



City of Fort Bragg

416 N Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Phone: (707) 961-2823
Fax: (707) 961-2802

Meeting Agenda Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

3:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

Committee Members are reminded that pursuant to the Council policy regarding use of electronic devices during public meetings adopted on November 28, 2022, all cell phones are to be turned off and there shall be no electronic communications during the meeting. All e-communications such as texts or emails from members of the public received during a meeting are to be forwarded to the City Clerk after the meeting is adjourned.

ZOOM WEBINAR INVITATION

This meeting is being presented in a hybrid format, both in person at Town Hall and via Zoom.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Dec 18, 2024 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Public Safety Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83147457194>

Or Telephone: +1 669 444 9171, 83147457194# US

To speak during public comment portions of the agenda via zoom, please join the meeting and use the raise hand feature when the Chair or Acting Chair calls for public comment on the item you wish to address. Written public comments may be submitted to Laura Godinez, Administrative Assistant lgodinez@fortbragg.com.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1A. [24-592](#) Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting October 18, 2023.

Attachments: [PSCM 2023-10-18.pdf](#)

- 1B. [24-907](#) Approve Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting March 19, 2024.

Attachments: [Special PSCM 2024-03-19 .pdf](#)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [24-1075](#) Update on Police Department Staffing, Equipment, Training, and Care Response Unit.

Attachments: [Staff Report PD activities in 2024](#)

3B. [24-1076](#) Receive and Accept Report Regarding Earthquake/Tsunami Incident Occurring on December 5, 2024 and City Personnel Response.

Attachments: [Staff Report Earthquake Response](#)

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

4A. **24-1077** Receive Oral Update From Staff on Departmental Activities

ADJOURNMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
)ss.
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO)

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that I am employed by the City of Fort Bragg and that I caused this agenda to be posted in the City Hall notice case on December 13, 2024

Laura Godinez, Administrative Assistant

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOLLOWING AGENDA PACKET

DISTRIBUTION:

- *Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Council/District/Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the lobby of City Hall at 416 N. Franklin Street during normal business hours.*
- *Such documents are also available on the City of Fort Bragg’s website at <http://city.fortbragg.com> subject to staff’s ability to post the documents before the meeting*

ADA NOTICE AND HEARING IMPAIRED PROVISIONS:

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If you need assistance to ensure your full participation, please contact the City Clerk at (707) 961-2823. Notification 48 hours in advance of any need for assistance will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

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Text File

File Number: 24-592

Agenda Date:

Version: 1

Status: Minutes to be Approved

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Committee Minutes

Agenda Number: 1A.

Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting October 18, 2023.



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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

3:00 PM Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street and Via Video Conference

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting Chair Peters opened the meeting at 3:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 2 - Lindy Peters and Jason Godeke

Absent: 1 - Bernie Norvell

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [23-344](#) Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting June 21, 2023.

Moved by Chair Peters and seconded by Council Member Godeke that the minutes be approved as presented.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [23-345](#) Continue Discussion Regarding Skunk Train Whistle and Quiet Zone Implementation

Police Chief Cervenka presented further information regarding the implementation of a "Quiet Zone" and the estimated cost for the changes at five different intersection. The estimated cost to make the adequate changes would be about one million dollars. Other challenges would be working with Caltrans on State Road 1 and and the biggest challenge would be that the City would be financially responsible for the changes to the intersections.

An inspector from the Federal Rail Authority (FRA) has been assigned to inspect the five intersections and he will conduct the on site inspection once Congress passes a permanent budge for their department. The inspector has been in contact with the Skunk Train Management and in his opinion he believes the Skunk Train is misinterpreting the regulation regarding the usage of whistle blowing. The inspector will be following up with the the FRA legal team to further discuss the legal interpretation of the regulation on whistle blowing.

Chair Peters comments regarding the whistle blowing excessively which is the cause and concerns the local residents have. Chief Cervenka mentioned that he has contacted the General

Manager of Skunk Train and was provided the manufacturers information for the whistles that they use for the decibel rating which are at a lower end compared to freight train whistles.

