



## **NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Administration Building, 770 NE Midway Blvd. Oak Harbor, WA

Phone: 360-675-1131 Email: [admin@nwfr.org](mailto:admin@nwfr.org)

### **Special Meeting Minutes**

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

09:00 a.m.

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

*Approved May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

**Call to Order:** Chairman Marvin Koorn called the meeting to order at 09:00 a.m. Also in attendance were Commissioner Gerald Smith, Commissioner Robert Miller, Chief Chris Swiger, Chief Ray Merrill, Chief Dan Horton, and Secretary Natasha Spydell.

### **Policy 132 – Leave of Absence**

Chief Swiger stated the draft has been changed to require members to turn in their gear for any leave of absence longer than 30 days.

### **Form 132\_1 – Leave of Absence Request Form**

The form was updated to match the policy as requested by the board.

Commissioner Smith motioned to approve Policy 132 and Form 132\_1; motion seconded by Commissioner Miller.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Levy Planning**

Chief Merrill stated he met with the county to discuss projected growth, and it was zero for Island County. He stated he previously met with Commissioner Koorn to discuss the history of the district and has begun doing community research. Chief Merrill stated the district is currently below the NFPA 1720 standard and that should be part of the information provided to the public.

Chief Swiger discussed manning and response times for three recent fires within the district and how both manning and response times were below standards. He stated the district is hurting manning-wise to get qualified people on a fire scene and the district needs to go to the public saying it needs people.

Chairman Koorn asked for the chief officers to start putting together numbers for a levy proposal.

Commissioner Smith stated he would like to know the ultimate goal by adding people and asked if the district is trying to meet NFPA standards or something else.

Chief Swiger stated he would like to have the district staffed 24/7, 365 days a year to serve the community. He stated his ultimate goal is to have four people on staff with an officer.

Chief Merrill stated if the district consistently has three qualified firefighters on duty, without relying on volunteers, it will meet the standards for out-the-door response times 80% of the time.

Commissioner Smith stated those are the types of goals he is looking for to inform the public. He would like to have specific purposes and goals.

Chairman Koorn stated there is a lot more information that needs to be gathered.

Chief Merrill stated he wants to look at all the options such as levy lid lift, excess levy, and general obligation bond and see how they all would play out in the district's best interest.

**At 9:18 a.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting into executive session until 10:00 a.m.**

#### **1. Executive Session:**



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### **a. RCW 42.30.140(4)(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.

**At 10:00 a.m. Chairman Koorn extended the executive session until 10:30 a.m.**

**At 10:30 a.m. Chairman Koorn called the meeting out of executive session and into regular session.**

**No decisions were made.**

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

**Motion carried unanimously.**

The Special Meeting of the Board adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natasha Spydell".

Natasha Spydell

Board Secretary/Accounting Manager