

**Whatcom County Fire District #21  
Station 61 – Blaine  
9408 Odell Street, Blaine WA 98230  
7:00 pm  
January 19, 2017  
Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Bosman called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #21 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for January 19, 2017 to order at 7:02 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 Dean Berkeley, Commissioner Berkeley, John Crawford and Bruce Ansell; Fire Chief William Pernet; Assistant Chief Joe Noonchester; Division Chief Henry Hollander.

**OATH OF OFFICE**

- Chief Pernet conducted the swearing in of volunteers Daisy Frearson and Steven Latham.
- Chief Pernet conducted the swearing in of Assistant Chief Joe Noonchester.

**AWARDS**

- Chief Pernet recognized the following members:
- Volunteer of the Year – Tommy McAuliffe
- Firefighter of the Year – Lt. D.J. Riehl
- Employee of the Year – Jennie Sand

**RECESS**

Chairman Bosman recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. for fifteen minutes to allow members to be acknowledged.

Chairman Bosman called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Wendy Harris; 4432 Castlerock Drive. Blaine: Wendy Harris provided the Board with health issue concerns with regards to wood burning in and around her community. Wendy Harris stated that she has not received any assistance from various agencies including North Whatcom Fire and Rescue regarding enforcing illegal emissions laws or nuisance provisions. Wendy Harris questioned why there are no agencies that will enforce laws that are intended to protect public health.

In addition, Wendy Harris provided information regarding an upsetting experience she had with a NWFR crew.

Chairman Bosman stated that he was very sorry for her condition. Chairman Bosman noted that North Whatcom Fire and Rescue is not the agency to enforce air quality laws. He suggested that Wendy Harris broach her concerns to the Whatcom County Council.

Chairman Bosman confirmed that they will be investigating the experience Wendy Harris had with members of the department. After more information is known regarding the incident, Wendy Harris can expect a follow up by either mail or phone.

Chairman Bosman thanked Wendy Harris for attending the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Meeting Minutes
  - a) December 15, 2016 – Public Hearing
2. Staff Reports - Chiefs / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report / Revenue - *report from County not available*
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
  - a) NWFR Employees Direct Deposit Payroll #1-60: \$265,579.97
  - b) Volunteer Direct Deposit Payroll #61-83: \$3,573.09
  - c) Non-Direct Payroll #1: \$191.78
  - d) Benefits Voucher #143: \$203,543.37
  - e) Benefits Voucher 2<sup>nd</sup> set #1-11: \$160,066.30
  - f) Monthly Expenditure Vouchers #001-0173: \$77,695.63
  - g) Capital Projects Apparatus Voucher #174 :\$42,640.30
  - h) Capital Projects Voucher #175: \$11.73

**MOTION:** Vice-Chairman McPhail moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansell and approved 5-0.

### **NW FIRE COMMISSIONER MONTHLY REPORTS**

- Cross Border Group: Commissioner Berkeley did not attend the meeting however, he did have communications with members of the group regarding fentanyl overdoses. There was a concern that with the drug more accessible, an increased amount of overdoses may be imminent. Both sides of the border have seen no increase in fentanyl overdoses and in fact the Canadian side is seeing a decline in those types of calls. In addition, all district aid units carry NARCAN, which block the effects of opioids and can reverse an overdose.

### **IAFF LOCAL 106 MONTHLY REPORT**

- Chuck Shipp provided information regarding the Whatcom County Firefighters Benevolent Fund. The relatively new fund has been around for approximately one

year. Letters were recently sent out to all Whatcom County fire chiefs explaining the fund in detail. Some of the general purposes of the organization include:

- administer the Jason Karwhite Memorial Scholarship fund
- educate the public on firefighter and public safety issues
- support and sponsor beneficial activities in the public interest
- distribute funds for the benefit of families of firefighters who have lost their lives or have been disabled, especially in the line of duty

