



## MINUTES

April 2, 2025

Albany Police Department, Community Room

**Approved 6/04/2025**

### Call to Order

Bessie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

Members present: Adam Brenneman, Erik Rau, Kevin Kreitman, Katie Pleis, Bessie Johnson

Members absent: Nicholas Fowler, Cynthia Greene, Erik Anderson

Staff present: Marcia Harnden, Police Chief; Kevin Vining, Deputy Fire Chief;  
Hillary Kosmicki, Community Paramedic, Rochelle James, Administrative Assistant

The minutes from the meeting were approved.

### Staff Updates

#### **Police Update- Chief Marcia Harnden**

APD is seeing a slight increase in property crimes. Self-initiated calls have dropped due to staffing. The annual crime report for 2024 is available on the city website. Based on a 30-minute reactive and 30-minute proactive window, a workload analysis on our patrol section shows we should have 12 more officers. That is not feasible with the current budget, so we prepared a budget at the status quo with no changes. Depending on revenue from the state, we may be able to ask for three additional officers, two for patrol and one for detective. Although technically fully staffed, APD has seven people out for various reasons and another seven in training. On May 1, 2025, we will hire an experienced Klamath County officer. We have successfully hired four individuals from Marion County Corrections, all of whom are very promising. Violent crime in 2024 has dropped off.

The increase in drug crimes can be attributed to the changes in the law that went into effect in September 2024. In the past, APD did not respond to many of these calls because the activity was not criminally illegal. We are responding to these calls and other livability issue calls in which drug cases are generated. Cocaine numbers are up, and we are seeing a resurgence in use. We are on pace to match our fentanyl overdose calls from 2024. Statewide, the numbers dropped off in 2024 due to a multi-pronged approach. There is an overabundance of Narcan available. Users are using Narcan on each other, decreasing the calls to emergency services. Hospitals are also seeing a slight decrease. Law enforcement is more focused on going after the dealers and on harm reduction and preventative measures. Potential federal funding changes and their possible effects were discussed. Albany is building its budget conservatively, keeping those potential funding changes in mind. The HIDTA budget meeting will be held in May, and the budgetary numbers have been set for 2026. However, it has not been approved by Congress.

We are still struggling to fill dispatcher positions. We have a hiring list to move people into positions.

There was discussion regarding the budget and plans for growth, which would include some reorganization, budgetary shortfalls, and the challenges of addressing those. Since the beginning of the year, there have been 73 drug arrests. Most of those arrests correspond to the areas where most of our calls are from (Walmart, Coastal Farm, Goldfish Farm Rd., Winco, Kohls, Fred Meyer, Heritage Mall). Those drug arrests may evolve from other contacts, such as shoplifting or trespassing.

### **Fire Update- Deputy Chief Kevin Vining**

The total calls for February were 955. The total number of calls for the year is 8084. The average response time for medical calls is 6:57, and for structure fires, it is 6:33. It's anticipated that response times will drop more due to new dispatching software and communications systems. Fire and life safety had 57 evaluations for February. Sick persons, falls, and lift assists are our top three calls for service. Concurrent calls for service data show that almost every time we have one call for service, an additional call occurs. Calls per day of the week remain steady, and there is not a lot of discrepancy between the days. AFD responded to a significant structure fire at 950 Airport Rd. The residential structure was a total loss. There was a 10-year-old boy home at the time and an older sister. The older sister ran back into the structure to save the 10-year-old. We are working on a lifesaving award for her and a 16-year-old neighbor boy who assisted.

The training tower project is moving along. Requests for quotes have been made, and we are on pace to complete it by mid-July or early August.

We are finishing the single-role contracts and moving to 24-hour coverage. Currently, we have three employees trained and working in a single-role capacity. We have hired two more. One has completed their training period, and one is close to completion. We are doing interviews on Wednesday for the sixth single-role position. We currently have six vacancies on the dual-role side, with two people out on injury leave. One should be released to full duty soon. We have a dual-role person in training, three lateral dual-role employees starting their training soon, and one entry-level person. We still have two vacancies.

Deputy Chief Vining introduced Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki as a guest speaker to discuss her role with the department and her involvement in the community.

### **Community Paramedic Hillary Kosmicki-**

Hillary provided background information on her career with the Albany Fire Department and the various positions that she has held. She was designated as the Community Paramedic with the directive to keep people out of the ambulance and emergency room. Community Paramedic Kosmicki described working closely with our local care facilities (assisted living, senior living, memory care, residential care homes). She holds quarterly meetings with all the care facilities to discuss their rules and licensing agreements with the state to continue maintaining their licensing, including performing many of the services for their clients that they may have been calling AFD to assist with (i.e., lift assists, basic evaluations, and meeting the needs of their residents 24-hours a day). Many of the calls from the facilities revolve around non-emergency transport of their residents. Through discussion, AFD's responses to many of these calls can be mitigated.

She discussed meeting with and partnering with other community partners, the two local shelters, APD, and mental health to coordinate responses and ensure all involved parties are on the same page and doing the same thing. These meetings occur once per month. There was a discussion on how this meeting differs from the weekly situation table meetings involving many of these same groups.

Hillary discussed her continued efforts to get all the various outreach, emergency, medical, and mental health services to communicate with each other. She described sharing ideas and strategies for working with the areas that generate the most 911 calls and working towards solutions that best appropriately serve our community members and lessen the impact on all those partners.

She discussed conducting home visits to residents, frequently requesting AFD assistance to ascertain if environmental changes could help lessen the frequency of those calls. Those changes may include needing a walker or cane to prevent falling, suggesting an eye exam, or noticing if the individual is wearing loose or improperly fitting shoes.

Community Paramedic Kosmicki described working with hospice care, primary care doctors, adult and family protective services, and mental health services to support individuals during their physical and mental health journeys. She reviews all cardiac arrest reports and inputs them into a national database. She also reviews any reports of possible elder abuse. The goal was to improve their services and lessen the strain on emergency services.

#### Business from the members

Questions were asked regarding the community paramedic position and working with facilities and community partners in Albany. Discussions followed. Commission members raised additional questions regarding public education surrounding various public safety and emergency services issues in the Albany area, how both are affected by local government planning decisions and state regulations, and how to provide that information on a broader scale, so citizens are well informed when asked to vote on various issues that arise in the community. Ideas for community engagement, public forums, and restrictions were discussed.

The upcoming public safety levy and its effect on the community if it passes or fails was discussed.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, at the Albany Fire Department, Station 11.

#### Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Reviewed by,

Rochelle James  
Administrative Assistant I

Reviewer's Name  
Reviewer's Title

*\*Documents discussed at the meeting that are not in the agenda packet are archived in the record. The documents are available by emailing [cityclerk@cityofalbany.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofalbany.net).*

