



## NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Station 25, 2720 Heller Rd., Oak Harbor, WA  
Phone: 360-675-1131 Email: [Admin@nwfr.org](mailto:Admin@nwfr.org)

### Special Meeting Minutes

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
09:00 a.m.

**Location:** 770 NE Midway Blvd  
Oak Harbor, WA

*Approved May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

**Call to Order:** Chairman Marvin Koorn called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m. Also in attendance: Commissioner Gerald Smith, Commissioner Robert Miller, Chief Chris Swiger, Chief Dan Horton, Chief Steve Lacy, Chief Jobie Gause, Lieutenant Mike Reinstra and Secretary Natasha Spydell.

#### **Workshop: Apparatus Replacement Plan**

Chairman Koorn categorized the district's rolling stock of apparatus on the white board for discussion. Commissioner Smith started the discussion regarding insurance companies' use of the Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau (WSRB), or lack thereof. Commissioner Smith stated he reached out to fifteen or sixteen of the most popular insurance companies subscribed to the WSRB and the agents stated they only use the rating bureau as references but is uncertain if the underwriters use it. Commissioner Smith stated he is interested in confirming that if there is a section for protection class number on a homeowner's policy, it means that insurance company does use it. If only a small percentage of insurance companies use the rating, Commissioner Smith questions if it is worth spending money and planning for apparatus replacement according to rating bureau standards. He also questioned how much going up one rating point would truly affect the taxpayer. Commissioner Smith stated as long as the district maintains a good maintenance program and stays on track, he does not see the need for refurbishing trucks according to the WSRB's timeline.

Chief Swiger stated he fully agrees with what Commissioner Smith is saying, but the insurance policy comes back to the underwriters.

Commissioner Smith stated he understands that, but questions if the underwriters are even using it if the protection class number is not stated on the policy.

Commissioner Miller stated he would be concerned about the smaller communities on wells and hydrant use depleting the well supply.

Chief Swiger stated the district does not tag into those hydrants, it is standard to bring a tender.

Chairman Koorn stated it is still good to supplement the tender with hydrant use.

Commissioner Smith asked how the district's rating can be penalized for something it has no control over or responsibility for, such as fire inspections.

Chairman Koorn stated even dispatch goes into rating, which the district has no control over.

Commissioner Smith stated he is not interested in the district spending money to meet a third-party's agenda.

Commissioner Miller stated he would prefer a definitive answer rather than committing to something that would bite us in the butt down the road.

Chairman Koorn agreed, stating when the district goes for a levy, people may not support the district if they are paying higher insurance prices because of what we are doing with our maintenance program.

Chairman Koorn stated he supports continuing down the path of looking into the rating bureau, but he is still for refurbishing the fleet.

Chairman Koorn went to the white board and asked attendees to name some additional items that have been brought up to purchase in the past.

Air trailer, heavy rescue truck, pumper rescue truck, a third tender, a new gator, a bigger boat, and a type 3 brush truck were all named and listed on the board.

Chairman Koorn recommended the board discusses each category one at a time.

### **Aid Vehicles**

Chief Swiger stated all the aid vehicles are good cars with low mileage.

Chairman Koorn asked if they are good for another three years.

Chief Swiger stated they would be good for another ten years probably.

Lieutenant Reinstra stated another aid vehicle may be needed at station 24 in the future.

Chairman Koorn clarified that all aid vehicles are good, apart from an additional one in the future.

### **Duty Vehicles**

Chief Swiger stated the 2005 Chevy Tahoe is on its last leg.

Chairman Koorn asked if it is the worst of the lot.

Chief Swiger confirmed stating it is currently being used by the academy class and people who come in for calls.

Chairman Koorn stated the paper says it is for recruitment and retention coordinator, but it is actually being used for more than that.

Chief Swiger confirmed that when the academy is not in session, it will be used by the recruitment and retention coordinator.

Chairman Koorn asked what the mileage is on the 2005 Tahoe.