Chair Peters states that until there is further information regarding the legal interpretation on the regulation we will discuss the item further. Chief Cervenka mentioned that the General Manager plans to abide by what the FRA recommends after the legal interpretation is done. Chair Peters closed the agenda item by recommending that Chief Cervenka adds the item back on the agenda once there is an update from the FRA.

3B. [23-346](#) Continue Discussion Regarding Proposed Ordinance for Vacant Property Registration

Code Enforcement Officer George Leinen reintroduced the proposed ordinance and what was changed since the last meeting. He described the changes that the City's attorney suggested making to the ordinance including having the same consideration for both residential and commercial properties. A fee scheduled was also calculated for the ordinance by the City's Finance Department.

Code Enforcement Officer Leinen answered a question that has been brought up by many which was how the ordinance was going to be implemented and his response was that the public will need to be educated and informed by sending out registration packets to property owners.

Chair Peters expressed that the ordinance is solely to register vacant properties within City limits and Code Enforcement Officer Leinen affirmed that it is strictly only for vacant properties. Chair Peters commented that this ordinance will be a great incentive to property owners so that they sell the property to someone who will vacate and lower the housing crisis and bring in money to the City.

Chair Peters recommended to move the agenda item to City Council for further discussion.

Public Comments made by:

Paul Clark

Jenny Shattuck

3C. [23-347](#) Discuss Electrical Bicycles and Other Types of Mobility Devices Speeding on the Coastal Trail

Chief Cervenka began by stating that the Police Department has been spending more time at all points of the trail to gather data regarding speeders on the trail. Chief Cervenka went on to inform that if we were to compare the number of users on the trail versus the number of complaints is skew. There have been very few reports or complaints of people riding poorly on the trail the previous complaints made were regarding the same person who repeatedly went too fast on the trail which was caught and counseled on his behavior.

Chief Cervenka explained the challenges in implementing speed limits on a non roadway. He mentioned different options available to consider in order to prevent any further complaints or incidents involving reckless users. Chair Peters commented on possibly placing additional signage on the trail on the other had Chief Cervenka expressed his concern that unless the sign is related to an enforceable law then a sign should not be added. Chief Cervenka continued to state that an alternative to signage could be painting a short message on the roadway on the trail that would catch the attention of all users. Chief Cervenka will be conducting more research regarding painting on the roadway and will inform the committee at a later date.

Public comment made by:
Jenny Shattuck

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

4A. [23-348](#) Receive Oral Update from Staff on Departmental Activities

Fire Chief Orsi updated the committee on the new fire engine and rescue truck that are still on order. He stated that luckily they are not in dire need of the new vehicles but they were ordered to replace their older vehicles. Chief Orsi commented on a previous agenda item that was discussed in the June committee meeting and will be forwarded to City Council for discussion. He ended by stating that on November 4th the Fire Department will be holding a celebration of life for his father with a procession from Wall Street to the Fire Station.

Police Chief Cervenka began by providing an update on future personnel joining the Department. He briefly commented on attending the COPS WEST Training Event to introduce the Ford Lightning E-Truck to other agencies that attended the same event. Chief Cervenka closed his remarks by reminding the community that there will be a Trunk-or-Treat event at CV Starr Center on Halloween for all the kids that would like to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Peters adjourned the meeting at 4:05 PM.



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Text File

File Number: 24-907

Agenda Date: 8/21/2024

Version: 1

Status: Minutes to be Approved

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Committee Minutes

Agenda Number: 1B.

Approve Minutes of the Special Public Safety Committee Meeting March 19, 2024.



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Meeting Minutes Public Safety Committee

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

4:00 PM

Town Hall, 363 N. Main Street

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting Chair Norvell opened the meeting at 4:01 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: 1 - Bernie Norvell

Absent: 1 - Lindy Peters

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1A. [24-592](#) Approve Minutes of the Public Safety Committee Meeting October 18, 2023.

Chair Norvell requested minutes to be added to next regular meeting when a full committee be present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Public comment heard from Ron White.

3. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

3A. [24-645](#) Receive Input on the Proposed City of Fort Bragg Emergency Operations Plan

Police Chief Cervenka initiated the agenda item by stating that he wanted to recognize Captain O'Neal from the Police Department for taking the initiative on preparing the Emergency Operations Plan for the City of Fort Bragg.

Captain O'Neal introduced the proposed plan as being put together to reflect the City of Fort Bragg needs with guidance from FEMA's CPG-101 format. Captain O'Neal continued with the breakdown of the sections within the plan.

Public Comments made by:
Jacob Patterson
Jenny Shattuck

3B. [24-646](#) Receive Input on the Emergency Operations Center Exercise

Captain O'Neal began by stating that the City has not done an exercise in quite a while. He explained that by conducting this exercise the City will accomplish mainly two things which are: enacting the Emergency Operations Plan, and be in accordance with the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Protocols (HSEEP). Captain O'Neal continued to describe what the exercise will consist of.

Chairman Norvel agreed with Captain O'Neal's explanation of the planned exercise and the benefits of having the exercise conducted.

4. MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE / STAFF

4A. [24-648](#) Receive Oral Update From Staff on Departmental Activities

Fire Chief Orsi gave a brief update on the new vehicles for the Fire Department and new members.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Norvell adjourned the meeting at 4:27 PM.



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Text File

File Number: 24-1075

Agenda Date: 12/18/2024

Version: 1

Status: Business

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 3A.

Update on Police Department Staffing, Equipment, Training, and Care Response Unit.



AGENCY:	Public Safety Committee
MEETING DATE:	December 18, 202
DEPARTMENT:	Police Department
PRESENTED BY:	Neil Cervenka
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ncervenka@fortbragg.com

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

Receive and Accept Update on Police Department Staffing, Equipment, Training, and Care Response Unit.

ANALYSIS:

Staffing has stabilized considerably this year. We currently have 18 funded sworn positions and a 19th sworn position, which is currently frozen (unfunded). The SRO is 70% funded by FBUSD, so the current 18th sworn position costs the general fund 30% of a regular officer position.

Of the 18 sworn positions, 16 are currently filled. One officer graduated the police academy on December 12, 2024 and will be in Field Training until at least March. A recruit is beginning the police academy in January 2025 and will be graduating in June 2025. They are expected to be solo and available to work a regular shift in September 2025, following the mandated Field Training Program.

We currently have two applicants in the background process. One recently graduated a Police Academy and could start the Field Training Program as early as February 2025 if successful in the hiring process. The second applicant will attend the Police Academy in July 2025 if successful in the hiring process.

The police hiring process is regulated by state and federal law, involving an extensive background investigation, medical and psychological testing. Training is regulated by state law. The process is incredibly lengthy and costly. On average, it takes approximately 1.5 years to get a person from application to being a solo officer who can fill a shift. The estimated hiring cost is approximately \$100,000 per officer. This means we have to be selective on hiring and invest a lot of time supporting them through the process.

The police fleet is in great shape with five Ford F-150 Lightning EV patrol trucks in service and a sixth on order. We are also purchasing a Ford Mustang MachE for a second CRU vehicle with funds from the Prop 47 grant. The oldest vehicles in the fleet are two 2016 Ford Explorers, which are assigned to the Chief and Captain.

The EV Fleet is saving tens of thousands of general fund dollars every year due to fuel and maintenance savings.

We have received all new firearms and are in the process of adding red dot sights (RDS) systems to them and conducting transition training with staff. In 2023, we sent three Range

Instructors to Red Dot Instructor school anticipating we would eventually move to RDS systems, which greatly increase accuracy and decrease liability.

The firearms replacement project included new rifles, new duty pistols, and new backup pistols. When the project is complete, every officer and sergeant will have individually assigned rifles equipment with magnifying optics, a duty handgun with RDS, and a compact backup/off-duty handgun with RDS. Currently, officers share rifles, which means they are never precisely sighted in to the individual user. This can present a huge liability issue should they be used in a use of force incident. All transition training is expected to be complete by the end of January with all officer and sergeants being issued their new firearms.

