

**Whatcom County Fire District #21
Station 61 – Blaine
9408 Odell Street, Blaine WA 98230
12:00 pm
May 30, 2019
Special Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bosman called the special Whatcom County Fire District #21 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for May 30, 2019 to order at 12:07 p.m. at Station 61 – 9408 Odell Street, Blaine, WA 98230.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Rich Bosman; Vice-Chairman Bruce Ansell; Commissioners Larry McPhail, Dean Berkeley and John Crawford; Interim Fire Chief Joe Noonchester; Division Chief Herschel Rostov.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- **Settlement Agreement:** Chairman Bosman explained that he had recently met with Chief Hollander for an exit interview prior to his retirement. During the generally positive meeting, Chairman Bosman was made aware that in June 2012, the chief officer contracts were updated. In the fine print it reflected a reduction in sick hour accumulations and carry over from 1,152 to 720. When Chief Hollander questioned the change he was told he could appeal to the Board but then he would lose his job. At the time, Chief Hollander made the decision to remain quiet. Because of the change, Chief Hollander lost a significant amount of sick leave that has had a direct impact on his final settlement. Chief Hollander requested that the Board not let this type of occurrence happen in the future.

Chairman Bosman stated that all employees should have the opportunity to appeal a decision without the fear of being terminated. Chairman Bosman contacted the districts' attorney and was advised to adjust Chief Hollander's payout settlement by the end of the month in order to avoid any potential future litigation. Chairman Bosman contacted each commissioner independently to make them aware of the issue at hand.

Chairman Bosman reviewed Chief Hollander's payout settlement before and after the adjustment.

Vice-Chairman Ansell noted that he had also had a recent interview with Chief Hollander and does not expect that he will pursue legal action against the district, nor was Chief Hollander expecting a settlement. Vice-Chairman Ansell was shocked that Chief Hollander was put in the precarious position and is one hundred percent in favor of making the corrections to the sick leave payout.

The Board agreed that Chief Hollander was entitled to the additional estimated \$6,800.00 dollars of sick leave payout.

MOTION: Chairman Bosman moved to approve the corrected settlement agreement, adjusting the sick leave balance to reflect the pre June 2012 amount to 1,152 hours of carryover sick leave. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkeley and approved 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business Commissioner Berkeley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Ansell and approved 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Recording Secretary

ATTEST:

Rich Bosman, Chairman

Bruce Ansell, Vice-Chairman

Larry McPhail, Commissioner

Dean Berkeley, Commissioner

John Crawford, Commissioner

Chief Noonchester, Board Secretary