Commissioner Miller stated according to the spreadsheet it has 138,000 miles.

Chief Swiger stated it is probably up to around 145,000 – 150,000 now.

Commissioner Smith stated he stands with his previous opinion that the district has five personally assigned vehicles, and he cannot support that.

Chief Lacy stated Chief Swiger's truck should be replaced. The district just received \$50,000 for it, and his vehicle will be open for use by the end of the year, and it is a good truck. The 2005 Tahoe can be replaced by Chief Lacy's vehicle, or the Tahoe used by Chief Swiger right now, and buy a chief truck instead of replacing the Tahoe.

Commissioner Smith asked what is wrong with the 2005 Tahoe.

Chief Gause stated the lights do not work when it runs hot.

Commissioner Smith recommended looking into getting it fixed.

Chief Swiger stated it could get fixed, but asked how much money the district wants to put into it. He stated the current blue book value is currently around \$3,500.

Chief Horton stated the suspension is also bad on it.

Commissioner Smith stated he just wants documentation as to why vehicles need replaced instead of fixed.

Chairman Koorn stated once a plan is in place, the board will ask for documentation.

Continuing down the list, Chief Swiger stated the van and office car are still in good condition.

Chief Swiger stated the 2011 vehicles are good now but questions how much longer they will be good for.

Lieutenant Reinstra agreed that if the vehicles are kept, they could use a light package upgrade. Chief Swiger asked what the tip-over point is for the vehicles regarding cost versus replacement value. He stated right now the district could sell a 2011 for \$6,500 but in a few years, only \$3,000 probably. Chairman Koorn stated the paper Chief Swiger is putting together will help determine the tip-over point.

### **Boats**

Chairman Koorn asked if there are any issues with the Northwind.

Chief Swiger stated there are not any issues but it needs to have the tubes replaced in the future, hopefully this year.

Chairman Koorn asked if there is any reason for a third boat.

Chief Horton stated there is no need unless the district builds another station.

Chief Gause stated he brought it up because the district has been doing a lot of training with the US Navy.

Chief Swiger stated unless the district gets into fire boats, which he has no interest in doing, there is no need for another boat.

### **Tenders**

Chief Swiger stated he believes the district is good on tenders and we have a lot of neighbors with tenders.

Lieutenant Reinstra stated the district could do as Chief Horton previously suggested and get a tender to replace an engine.

Chief Horton suggested a tender with a bigger cab.

Chairman Koorn stated an argument could be made that there is no need for a bigger cab, it just increases the price.

### **Brush Trucks**

Chief Swiger stated the brush trucks are good.

Lieutenant Reinstra suggested looking into another skid in a few years, but the chassis is good.

### **Rescue Truck**

Chief Swiger stated right now the current truck works for the district. Some people want heavier, but for now it works fine.

Chief Gause asked what happens if a heavy vehicle rolls over onto someone.

Chief Lacy stated we have mutual aid and cannot play the what-if game.

Chairman Koorn stated he liked having the heavy rescue before and thought it was good when the district had one. He questions whether the district bought the right vehicle to replace it.

### **Purchase of additional Items:**

#### **Rescue Pumper**

Chief Swiger stated he would love to have one but is not sure spending the money on one right now is the way to go.

Chairman Koorn stated there is currently a rescue pumper out for \$170,000 that is ten years old. It is a conventional two-person cab. He stated that is what is on the market right now.

### **Air Trailer**

Chairman Koorn stated this has been talked about and asked if one could be put on the current rescue if the district bought a pumper rescue.

Chief Swiger asked if the district wants bottles or Cascade Fire.

Chairman Koorn stated Cascade Fire.

Chief Swiger stated it would need to be reconfigured.

Chairman Koorn stated he would like to see the reconfiguration cost.

Chief Lacy stated he would prefer a cart.

Chairman Koorn stated the problem with a trailer is people towing it.

Chief Swiger stated it would be a training issue.

