



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

August 8th, 2023

6:30 p.m.

Approved September 12th, 2023

Call to Order: Chairman Marvin Koorn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Also in attendance: Commissioner TJ Lamont, Commissioner Gerald Smith (via Zoom), Interim Fire Chief Chris Swiger, Battalion Chief Dan Horton, Volunteer Battalion Chief Steve Lacy and Secretary Natasha Spydell.

Additions to the Agenda

- a. Engine 23 Refurbish

Chairman Koorn stated the agenda addition will be added under Unfinished Business (e).

Public Comment

Robert Miller introduced himself and addressed the board with his opinions as a constituent on some previous agenda items. Robert Miller stated his opinion on Class A uniforms. He stated the uniforms are classy and show respect. He stated Class A uniforms should be district provided for chief officers. Mr. Miller stated he does not see a need for all members or the board to have Class A uniforms. The chief officers represent the district, and it is important for them to have them.

Robert Miller stated his opinion that an air trailer is something the district truly needs. He stated it is great that some mutual aid partners have them for use when available, but it is inconvenient. Mr. Miller stated the cost of an air trailer is minimal when compared to the risk it causes firefighters who need air but none is available.

Mr. Miller stated the board secretary should be paid with the job description; the job should not fit into a position already held. He stated good employees should be paid so the district can retain them.

Commissioner Lamont asked if his previous district bought uniforms for chief officers.

Mr. Miller confirmed his district paid for the chief officers. Commissioners bought their own uniforms, and the board chairman bought ties for the board.

The board thanked Mr. Miller for his input.

District Firefighter Nicole Breaux commented on a district commissioner parking in a no parking zone asking how members are expected to follow district rules and policy when a commissioner does not. Commissioner Lamont stated he agreed and moved his vehicle last time and will be sure to park somewhere else from now on.

Chairman Koorn thanked Nicole Breaux for her comment.



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District Firefighter Benjamin Bauer made a public comment stating he has been here for one year and is wondering what the direction of the district is. He has asked and no one seems to have an answer. Firefighter Bauer asked how the district is fulfilling its mission statement of enhancing community when the district is not providing the best service possible to the community. He stated duty crew should not have to worry about who is showing up to a scene. He asked what the district's five or ten-year plan is. Other fire departments have their long-term plans stated on their websites. Firefighter Bauer stated the district wants quality people, but the district is not setting quality people up to succeed. For example, equipment is not properly cleaned and cared for, and no one knows how to use some of the equipment the district has. All these issues can lead to injury or even death. Chairman Koorn stated this is not a time to debate this issue. The chief officers need to be involved in the discussion and can sit down anytime to discuss. Firefighter Bauer stated he just wants to understand why and what is going on. Commissioner Lamont stated he would be available after the meeting to answer any questions and discuss the district in further detail with Firefighter Bauer. Chairman Koorn stated he would be happy to sit down and discuss the district at another time as well.

Correspondence

None

Consent Agenda: Meeting Minutes: Regular Meeting, July 19th, 2023. Expenditure Approval or denial for the month of July 2023, and Treasurer's Report for June 2023.

General Batch #27G for Vouchers 230701001-230701010 dated 7/05/2023 in the amount of \$506,027.60.
General Batch #28GQ for Vouchers 230702001-230702021 dated 7/12/2023 in the amount of \$29,078.34.
General Batch #29G for Vouchers 230704001-230704013 dated 7/19/2023 in the amount of \$3,087.20.
Payroll Batch #29B for Vouchers 230703001-230703008 dated 7/19/2023 in the amount of \$15,528.09.
Payroll Batch for 941 EFT dated 7/28/2023 in the amount of \$11,013.10.
Payroll Batch #0728P for Transactions 1122-1198 dated 7/28/2023 in the amount of \$55,369.72.
General Batch #30G for Vouchers 230705001-230705018 dated 7/26/2023 in the amount of \$9,948.20.

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

Commissioner Smith asked if all the SCBAs were received.

Chief Swiger confirmed.

Commissioner Smith asked why the decal invoice was paid for when the job was not completed.

Chief Swiger stated it was completed.

Commissioner Smith stated it was missing a front decal which was part of the decal quote.

Chief Swiger stated he would look into it.



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

Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel

None

Unfinished Business:

Budget

Chairman Koorn stated he has reviewed the budget and did not have any questions or comments. Chief Swiger stated he is currently working on the budget for next year and should have a preliminary version for the board at next month's board meeting.

Policy 123 – Pay Period for District Personnel & Paycheck Distribution

Chairman Koorn stated this policy update is for the change in pay periods that were discussed at the last board meeting.

Chairman Koorn asked the board if there were any questions.

No questions were presented.

Commissioner Lamont motioned to approve policy 123; motion seconded by Commissioner Smith.

Motion carried unanimously.

Engine 24

Chief Swiger stated parts have been ordered to repair the drive train.

Chairman Koorn asked what responsibility Camano Fire has accepted for the NFPA inspections not catching any discrepancies.

Chief Swiger said he is focused on getting the engine fixed and operable first then will discuss the issue with Camano Fire, but they have acknowledged that they have some responsibility.

Commissioner Lamont asked why the discussion cannot begin now.

Chairman Koorn requested that Chief Swiger get a hold of Levon at Camano Fire and talk now.

NAEFO/Fire Shows West Expo

Commissioner Lamont stated he will not be attending either event this year.

Commissioner Smith stated he will not be attending either event this year.

Chairman Koorn stated he will let Secretary Spydell know soon if he will attend either event.

Engine 23 Refurbish

Chief Swiger presented the board with a quote from Firetrucks Unlimited. The quote was just under \$300,000. Chief Swiger stated he had reviewed their website for previous work done there, and both South Whidbey and Snohomish fire districts are currently getting work done there.



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Chairman Koorn stated the board will review the information provided.

New Business:

Island County Master Mutual Aid Agreement

Chief Swiger stated an island-wide mutual aid agreement has been presented to the district.

Chairman Koorn asked who was heading up the agreement.

Chief Swiger Stated Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Chairman Koorn stated he would like to have seen what changes were made but he did not see anything that bothered him in the agreement write-up.

Commissioner Smith asked why Navy Fire was not included.

Chief Swiger stated Navy Fire cannot go into mutual aid agreements.

Commissioner Smith asked if a memo of understanding is used in these circumstances.

Commissioner Lamont stated it is only a verbal agreement with Navy Fire.

Chief Swiger stated the base commanding officer can end mutual aid at any time.

Chairman Koorn asked if there were any other questions or comments.

None were presented.

Commissioner Lamont motioned for district to sign mutual aid agreement; motion seconded by Chairman Koorn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Koorn stated the executive session would be after the chief reports.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Swiger stated he would be in Kansas City next week for the Fire Rescue International conference.

He stated he was accepted into the fire chief academy in November.

Commissioner Lamont asked Chief Swiger to bring back a syllabus.

Operations Chief Report

Chief Horton presented the board with the report for calls ran in July. He stated there were 70 overlapping calls. Chief Horton stated Motorola is still working on fixing their issue with First Due.

Battalion Chief Report

None

At 6:55 pm Chairman Koorn called the meeting into Executive Session from 6:55 pm until 7:30 pm.

Executive Session:

- a. RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)



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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(1)(g)

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

b. RCW 42.30.110(1)(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 increased price.

At 7:30 pm Chairman Koorn called the meeting out of executive session into regular session. No decisions were made.

Good of the Order

Chairman Koorn asked if there were any other questions or comments.

No questions or comments were presented.

Adjourn Meeting

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Attest:

Natasha Spydell

Board Secretary/Accounting Manager