

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

November 13, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on the above date at the district office. Those who attended were as follows: Commissioners Mary Beth Neal, Harry Andrews and Steve Ness; Fire Chief Ron Anderson, Board Secretary Kris Parks, Division Chief William Pernet, Division Chief Henry Hollander and Captain Joe Noonchester.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Resolution 2014-3: Surplus Used Hose

Commissioner Ness moved to approve Resolution 2014-3. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

Chief Anderson provided information on the financial statements and the voucher.

Approval of the payroll voucher: Commissioner Ness moved to approve the payroll voucher.

Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Chief's Report

Chief Anderson provided information on the chief's report which included the response activity from October, the dollar loss activity and response times.

Personnel:

Recognition:

New hire David Comp graduated from the State Fire Academy on Oct 31st. Commissioner Andrews accompanied Capt. Noonchester and Chief Anderson down to the ceremony. Several of David's family

members were able to take time off from work to attend including his wife, mother and little brother. David has been assigned to Station 12 on A-Shift beginning on November 7th.

Londa VanKirk who has been with District 3 and the City of Lynden for the last 17-years is moving to Ephrata Washington soon. She will be sorely missed!

Separations: We will be formally separating two volunteers from the Board of Volunteers at the District 21 Commissioners meeting.

- William Salter who was with Blaine F.D. and District 13 for 18-years. Bill will continue with the department in his role as Fire Commissioner.

New Recruits Skye Luke & Vern Simpson have both started new businesses and decided that they don't have time now to volunteer. We hope they will be able to rejoin the department once they get their businesses up and running.

Firefighters currently attending EMT Class

Jordan Clark	Austin Harris	Justin McGarvin
Zachary Scott	Jesse Harris	Andrew Winch
Richard Walter	Jeff Haley	

Firefighters currently attending County Fire Academy

Amanda LaPierre	Christopher Faber	<i>Erin Hendershot (withdrawn)</i>	Elizabeth Bowman
Haley Urling-Ehinger	Kailee Steele	Travis Tallquist	

FEMA Grant

We are in the process of installing vehicle exhaust removal systems at Stations 61 and 63 as a result of being awarded a 2013 FEMA grant. The grant was reduced by FEMA from \$168,154 to \$130,440 and requires a 10% match or roughly \$13,044 contribution by the Fire District.

The 2014 FEMA grant process recently re-opened giving us the opportunity to try for another grant. We are currently exploring all options and weighing them against the grants criteria to determine what would give us our greatest chance for success.

The Chief also provided information on the burn tower and the needed repairs in order to get it back in service.

Labor Negotiations

We have held four meetings to date discussing ground rules, providing an overview of the budget and learning about the pros and cons of VEBA Health Accounts. We continue to negotiate in hopes of finding common ground on the issues at hand.

Prospect- FRL (Fire Response Lists) Updates

We are currently in the process of updating our FRL's with Prospect. These lists are used to determine what personnel and resources will be dispatched on initial alarms to both fire and medical calls within our district. This year we are also attempting to standardize our FRL's across the County if possible. As you can imagine there are many challenges to this as we have a very diverse makeup of fire departments within the County including full-time, combination and all volunteer departments as well as urban, suburban and rural characteristics that need to be addressed.

EBOLA Preparations

Training and preparations are underway for the unlikely event that we were to encounter a patient presenting us with the signs and symptoms of EBOLA. To date we have been keeping our personnel updated on the latest information coming from the CDC for guidelines of how first responders are to treat patients and keep from exposing themselves. We have obtained all the necessary personal protective equipment required and Capt. Noonchester is training our personnel on how to properly don and doff the equipment. In addition Bellingham Fire is in the process of assembling a specially trained task force consisting of 1-Batt Chief, 1-ALS Medic Unit, 1-Engine Co and 1-EMS Supervisor to be available to respond County-wide if needed for Ebola incidents.

Operations Division Report

Division Chief Pernet provided information on the operations division report which included the minimum station staffing, department time-off statistics and volunteer shift hours for October and information on:

Monthly Activities

Home Depot Safety Fair, Semiahmoo Kids Camp, High School Football Standbys, County Fire Academy Assistance, Pumpkin Carving Party, CPR Class, Assist District 7 Lt. Process.