### **Gator**

Chief Swiger stated the current gator is more for farm use than off-road. The district needs one that can be used on the beach and for search and rescues, etc.

Chief Gause suggested getting something with a place for patients.

Chief Horton stated a longer bed with brackets is needed and the ability to place an attendant in the back.

Chief Swiger stated the biggest issue is where we have to take it.

Chief Swiger showed a picture of the type he recommends for district use.

Chairman Koorn stated it is around \$40,000.

Commissioner Smith stated the clearance on that kind of vehicle is not good.

The meeting attendees agreed looking into the Polaris brand side-by-side styles for cost and configurations that would be the best option.

### **Engines**

Chairman Koorn listed the district's current engines on the white board. The 2008, 2009, 2009 and 2010 engines are all reaching the end of their lifespans soon and need to be refurbished or replaced. Chairman Koorn stated another district just bought a new engine for around \$891,000 including taxes. The acquisition cost for 15 years is \$59,400. If the district refurbishes, the cost based on last year's quote, is \$330,000 including taxes. The acquisition cost is \$33,000 per year for 10 years. At the 10-year level, the district saves \$26,400 per year. The cost to refurbish all four engines would be \$1,332,000, which saves the district \$937,194 over buying new engines. When including resale value at \$125,000 per unit, the total savings is \$1,309,313 over buying new. When looking at used vehicles, the market is very tight right now and prices are around \$300,000 - \$450,000 for a five- to seven-year-old engine. Chairman Koorn stated he leans towards refurbishing the engines as long as the district can get a cost locked in.

Chief Swiger stated he would like to replace the 2009 engines. He stated a lot of money has been put into them and they are hard to run. They have too many electronics than what the district uses them for.

Lieutenant Reinstra asked if the reserve engine will be refurbished.

Chairman Koorn stated no, adding that after 25 years it is done.

Commissioner Smith stated he has no issue making a commitment to refurbish all four engines, depending upon cost, and coming up with a replacement plan soon for the first couple that expire.

Chairman Koorn agreed and stated he would like to look into True North Emergency Equipment as well as Firetrucks Unlimited.

Chairman Koorn stated after the procurement law webinar we will know if there are any changes regarding going to bid.

Chief Swiger stated he remembers True North having a hard time getting Pierce parts.

Chairman Koorn stated the district should do its due diligence and look into multiple vendors.

Commissioner Miller stated refurbishing is the way to go and the district needs a strategic plan in place for replacement costs to explain to the voters.

Chairman Koorn asked Lieutenant Reinstra to get a package together on the 2008 and 2010 engines and will discuss the 2009s at a later date.

By consensus, the board prefers refurbishing engines over purchasing new or used, dependent upon the actual cost. Chief Swiger recommends replacing the 2009s and refurbishing 2008 and 2010 engines.

#### **Purchase of additional Items (Cont'd)**

Chairman Koorn stated dollar amounts are needed with the list of additional items.

Commissioner Smith stated if purchasing a new side-by-side the district should look at fully enclosed.

Chairman Koorn asked how many times the gator has been used in the last year, and five years, to haul patients.

Chief Swiger stated it has been used around three times in the last year, so multiply that times five.

Chairman Koorn stated he was just curious how much of a need there is for it at \$50,000.

**At 10:25 a.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting into executive session until 11:15 a.m.**

#### **Executive Session:**

##### **a. RCW 42.30.110(g)**

To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

**At 11:15 a.m. Chairman Koorn extended the executive session until 11:45 a.m.**

**At 11:45 a.m. Chairman Koorn extended the executive session until 11:55 a.m.**

**At 11:55 a.m. Chairman Koorn extended the executive session until 12:05 p.m.**

**At 12:05 p.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting out of executive session and into regular session.**

**No decisions were made.**

#### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Miller motioned to adjourn the special meeting; motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

The Special Meeting of the Board adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natasha Spydell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Natasha Spydell

Board Secretary/Accounting Manager