

**Whatcom County Fire District #21  
via Zoom Meeting  
1:00 pm  
May 20, 2021  
Regular of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Bosman called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #21 of Fire Commissioners meeting for May 20, 2021, to order at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Vice-Chairman Rich Bosman; Commissioners John Crawford, Scott Fischer, and Kimberly McMurray; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen; Division Chief Shaun Ward; Consultant Heather Logan; Local 106NW Representative Scott Brown.

Chairman Ansell was excused from this meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Meeting Minutes
  - a) April 15, 2021
  - b) April 27, 2021 – special
  - c) May 12, 2021 - special
2. Staff Reports – Chiefs / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
  - a) Total Revenues – April \$3,646,081.29
  - b) Total Expenditures – May \$807,249.31
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
  - a) NWFR Employees Direct Deposit Payroll: \$337,814.08
  - b) Payroll Taxes Voucher: \$71,309.83
  - c) Benefits Voucher: \$216,933.60
  - d) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$94,704.21
  - e) Special Voucher: \$7,980.00
  - f) Capital Projects Apparatus: \$78,507.59

Chief Van der Veen announced that Lieutenant Adam Smith was promoted as a result of the recent captains' assessment process. Congratulations to Adam and his family.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McMurray.

Although there was a motion and a second to approve, the final vote was omitted. The Consent Agenda will be voted on during the next regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

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

Commissioner Crawford noted that he has been selected to be part of a sub-committee for the 9-11 Advisory Board. The sub-committee has been tasked with investigating whether a consolidation of the two dispatch centers is the best solution for everyone involved.

Commissioner Crawford will continue to keep everyone up to date with new information.

### **LEGAL ISSUES**

None

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

Local 106NW Representative Scott Brown stated that the labor group has offered their support and assistance with the levy lid lift process.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Levy Lid Lift:** Chief Van der Veen announced that the levy lid lift resolution, cover sheet, pro committee appointment form, and explanatory statements have been filed with the Auditor.

Fire Chief Van der Veen thanked pro committee members Kathy Berg, Doralee Booth, and Scott Brown for their hard work.

Although the District did their due diligence advertising for a con committee, no one came forward.

Most fire service agencies located on the west side of the county are also asking for similar levy lid lifts to be able to sustain their level of service and replace equipment.

Chief Van der Veen also thanked the communications committee (Consultants Karen Reed, Heather Logan, and Kris Faucett) and the staff for their hard work on the levy lid lift process thus far.

Various commissioners are expected to make appearances at local group functions in the future to provide further levy education.

Vice-Chairman Bosman noted that the District will continue to rely on labor for their support.

**Communications Committee Update:** Consultant Heather Logan provided information regarding a levy lid lift informational card that can be distributed by district members to the community as early as next week. The card will include informational facts, contact information, and a call to vote.

A frequently asked questions (FAQ) section has been added to the District's website.

The upcoming District newsletter will include levy information.

The Northern Light and Lynden Tribune newspapers have both recently printed articles regarding the District's intent to ask for a levy lid lift.

Additional information has been sent to District members regarding what is allowable both on and off duty.

As representatives of the District, commissioners can provide levy education, however, they cannot advocate for the levy.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**District 4 Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for 2022:** Vice-Chairman Bosman noted that both Chairman Ansell and District 4 Chairman Lann are committed to positively working together moving forward. It is expected that an ILA for 2022 will be explored once the levy ballot measure is complete.

Chief Van der Veen noted that the new ILA is expected to be a simpler and clearer document, serving both parties more advantageously.

**District 4 Regional Fire Authority (RFA) Resumption:** It is expected that RFA discussions will resume after the levy lid lift election and the updated ILA is put into place. An RFA could be added to the 2022 spring ballot. The District has a verbal commitment with District 4 to work together in an effort to create a future RFA. If both levies pass, the RFA will not need to incorporate a financial increase.

With Dave Hanson's resignation, the District 4 Board is currently advertising for an interim fire commissioner.

## **POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- To District 4 Board re: Withdrawal from RFA
- From District 4 Board re: Response to withdrawal
- NWFR Press Release re: Withdrawal from RFA
- NWFR Press Release re: Levy lid lift pro and con committees
- Joint NWFR and District 4 Press Release re: New working agreement
- From Tim and Barb Stobb re: Thank you for service

- From Glacier Fire & Rescue re: MSA self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) donation request
- Northern Light article re: NWFR seeks pro and against levy statements
- Bellingham Herald article re: Rail cargo scanners
- Whatcom News article re: Motor vehicle accident
- The Responder: District newsletter, May issue

Chief Van der Veen acknowledged that Glacier Fire and Rescue has made a donation request regarding surplus self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Requested items included ten masks, sixty-minute RIT bottles, three complete packs, and fifteen bottles for training.

Chief Van der Veen will discuss the donation request process with Attorney Richard Davis.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**June Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the June 17, 2021, meeting most likely via Zoom Meeting.

**Continuing Education:** Chief Van der Veen recognized Vice-Chairman Bosman for recently completing his master's degree in Theology. Congratulations!

**Station Bay Doors:** Chief Van der Veen stated that Division Chief Ward is in the process of collecting bids for repainting steel bay doors at various stations.

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

- Levy Lid Lift Update
- Glacier Fire and Rescue SCBA Donation Request
- City of Blaine Fire Marshal Interlocal Agreement - *tabled by both organizations at this time*
- Assistant Chief Process
- Facilities
- Policy and Procedure Review

### **SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There being no further business Crawford Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fischer and approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

**ATTEST:**

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Bruce Ansell, Chairman

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Rich Bosman, Vice-Chairman

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John Crawford, Commissioner

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Scott Fischer, Commissioner

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Kimberly McMurray, Commissioner

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Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief