaluations - December
Job offers – Dec 18th
Anticipated start date – January 8, 2018

We held the oral boards and chief's interview last week. Both went extremely well. I want to thank everyone who participated, Capt Allen, the evaluators, and especially Ms. Rayma Haas, our citizen representative on the oral board. We have made conditional offers to the top three candidates:

1. Neil Carlson
2. Greg McIntosh
3. Helena Wolfe

Northwest Incident Support changes in leadership – Julie Boyer is now the Director for the Incident Support group. Joel Johnson was the interim director in place of Dean Jenkins. Joel will be taking over for Ralph Fry who is retiring as the Exec Dir for Hope Unlimited. We have had some minor issues in getting coverage when Support 1-4 Chaplain is not available which Julie is trying to help us out with.

Community Paramedic program – There was a LTE in the SCNews last week expressing opposition to our Community Paramedic program. There were some half-truths and even some statements that I feel were completely misleading. As you have heard in the past we have an individual who is implying that we took a paramedic off line and did not replace the position, our response times are suffering because of that, and people are going to die. A completely false and irresponsible statement. The paper is publishing another LTE this week with the same intent, i.e., to stop our community paramedic program, and the editor asked if I wanted to put anything in as well. I only had a few minutes to respond this morning to make this weeks' issue. Jim and I will be getting the truth out about our program.

Staffing model proposed by Union – We have to renegotiate the second part time FF position with the Union otherwise it will expire at the end of December. The Union has requested that we look at hiring a total of three firefighters, two of which would be covered by the SAFER grant, and to place one on each shift. I would be in favor of this with the agreement by the Union that the Board can decide whether or not to continue the positions once the grant funding expires.

Temporary housing available from the School District – We have talked about the various ways in which we can improve our response times on the south end. Right now we rely primarily on a response from Station 2 with a

volunteer apparatus arriving first about 15% of the time. With our improvement to staffing we will be able to occasionally staff Station 1-5 during the day. The best response times will of course be if we staff that station 24/7. Since we have no living quarters we can't do that at this time. One alternative that we have discussed in the past is to place temporary housing beside the station. This could be used for career or volunteer firefighters. The School District has surplused the portable buildings from the high school and this could be an options for us. We would be responsible for moving the structure as well as any refurbishment costs. I do not know what they will go for or what our costs might be.