



NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

Meeting Minutes

December 12th, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Approved January 9th, 2024

Call to Order: Chairman Marvin Koorn called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Also in attendance: Commissioner Gerald Smith, Interim Fire Chief Chris Swiger, Battalion Chief Dan Horton, Battalion Chief Steve Lacy and Secretary Natasha Spydell.

Additions to the Agenda

None

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

Secretary Spydell shared the increased 2024 hourly rates for legal services from Snure Law Office.

Consent Agenda: Meeting minutes for Regular Meeting, November 14th, 2023, Regular Meeting, November 17th, 2023, Special Meeting, November 21st, 2023, expenditure approval for the month of November 2023, and Treasurer's Report for October 2023.

General Batch #44G for Vouchers 231101001-231101014 dated 11/01/2023 in the amount of \$13,585.07.

General Batch #45G for Vouchers 231102001-231102016 dated 11/08/2023 in the amount of \$73,700.33.

Payroll Batch #1123P for Vouchers 1837-1918 dated 11/15/2023 in the amount of \$65,710.91.

General Batch #46G for Vouchers 231104001-231104017 dated 11/15/2023 in the amount of \$10,524.94.

Payroll Batch #46D for EFT and Vouchers 231103001-231103005 dated 11/15/2023 in the amount of \$32,151.34.

Payroll Batch #1121OT for Voucher 1954 dated 11/21/2023 in the amount of \$128.81.

General Batch #47G for Vouchers 231105001-231105022 dated 11/22/2023 in the amount of \$76,944.99.

General Batch #48G for Vouchers 231106001-231106012 dated 11/29/2023 in the amount of \$30,018.89.

Chairman Koorn asked if there were any comments on the consent agenda.

No questions or comments were made.

Chairman Koorn stated he had already discussed his one change to the meeting minutes with Secretary Spydell.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the consent agenda; motion seconded by Commissioner Koorn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

None

Unfinished Business:

Budget

Chairman Koorn stated he would like a breakdown of the Contract Services and Building Professional Services expenses for 2023.

Secretary Spydell stated she would send the information to the board.

No further questions or comments were made.

E23 Refurbish

Chief Swiger asked the board what they wanted to do regarding Engine 23. He stated if the board wants to move forward it should be done soon, otherwise the cost will continue to increase.

Chairman Koorn stated he had a discussion with the rating bureau at a conference and if only one engine is out of service, only one point is deducted.

Commissioner Smith stated he had contacted Chief Swiger to understand the pros and cons of refurbishing and he is having a hard time grasping the idea of spending \$300,000 to refurbish an old apparatus. Commissioner Smith stated he also understands that the cost for a new apparatus would cost more and last the same amount of time.

Chairman Koorn asked if Engine 23 is currently fifteen years old and if it was the first apparatus of the group of purchases ten years ago.

Chief Swiger confirmed and stated Engine 26 would be the next up and the two PUCs are 2009 models.

Chairman Koorn stated the board is going to schedule a special meeting and asked Commissioner Smith if he was good with the discussion being tabled until then.

Commissioner Smith stated he was good tabling the discussion.

Chief Swiger stated Engine 23 is one of the district's best engines and he would like to keep it around.

Chairman Koorn stated 5 to 6-year-old engines are \$500,000 to \$600,000 currently, and new engines are almost one million dollars.

Chief Swiger stated luckily the district got the two new engines when they did, and new builds are currently scheduled 18 to 24 months out.

Chairman Koorn asked Chief Swiger to pull the files on the two engines and discuss it further at the special meeting.

Whidbey Health BLS Contract Invoice

Chairman Koorn stated the district will pay the invoice and discuss renegotiating the contract.

New Business:

2024 Board Chairman Nomination

Commissioner Smith nominated Commissioner Koorn to be the 2024 Board Chairman.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the nomination; motion seconded by Chairman Koorn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Levy Lid Lift 2024

Chief Swiger stated Whidbey Health appears to be going out for their levy lid lift late next year just from what he is gathering. Chief Swiger stated he would like to have a few special meetings to figure out how the district would use the money.

Chairman Koorn stated that is what the district did last time, and the levy lid lift passed. Chairman Koorn stated he is happy to discuss but would not be interested in hiring the same firm previously used.

Chief Truck

Chief Swiger stated he was in an accident in his district vehicle and the truck will most likely be totaled. He stated there is a 2024 Ford F150 available through the state for approximately \$58,000. There is a 2023 Ford F250 at Longview for approximately \$58,000 and 2021 Ford F150 in Auburn for approximately \$38,000.

Commissioner Smith stated he is not in favor of buying another truck with as many vehicles as the district currently has.

Chief Swiger stated he was just sharing information with the board.

Chairman Koorn asked Chief Swiger to send the information for each option and the district would need to go for bid. Chairman Koorn also asked for a breakdown on current district vehicles and mileage.

Chief Swiger stated he would send the information out.

Whidbey Health Rent Increase

Chairman Koorn stated this is a contract issue that will be discussed in executive session.

Award Incentive Proposal

Chairman Koorn stated he read through the proposal and would like Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Gottih to go over it with the board.

Secretary Spydell stated the proposal was intended to be presented to the board at the special meeting, but she wanted the board to have an initial review of it to give any feedback first.

Special Meeting

Chairman Koorn asked what day works for Commissioner Smith to schedule a special meeting.

Commissioner Smith stated he is available January 3rd, 2024.

Commissioner Koorn stated he is available January 3rd, 2024.

Chairman Koorn stated it is a Wednesday so it will be scheduled after the staff meeting at the administrative office.

By consensus, a special meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 3rd, 2024, at the district's administrative office.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Swiger stated the Battalion Chief of Training and Safety Officer assessment is scheduled for tomorrow and there are five candidates participating. It will be an all-day event starting at 9:00 a.m. and ending around 2:00 p.m.

Ops Chief Report

None

Battalion Chief Report

Chief Lacy stated the entry-level firefighter program (ELF) has started and it is going very well.

At 6:55 p.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting into executive session until 7:30 p.m.

1. Executive Session:

a. RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)

Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or (b) that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

b. 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 7:30 p.m. Chairman Koorn extended the executive session until 7:40 p.m.

At 7:40 p.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting out of executive session into regular session. No decisions were made.

Good of the Order

None

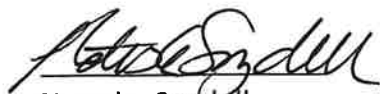
Adjourn Meeting

Commissioner Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Chairman Koorn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Attest:



Natasha Spydell

Board Secretary/Accounting Manager