

**Whatcom County Fire District #21
via Zoom Meeting
10:00 am
May 12, 2021
Special Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Ansell called the special Whatcom County Fire District #21 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for May 12, 2021, to order at 10:02 a.m. via Zoom Meeting.

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Bruce Ansell; Vice-Chairman Rich Bosman; Commissioners Kimberly McMurray and Scott Fischer; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen; Division Chief Shaun Ward.

Commissioner John Crawford was excused from this meeting.

Other Attendees: Consultant Kris Faucett; Local 106 Representative Scott Brown; Community Member Kathy Berg.

NEW BUSINESS

Levy Lid Lift

Chairman Ansell noted that the District 4 Board rescinded their levy lid lift resolution and replaced it with one that is more consistent with the District's (NWFR). The District 4 will seek a one-year levy lid lift and eliminate their current ems levy, in anticipation of a future Regional Fire Authority (RFA) with NWFR. In addition, it is expected that District 4 will enter into a bridge interlocal agreement with NWFR for 2022. Chairman Ansell stated that he is encouraged by this action which will be positive for both districts.

Chairman Ansell reviewed the information that is required to be submitted to the County Auditor to finalize the levy lid lift proposal. The documentation includes a cover sheet, Resolution 2021-03, explanatory statement, and the pro and con committee information.

The preliminary levy lid lift information has been placed on the district's website.

Consultant Kris Faucett is part of the communications committee that will provide public education regarding the levy lid lift. The district's story has recently been placed on the website. The frequently asked questions will be added in the near future. The communication committee continues to work on developing an informational card that can be given to line personnel who can disseminate the information to the community on request. It was noted that while on duty, district members along with commissioners can provide information only to the community so they can make an educated decision (educate not advocate). A list of what is permissible will be sent out in the near future.

Additional public outreach may include Zoom meetings with the Fire Chief, newsletter articles, website, district-wide mailer, Blaine City Council, along with specific community groups including:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Home-owners associations (Semiahmoo, Birch Bay Village)

- Church venues
- Blaine Senior Center

The communication committee is also working on a PowerPoint to be utilized during public outreach.

Kris Faucett noted that the committee will continue to look for opportunities to share information with the community.

Community member Kathy Berg noted that she has a wide email following and offered to send out information as needed. She also requested that she remain in the information loop with the communications committee as she may need additional information. Community member Doralee Booth may also have access and be able to utilize the Chamber of Commerce's weekly email group.

Kris Faucett and Chief Van der Veen will make a list of groups and/or individuals to be contacted regarding disseminating pertinent levy information.

Attorney Richard Davis has completed the explanatory statement which will be delivered to the County Auditor with Resolution 2021-03 no later than May 14, 2021.

Con Committee Appointment

There has been no con committee interest received. Due diligence has been done via a press release, notification on the district's website, and a verbal request was extended during the April 27, 2021 Board meeting.

Pro Committee Appointment

Chairman Ansell reviewed the crucial pro committee statement and rebuttal timelines. The pro committee statement is due May 19, 2021, in person or via email.

MOTION: Chairman Ansell moved to establish the pro committee with Kathy Berg (chair), Doralee Booth, and Scott Brown as participants. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Bosman and approved 4-0.

Chairman Ansell stated that he is excited the district is finally moving forward.

Vice-Chairman Bosman requested that the following information be included with the frequently asked questions.

- Difference between the levy and ems levy
- Difference between NWFR and Lynden Fire Department

Local 106NW Representative Scott Brown stated that with NWFR, District 4, and South Whatcom Fire Authority all asking for similar rates, it will be easier for the union to endorse, advertise and communicate with the public. Scott Brown thanked the Board for all their hard work.

Chairman Ansell expects to have the informational cards and the dos and don'ts to the line staff in the near future. Members can direct the community to the website or administration for additional information.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business Commissioner Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bosman and approved 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Bruce Ansell, Chairman

Rich Bosman, Vice-Chairman

John Crawford, Commissioner

Scott Fischer, Commissioner

Kimberly McMurray, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief