



## NORTH WHIDBEY FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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### Board of Fire Commissioneers Special Meeting Minutes

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

10:00am

#### Approved

#### 1. Call to Order:

Chairman Lamont called the meeting to order at 10am. Also, in attendance were Commissioner Koorn, Commissioner Goen, Fire Chief Clark, Division Chief Swiger, Division, Lt. Reinstra, Capt. Horton and Secretary Torgerson

2. **Executive Session - RCW 42.30.110 (g)** To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee **(I)** To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Chairman Lamont stated the board was gong into Executive Session for fifteen minutes and will be back in regular session at 10:15am. At 10:15am the board came back into session and Chairman Lamont stated they were going to extend the executive session for another 30 minutes. The board would reconvene at 10:45am. At 10:45am the board come out of executive session. No decisions were made.

3. **Covid-19** - Whidbey Health has asked for volunteers for a pop-up clinic to provide Covid-19 vaccines. There are five volunteers that will be helping out administering the vaccines and others will be helping with all the documentation and follow ups. The Island is in Phase 2 for COVID-19 right now. Chief Clark will send out detailed information to all the district members on the new protocols.

4. **Advisory Committee** - The advisory committee is meeting once a month. They are working on the strategic plan and staffing. Chief Clark is planning to contact Emergency Services Consulting Incorporated (ESCI) to have them work with the advisory committee on the strategic plan. Chief Clark will continue to inform the board on the advisory committee and their plans.

5. **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** - Chief Clark mentioned he would like to hold off on purchasing the SCBA's if possible. They are not going to expire until 2023. The district has time to plan and purchase at a later date. The board would like to table it for March's meeting.

6. **Alarm System for Station 25** - There were three companies that submitted their quotes for the Alarm System for Station 25. They were Guardian, ADT, and Commercial Alarm Installation. Fire Alarm System - The fire alarm system has not been compliant and been in violation for a long time. It was not a big issue because the district was not occupying it until last November. We now have the Safety Office, Maintenance and Duty Crew in that station. Unfortunately, the new system is not removable after installation. The cost for the alarm system is about \$17k. Commissioner Goen made

a motion to approve the alarm installation and have the work to go to Commercial Alarm Installation. Commissioner Koorn second it and Chairman Lamont also agreed.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **AFG grants** - The AFG grant was submitted with CWFI .The grants are for radios, exhaust systems and CPR devices. Next step will be the peer review for all submitted grants. Clark has participated in the peer review for the las ten years and knows the process well.
8. **NWFR Emergency Medical Service** - Chef Clark updated the board on Whidbey Health’s financial situation. At the end of last year, the hospital only had three days of reserve funds. At this time, they have no reserves. Chief Clark mentioned to the board that the district needs to start preparing and thinking of other possible options if the hospital can no longer continue EMS Service and Whidbey Health goes under. What would NWFR do to continue EMS services here on the island? Would the fire service take over the EMS Service’s with Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue and South Whidbey Fire/EMS?

One option for running our own EMS Service would be purchasing an EMS ambulance and license. Our employees would be certified Fire Fighters and EMT’s like they are now, and would we be able to bill for services independently. Commissioner Koorn asked “Chief Clark if he knew if the hospital reserves were the hospital and EMS Levy funds or are they managed separately”? All funds are managed together. Commissioner Koorn also mentioned in the past there has been a limit on service ambulances. He doesn’t know if that regulation has changed. As of right now there are other agencies contemplating other alternative for the EMS Services if Whidbey Health is unable to maintain the EMS Service due to finances.

9. **Personnel Action- N/A**

**Adjourn** -There being no further business and by mutual consent, the special meeting of the Board adjourned at 11:30am

Attest

  
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Monica Torgerson

Board Secretary/Administrative Manager