IT has worked out many of the issues involving the in-car computers. Officers and sergeants are now able to do much of their work in the field, greatly increasing efficiency. The next step will be adding Computer Aided Dispatch programs, so Dispatch in Ukiah can send calls and information to officers without the need to call them on the radio or risk missing information.

Earlier in 2024, FBPD changed our contract with Axon. This new contract provided the newest body cameras, unlimited storage of data, Axon TASER 10's, and a community portal to directly upload video and photos, bypassing the City's servers.

The new TASER 10's have greatly increased the opportunity to use Less Lethal Force in Deadly Force situations. Their range is 45 feet and the operator has ten opportunities to create a successful connection.

The Community Portal feature of Evidence.com has created great efficiency and increased our cyber security by no longer requiring officers to obtain video on a USB drive and view it on a City computer. Everything now goes into a cloud and is web-based. Additionally, the District Attorney's Office implemented Axon and our Evidence Technician can "package" all related videos and photos with a case instead of recording everything onto DVD's. This has saved about 20 staff hours per week.

The City implemented Veoci virtual Emergency Operations Center (EOC) software this year as well. We've held several trainings and have implemented it three times already. Twice as an EOC for City staff and community stakeholders. The final time was a virtual Incident Command Center for a missing Juvenile. The system allows the public to send tips directly to the Incident Command with are reviewed immediately and assigned as tasks. Everything is tracked digitally and the entire event can be downloaded later in a single file.

We continue to invest heavily in training. While Peace Officer Standards & Training (POST) has mandated annual training, it only covers the basics. Because we are small agency, patrol officers are tasked with conducting investigations which would be done by specialized units at larger agencies. To ensure the best possible investigations for our community, officers are attending advanced officer training. In 2024, we have sent officers to 43

trainings. Many are online and done here at little to no cost, most others are POST certified and we are either fully or mostly reimbursed for costs.

In 2022, the “Core Course” list was established for all officers. These courses represent training in the most common calls of police service. They are: DUI (Drugs and Alcohol); Crisis Intervention; Collision Investigation; Interview and Interrogation; Radar and Lidar operator. Special Investigator Rafanan is the designated Training Manager and has developed a training plan with training planned as far as 2029. This will ensure FBPD is no longer at risk for being out of compliance with POST training requirements. It also ensures our community has highly trained officers.

Also, Captain O’Neal was accepted into POST Command College, which is a 15-month, futures based, graduate level, leadership course. This highly desirable, very competitive course has only had 1,300 students graduate since it’s inception in the mid-1980’s. Courses such as this are part of FBPD’s succession planning, ensuring many of the staff are well-prepared to step into the next higher role.

The Care Response Unit continues to prove the Fort Bragg Model is successful. Since 2019, arrests of homeless have plummeted 79%. Dozens have been taken to rehab and many have transitioned to permanent housing. The CRU team members continue to expand the services they provide and are dedicated in their mission. This year, we received a Prop 47 grant to hire another Social Services Liaison and expand services outside of Fort Bragg to more of the coast. In November, the Measure B Committee unanimously agreed to fund CRU for two years when the current grant ends, up to \$500,000 total. Between Prop 47 and Measure B, CRU is financially stable into 2027.

CRU also operates the Extreme Weather Shelter (EWS), which is funded with an HHAP grant. The EWS is opened when rain or temperatures under 40 degrees overnight are expected. It serves as an overflow to the Hospitality House and provides an opportunity for CRU to interact with the homeless population and attempt to get them to services to lift them out of homelessness. During the last major storm, 38 people utilized EWS in one night.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept report regarding police department activities in 2024.

NOTIFICATION:

None



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Text File

File Number: 24-1076

Agenda Date: 12/18/2024

Version: 1

Status: Business

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 3B.

Receive and Accept Report Regarding Earthquake/Tsunami Incident Occurring on December 5, 2024 and City Personnel Response.



AGENCY:	Public Safety Committee
MEETING DATE:	December 18, 202
DEPARTMENT:	Police Department
PRESENTED BY:	Neil Cervenka
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ncervenka@fortbragg.com

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

TITLE:

Receive and Accept Report Regarding Earthquake/Tsunami Incident Occurring on December 5, 2024 and City Personnel Response.