Chuck Shipp provided information regarding the current food bank donation progress which typically ends January 31<sup>st</sup>. So far the district has collected five hundred seventy pounds of food for the food banks both in Blaine and Bellingham. Food bins are set up at both Birch Bay Station 63 and Britton Loop Station 12. Chuck Shipp stated that Lieutenant Mike Nelson spear heads the event.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- **Brennick Proposal:** Chairman Bosman stated that he has not heard from Mr. Brennick regarding a proposal. Chairman Bosman will contact Mr. Brennick and report back to the Board during the next meeting.
- **Whatcom County EMS Levy Update:** Chief Pernet noted the Whatcom County EMS levy went into effect January 1, 2017. Since Whatcom County is a senior taxing district it takes precedence over any junior taxing district who also have EMS levies. An inter-local agreement has been drafted that will reimburse any lost revenue to District #4 along with other districts who also have an EMS levy. The Whatcom County Council and the County Executive will meet on Wednesday, January 25 to review the details of the agreement including any monetary compensation.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **2016 Budget Amendment 2017-01:** Chief Pernet reviewed the 2016 budget amendment increasing healthcare benefits due to a higher number of claims in 2016. A medical bill was also paid in 2016 so it will not affect the 2017 healthcare rates. A portion of the medical bill will be refunded by reinsurance.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ansell moved to approve the 2016 Budget Amendment 2017-01. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman McPhail and approved 5-0.

- **Fire Commissioner Representation at External Meetings:**  
There will be no changes to the approved representation at external meetings.
  - Whatcom County Fire Commissioners Association – Commissioner McPhail ; Chairman Bosman (alternates)
    - 7:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every other month at Britton Loop Station 12

- Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce Luncheon– Commissioner Ansell; Commissioner Crawford (alternate)
  - 11:30 a.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at various locations
- Blaine City Council – Commissioner Ansell; Commissioner Crawford (alternate)
  - 6:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday each month at Blaine City Hall
- Cross Border Group - Commissioner Berkeley
  - Quarterly at 10:00 a.m. at various locations

Chairman Bosman stated that he could cover any of the meetings if one of the commissioners was unable to attend.

- **Board Officer Elections:** The Board agreed not to make any changes to the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman Officer positions for 2017.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Ansell motioned to keep the current Chairman (Bosman) and Vice-Chairman (McPhail) Board Officers for 2017. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman McPhail and approved 4-1. Commissioner Berkeley voted against.

- **Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB):** Chief Pernet was contacted in January regarding a rerate of District #21, District #4 and the City of Blaine that will take place on February 6, 2017.
- **2014-2015 Audit:** Chief Pernet noted that the District #21 and District 4 audit has taken place over the past two months and will be completed soon. An exit interview will be scheduled for the end of January. Chief Pernet expects a clean audit and will inform the commissioners of the exact date so they may attend if they choose. Currently, the District is audited every two years.
- **Upcoming Seminars:** There was discussion regarding attending upcoming seminars and conferences.
  - Snure Seminar re fire service consolidations: February 11 in Lynwood
    - Crawford / Ansell / McPhail
  - Saturday Seminar re special meetings: March 25 in Ocean Shores
    - Bosman

Those interested in attending need to contact Chief Pernet as soon as possible so arrangements can be made.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURE**

- None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- Washington State Rating Bureau (WSRB) re: Updating Protection Class for fire protection
- Bellingham Herald article re: Fire near Ferndale
- Bellingham Herald article re: Lynden girl on Nooksack Bridge
- Bellingham Herald article re: Fires along I-5
- Northern Light article re: Year in review
- Bellingham Herald article re: Icy roads
- Center of Public Safety Excellence re: Fire Chief Officer accreditation
- The Responder: District newsletter, January issue

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dean Berkeley; Fishermans Bend, Blaine: Dean Berkeley addressed the Board as a community member. Dean Berkeley accused several members of the audience of lying on various topics.

Dean Berkeley attempted to engage the audience in an open discussion. Chairman Bosman reminded Dean Berkeley to address the Board.

Chairman Bosman recessed the meeting at 8:04 p.m. due to the disruption of the meeting by Commissioner Berkeley and members of the audience.

Chairman Bosman called the meeting back to order at 8:10 p.m.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- Brennick Proposal
- EMS Levy Update

## **SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There being no further business Vice-Chairman McPhail moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansell and approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Jennie Sand, Recording Secretary

**ATTEST:**

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Rich Bosman, Chairman

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Larry McPhail, Vice-Chairman

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Dean Berkeley, Commissioner

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John Crawford, Commissioner

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Bruce Ansell, Commissioner

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Chief Pernet, Board Secretary