



Sedro-Woolley, Washington
March 13, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedro-Woolley Police Chief Doug Wood announced his retirement today at a department meeting. “My last act of leadership for the department is to retire early to allow the department to restructure,” said Doug Wood at the meeting. The SWPD is understaffed and has been focused on maintaining service as the size of the department decreased during the great recession. By retiring early, the position of lieutenant will become vacant allowing the department to use those resources at the patrol level.

The city council will be considering a proposal at its March 26th meeting to increase staffing at the police department by two additional commissioned officers. The funding for this proposed increase is an increase in the utility tax on city utilities. The combination of savings generated from the early retirement, utility tax increases, if approved by the city council, and other savings from departmental restructuring will allow the city to hire a total of three new patrol officers and one new community support officer who will be tasked with code enforcement and animal control.

Doug Wood began his career in Sedro-Woolley on January 1, 1982 as a police officer. Through his 32 year career, he held virtually all positions in the department including the position of chief. Doug was appointed chief by Mayor Dillon in May of 2005 and before that served as lieutenant for six years and sergeant for six years. “Doug Wood has done an excellent job leading the SWPD, especially through the hard economic times. I have relied on his judgment and want to thank him for a lifetime of service to the people of Sedro-Woolley,” stated Mayor Anderson. Mayor Anderson also stated, “I am going to miss Doug’s good advice on issues beyond the police department; he is a valuable sounding board for the community.”

Another of Doug Wood’s strengths is his focus on preparing the department for the eventual transition to new leadership. “While no one was waiting for Doug to retire, the department is prepared and ready to continue its mission,” City Supervisor Eron Berg stated at the department meeting, “Doug’s decision allows the department the opportunity to restructure today and focus more resources on basic law enforcement at the patrol level. His good management has prepared the department for a smooth and orderly transition.”

Mayor Anderson has asked Doug Wood to return to the department as a provisional or reserve officer to help out in the future. “It is a unique chief who can retire one day and pitch in the next as a patrol officer, but Doug has given his whole professional career to Sedro-Woolley and is willing to help our department with his decision today and in the future.”

For more information, contact Eron Berg at 360-855-9922.

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