October Meetings Attended

EMS Conference, Dispatch Call Types Meeting, Annual Fitness Evaluation, Safety Committee, History of Whatcom EMS, County Operations Meeting, Labor/Management Meeting.

Projects

Equipment ID, Ebola Response, NWRC Procedure, Equipment Ordering, New Volunteer Time Sheets, Hiring List Process, Policies/Procedures.

Significant Calls

- 10/25/14: Crews responded to 2048 Loomis Trail for a reported structure fire. On arrival crews found smoke in the home. After an extensive search, crews found a hot outlet with char marks. The wiring to the outlet appeared to be non-standard electrical wiring and was melted. The home was ventilated of smoke and no fire extension was found.
- 10/01/14: Station 63 crew responded to 8456 Morning Side for a reported gunshot wound. The crew staged to await law enforcement arrival. Once cleared to move in they found a 23 year old male with a self-inflicted GSW to the head. The patient showed no signs of life and rescue procedures were not initiated due to the condition of the patient.

Training Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the training division report.

The report included the staff productivity, the career and volunteer firefighter training for October and the following information:

North Whatcom's firefighters have completed a record 1597 hours of training for the month of October. These crews have been involved in all types of training including suppression, EMS and joint training with other agencies. What a great month of work.

The Whatcom County Recruit Academy is within a few weeks of completion and has been concentrating heavily on live fire evolutions. Most of this training has taken place at the live fire facility in Anacortes with 3S Fire. The crews have been exposed to a "Class A" experience and are doing very well.

The East County EMT School is winding down accounting for 220 hours of training per student. This was the group of firefighters from the Lynden/NWFR Academy in the spring of 2014. This group will be response ready at station 72 by the end of the year.

NWFR has sponsored some of our members in outside training classes to include officer development, vehicle extrication and community para medicine. These members will be sharing this information with the department throughout the next few months.

Outstanding effort in October with the most training hours: FF M. Lyshol and FF D. Oliver

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

Division Chief Hollander presented the technical services & maintenance division report.

Fire Marshal

Semiahmoo Marina is awaiting the arrival of material to begin the permitted process of installing new standpipes as required.

The proposed Lincoln Park Retirement Center project is scheduled for a public hearing on December 10th.

We are working thru the process of updating all fire department key lock boxes at the Birch Bay Square shopping center. Much of the original retail space has been remodeled converting larger areas into smaller retail areas.

The Whisper Lake project mitigation agreement has been recorded with the county. The applicant will now proceed with the construction permitting phase.

All repairs have been completed on the fire sprinkler system for the old Rite Aid store and the system is now fully functional.

Along with the City of Blaine staff the Fire District gave a department status report at the annual Semiahmoo Resort Association (SRA) meeting on Saturday October 25.

The Blaine City Council has requested that the Fire Marshal prepare a new ordinance to upgrade the fire code regarding marine boathouses to match the ordinance adopted by the City of Bellingham.

14 company inspections have been completed in October.

Apparatus

After researching all options the decision was made to order a replacement motor for A69 and have our shop perform the engine replacement. I am happy to report that our shop crew, Elliot and John did an outstanding job of completing this difficult repair. A69 has been returned to service.

AP304 (White Suburban) was sold at auction on November 1 for \$1,300.00.

Facilities

Work has begun on the new exhaust system for station 63.

We are still working on getting updated quotes for Station 61 and Station 68.

IT / Communication's

We are being told that the Harvey Rd. repeater site is up and working. We will begin testing on the site in November.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board reviewed the correspondence and will put the Ballot Measure Submission on the January or February agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Use of Station 12 Aid Unit for Ebola Patients

Chief Anderson asked the Board if they would loan Aid 11 (AP117) to the Bellingham Fire Department for an approximate duration of four months. The Board agreed to loan the vehicle to the BFD after D.C. Hollander checked with our insurance company.

D.C. Pernet informed the Board that a holiday party is scheduled for December 12th at Station 69.

Next Board Meeting: December 11th at 12:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing – 2015 Budget and Levy Increase will start the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Meeting Minutes

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