



NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Fire Commissioner Special Minutes

March 4th, 2021

12:00 pm

Approved

Call to Order

Chairman Lamont called the meeting to order at 12:03pm Also, in attendance were Commissioner Koorn, Commissioner Goen, Fire Chief Clark, Division Chief Swiger, Division Chief O'Connor, Battalion Chief Lacy, Admin Assistant Falk, Lt. Reinstra, FF/EMT Slothhower, FF/EMT Turner, and Secretary Torgerson.

Future Planning

- Commissioner Lamont would like to have a 5 to 10-year plan made so he can understand what the district needs are. Chief Clark informed the board to the length of the Strategic Plan if that is the route they would like to take. If we start in the next few weeks it won't truly be done until probably January 2022. Currently the advisory committee is reviewing staffing conditions, stations, locations, apparatuses, equipment, and replacements. The committee will be a add on to the strategic plan that would be outsourced. This outside agency would provide 2 to 3 different options the district can use to improve.
- Chief Clark had seen a building that was available that he believed had potential for a fire station. If the building was available to purchase would the board be interested. There would have to be an appraisal done before any thoughts of purchasing. Clark believes it is an opportunity to make a station that would last 40-50 years. The project will cost about \$5 million now and in 5 years it will probably cost about \$7 million for total costs. Commissioner Koorn believes it is a good opportunity as well however before the appraisal he would like to know the 5 miles radius report. He would also like to know if the district needs a commercial use permit for this property.
 - **Policies** - Clark had re wrote the volunteer policy. He believes it is easier for volunteers to reach their quarterly points. He is going to build some room in Station 21, 23, and 27.
 - **Budget** - Commissioner Koorn mentioned that the budget needed to be adjusted before doing any big projects.
 - **Engines** – Chief Clark mentioned Chief Lacy had finished researching the Specs for the new engine. He will provide the Board with the 90-page specs for the new engine for them to review. There are several ways to purchase an engine and Chief Clark believes the district should just do their own Bid instead of piggy backing on one.
- Commissioner Koorn mentioned he and the Chiefs had attended the Snure Bid seminar via Zoom. It was a very informative workshop. Commissioner Goen would like to put this project on hold for now and review other things that are more important at this time.

- **Ambulances** - Commissioner Koorn wanted to talk about what was going on with the ambulance service with Whidbey Health. Clark mentioned that there was a Zoom meeting between all the Chiefs of the Island and the EMS Manager Roger Meyers and EMS Assistant Sean Levine. They had mentioned the hospital is currently five days negative in funds. However, Roger reassured the Chiefs that they had EMS funds and the funds are available. The Director mentioned that those funds are in a different account separate from their general hospital funds. Roger did acknowledge the hospital was in bad shape and they are working on fixing it.
 - Commissioner Koorn asked Chief Clark if pursuing an ambulance license would still be something that Chief Clark recommends for NWFR's future? Chief Clark acknowledged there has not been any other contingency plan in the past if the EMS services from Whidbey Health cease to exist on the Island. He recognized that the district should research and investigate other alternatives to be prepared in case anything changes.
 - Chairman Lamont stated the hospital has been in this situation in the past and they have managed to fix their circumstances. Commissioner Goen asked Chief Clark where does Oak Harbor stand if all fire districts have their own ambulance services? Chief Clark has not heard anything from Oak Harbor Fire Chief about this topic. Commissioner Goen believes they should also be involved in the conversation of individual ambulance services and what would their opinion be about this matter.
- Commissioner Koorn asked Chief Clark why the district is converting to Blue Card? "There have been some challenges with the current system and I believe Blue Card will be more efficient" Chief Clark stated. Central and South Whidbey Fire are using the system and Oak Harbor and the Navy works on National Incident Management System (NIMS) Most partnered calls the District is getting are with Oak Harbor and Navy and Commissioner Koorn believes the change won't make much of a difference because our partners use MIM's instead of Blue Card.
- **Special Meetings**- Commissioner Goen was concerned about all the special meetings the district has held in the past year. He believes there are things that can wait for the next regular meeting. He wants Chief Clark to evaluate the urgency of matters better before asking for special meetings. Chief Clark was used to two board meetings a month in other fire districts. He mentioned most of the meetings were union related and those should be finalizing soon. The board all agreed the meetings should be minimized in the future.
- **I Am Responding**- Chairman Lamont asked Clark what was going on with IAR's system. Clark didn't know how to fix the problem they are currently having with their calls. He believes it is how it set up with I-Com. He will look into it in the next few weeks.

Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110

(b) To consider, the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increase price. Chairman Lamont mentioned the board was going into Executive Session for 45 minutes and will be back in session at 1:25pm. At 1:25 the Board came back from executive session. **No decisions were made.**

Adjourn -There being no further business and by mutual consent, the special meeting of the Board adjourned at 1:30pm.

Attest:



Monica Torgerson

Board Secretary/Administrative Manager