ISSUE:

On December 5, 2024, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake occurred off the coast of Mendocino County, which caused a small tsunami.

ANALYSIS:

Timeline of Response:

10:44 a.m.: Earthquake

10:47 a.m.: Officers dispatched to Harbor and Ocean Lake Mobile Home Park.

10:49 a.m.: First Officer arrives in Harbor.

10:55 a.m.: Tsunami Warning issued: First Wave estimate to land at 11:10 a.m. Officers upgrade to "Code Three" to Ocean Lake Mobile Home Park.

10:56 a.m.: Officer begins Hi-Lo evacuations of Noyo Beach. Officer reports Tsunami siren only sounded for "6-8 seconds".

11:01 a.m.: Officer reports Noyo Beach cleared

11:01 a.m.: Officer begins Hi-Lo evacuations of Ocean Lake Mobile Home Park.

11:04 a.m.: All Police Department Administrative staff on the radio prepared to assist with communications.

11:05 a.m.: Officers clear Ocean Lake Mobile Home Park.

11:06 a.m.: Officers begin Hi-Lo evacuations of Pudding Creek Beach and Glass Beach area.

11:10 a.m.: Officer observes first surge land at Pudding Creek Beach estimating approximate height of 2 feet.

11:15 a.m.: City Manager and Emergency Manager on County Operational Call.

11:21 a.m.: Emergency Manager connects with FBUSD and Adventist Health.

11:24 a.m.: VEOCI opened.

After Action Report

VEOCI virtual EOC:

VEOCI should be the first place we all log into after an incident. Even without an EOC activated "The Common Operating Picture" room puts us all in the same space. Every text and check-in from our partners would have been captured in the same space instantly.

AGENDA ITEM NO. XX

Additionally, when Managers and field staff needed tasks expedited they could have been dropped into VEOCI and tasked out to users in the same space.

A staff member should be designated to open VEOCI and begin monitoring immediately. This staff member should at minimum know how to create a Room and invite people to begin an incident.

Many critical users had difficulty logging into VEOCI due to password issues or unfamiliarity. Users should be logging in once a month and checking the "Remember me for 30 days" box to expedite future logins.

Need to add the Harbor camera to the Common Operating Picture dashboard for live views of ocean conditions.

Need to clean up our preset member lists so that critical users and partners get a notification email and on their phone when we open a VEOCI room.

Managers need to practice the Side Room function for restricted group conversations.

Users need to practice using the email address functions of VEOCI to forward emails to the Room instead of too Outlook.

City Staff:

In the first hour following an emergency, the City Manager should find a safe space to direct operations from and collapse their team down to them. The only thing the City Manager should be doing is making decisions and keeping a "1000 foot view".

Twelve different employees between City Hall and Police Department were interviewed following the earthquake. None of them sought cover under their desk. Three reported that they sought cover in a doorway. As a reminder the USGS recommends you "Drop, Cover and Hold on!" The "hold on" portion is especially important for our second floor City Hall staff. If there is a collapse of City Hall, being under their desk represents the best chance to have a breathable space amidst the rubble.

Public Works needs to identify one point-of-contact following an emergency for resource requests. For example, Police Department personnel call one person and that person works on communicating the needs to Public Works personnel (recommended in FEMA ICS).

County:

The County needs to update their Operational Call list or create one single Teams room that is reused.

Successes:

Police Department Professional Staff mobilized quickly to create a Communication Center. Care Repsonse Unit's ability to mobilize for field errands was an amazing resource.

Hospital and FBUSD staff were in VEOCI within an hour. Captain O'Neal was able to host in-person trainings with both organizations on the basics of VEOCI.

Evacuations were timely and organized.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept After Action Report.

NOTIFICATION:

None



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Text File

File Number: 24-1077

Agenda Date: 12/18/2024

Version: 1

Status: Draft

In Control: Public Safety Committee

File Type: Staff Report

Agenda Number: 4A.

Receive Oral Update From Staff on Departmental Activities