

**Whatcom County Fire District #21
Station 61 – Blaine
9408 Odell Street, Blaine WA 98230
7:00 pm
May 18, 2017
Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bosman called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #21 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for May 18, 2017 to order at 7:05 p.m. at Station 61 – 9408 Odell Street, Blaine, WA 98230.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Rich Bosman, Vice-Chairman Larry McPhail, Commissioners John Crawford and Bruce Ansell; Fire Chief William Pernet; Assistant Chief Joe Noonchester; Division Chief Henry Hollander; Attorney Rich Davis.

Chairman Bosman announced that the District#4 Board does not have a quorum due to an illness, so the combined meeting will be rescheduled for the Whatcom County Fire District #21 June 15, 2017 meeting.

Commissioner Berkeley was previously excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) April 20, 2017 – Regular
2. Staff Reports - Chiefs / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report / Revenue – April \$2,539,718.21
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) NWFR Employees Direct Deposit Payroll #335-393: \$273,304.09
 - b) Volunteer Direct Deposit Payroll #394-415: \$3,905.55
 - c) Non-Direct Payroll #5: \$5,474.18
 - d) Benefits Voucher #45-54: \$256,872.15
 - e) Monthly Expenditure Vouchers #805-975: \$44,509.93
 - f) Capital Projects Apparatus Vouchers #976-977: \$3,273.62

MOTION: Commissioner Ansell moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman McPhail and approved 4-0.

NW FIRE COMMISSIONER MONTHLY REPORTS

- **Blaine City Council Meeting:** Commissioner Ansell attended the Blaine City Council Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2017. Commissioner Ansell observed that when the Blaine City Council review their consent agenda they read voucher totals into their meeting minutes. The Board agreed to read the total monthly revenues and expenditures aloud into the minutes in upcoming meetings, with plans to review the decision at a later date.
- Commissioner Ansell attend the Semiahmoo Men's Club Breakfast meeting as a private citizen. Commissioner Ansell reported on an informative presentation given by Dave Surowiecki who does the response planning for oil spills in the area. Commissioner Ansell inquired to the district's role during an oil spill. Chief Pernet noted that typically the district interacts with the Emergency Operations Center during major oil spills and provides resources as requested.

IAFF LOCAL 106 MONTHLY REPORT

- Chuck Shipp provided recent IAFF Local 106 information.
 - The Local recently presented five scholarships to senior high school students in Whatcom County who plan on entering the medical field. The scholarship program, Bellingham-Whatcom County Professional Firefighters IAFF Local-106 Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship, originally began in 1996 by the Blaine Volunteer Firefighters Association. Lieutenant Leslee Smith presented some of the awards during the Baine High School Awards held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Both Chairman Bosman and Vice-Chairman McPhail attended the event and noted that Lieutenant Smith represented the district admirably.
 - The Local is sponsoring a fund raising sign for Blaine baseball at Pipeline Fields.
 - The Local is currently working with a homeowners association in the Britton Loop area to assist with fundraising and erecting a playground.

LEGAL ISSUES

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB):** Chief Pernet noted that he has yet to be notified regarding the district's ratings. WSRB has contacted the district and City of Blaine officials for additional information. Chief Pernet is hopeful he will hear results within the next couple of weeks.
- **Brennick Proposal:** Chairman Bosman announced that earnest money has been received from Mr. Brennick and the sale of the piece of land at Northwood Station 72 is moving forward. The Brennicks have submitted their application to the City of Lynden for the lot line adjustment and scheduled the required survey.

Mr. Brennick provided information regarding future plans for the purchased land. Mr. Brennick asked permission to plant pumpkins on a portion of the purchased land before the sale is concluded. The pumpkins will be ready for harvest when the deal is complete. In addition, Mr. Brennick announced that he plans to erect a fence to separate Northwood Station 72 and their purchased piece of land.

Attorney Rich Davis suggested that both parties sign a land license agreement to release the district of any liability. Rich Davis will send a draft agreement to the district.

MOTION: Commissioner Ansell moved to authorize a license agreement between the District and Mr. Brennick to utilize the pumpkin patch area at Northwood Station 72 prior to the finalization of the property sale. In addition, the Board authorizes Chairman Bosman to sign the license agreement with Mr. Brennick on their behalf. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman McPhail and approved 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Inter-Local Agreement for Fire and Emergency Services:** This topic will be tabled until the Thursday, June 15, 2017 meeting when the District #4 Board can attend. District #4 is expected to make a presentation.

POLICIES & PROCEDURE

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- From Camden and Matthew Jacobson: Thank you for service
- From Stan Monks re: Fire extinguisher training
- From Barbara Cheatham re: Thank you for service
- Bellingham Herald Article re: Birch Bay condo Fire
- Northern Light article re: Birch Bay condo Fire
- The Responder: District newsletter, April issue

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **June 15 Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) Update
- Brennick Licensing Agreement Update
- Inter-Local Agreement for Fire and Emergency Service / RFA

OTHER

Commissioner Ansell requested information about a recent structure fire at 8112 Birch Bay Drive on Friday, May 5, 2017. Chief Pernet provided information about the incident. Two people were injured and three dogs perished in the fire. With the congested neighborhood, crews did an excellent job of containing the fire to the house and barn. Chief Pernet also credited the mutual aid that was provided, noting that it was a great team effort. The cause has yet to be determined.

There was discussion regarding returning to the neighborhood to offer smoke detectors to families. Chief Pernet will follow up on whether smoke detectors are carried on apparatus to offer to households when needed.

Chief Noonchester read correspondence from Graham Hunter who thanked firefighters Jeff Hofstad and T.J. Holert for providing fire extinguisher training to the Bellingham Power Squadrons. The correspondence will be added to the June 15, 2017 Board packet and copies of the letter will be added to their personnel files.

Chairman Bosman requested information regarding Regional Fire Authorities (RFA) to review prior to the next meeting. Commissioner Crawford agreed to provide the acquired RFA information from a recent Snure seminar. The information will be shared via e-mail.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Bosman recessed the meeting for an Executive Session, per RCW 42.30.140 "*Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or... that a 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 proposal made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.*" at 7:36 p.m. for approximately until 8:15 p.m.

Attorney Rich Davis, District #4 Fire Commissioner Andrews, Assistant Chief Noonchester and Division Chief Hollander stayed for the executive session.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairman Bosman called the regular meeting back into open session at 8:15 p.m.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business Vice-Chairman McPhail moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crawford and approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Rich Bosman, Chairman

Larry McPhail, Vice-Chairman

John Crawford, Commissioner

Bruce Ansell, Commissioner

Chief Pernet, Board Secretary