



## Exciting Changes for the PS Fire Department

After over 40 years of volunteer service to our community (and 35 years as Fire Chief!), Dick Wilcox announced his retirement from the Pinewood Springs Fire Department last month.

At the same time, Asst. Chief Andrew Lucas learned his new job will include commuting to California. These changes presented the Pinewood Springs Fire Department (PSFD) with an opportunity to elevate some of their best-trained and most experienced personnel up the ladder.

Ted Plank, formerly Captain, will serve as our new Fire Chief, Jess Bologna has been promoted from Lieutenant to Captain, and John Bykerk will serve as the team's newest Lieutenant. Asst. Chief Andy Lucas will remain in his role, with a focus on policy and administration.

"Our goal for transition is business as usual, to continue to provide courteous and professional emergency services to our community", said new Fire Chief Plank, discussing the changes. With over 11 years on the PSFD, Ted is well versed in the responsibilities of the Fire Chief position. "With Ted as Fire Chief we will have a well-groomed, experienced leader at the helm - who is also very accessible and available in the community", stated Asst. Chief Lucas.

Ted Plank and Jess Bologna attended Fire Academy and Wildland Firefighting classes together in 2008. Captain Jess Bologna, who is a Registered Nurse, brings over 9 years of experience and other fire & medical-related certifications to her continued role on the Department. Captain Bologna said, "I enjoy the opportunity to learn new skills and to continue to meet the needs of our community. These changes allow current members of the team to step into new roles with the guidance of senior staff, ensuring a smooth transition for all".

## A million (and more!) thanks to Fire Chief Dick Wilcox

It was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in 1977, and the residents of Pinewood Springs were enjoying a holiday picnic when the call came in... a fire was burning near "split rock" at mile marker 14. Dick Wilcox had just moved into the neighborhood two weeks earlier, and he answered the call with the rest of the newly-formed Fire Department.

Chief Wilcox continued to serve our great community for the last 40 years, with a strong focus on safety and training. "He is always available to lead by example and teach by demonstration", said Ted Plank. As our community has grown, Chief Wilcox encouraged the Fire Department to be more than an emergency response agency, to strive to be a good neighbor and to provide assistance and support as a community service.



Dick will stay involved in the role of advisor and command aid, and will continue to respond to occasional calls during his official "retirement". As he put it, "I feel it is one way I can pay my dues for living in a wonderful place like this".

## Phase 2 of PSFPD Fire Station & Community Center on track

Phase 2, a remodel of the existing Fire Station structure, remains on track for completion in Spring 2018. Temporary operations continue in the new 4-bay garage constructed next door.

