

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

June 8, 2016

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 and Harry Andrews; Board Secretary Kris Parks, Chief Pernet and Division Chief Henry Hollander. Commissioner Steve Ness was excused.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the May 11, 2016 Meeting

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

Chief Pernet provided information on the financial statements and on the payroll and expense vouchers.

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

Commissioner Neal seconded; motion passed.

Approval of the expense voucher: Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the expense voucher.

Commissioner Neal seconded; motion passed.

Chief's Report

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

Lieutenant Promotional

As part of the Lieutenant promotional process, several candidates took a written exam, participated in an assessment center and Chief oral boards. The Chief is proud to announce that FF Paige and FF Hofstad were successful and are now on a promotional list.

Recruits

All reports are that the recruits are doing great in the academy. They will soon be graduating and will then spent two weeks getting additional NWFR instruction before being assigned to shifts.

EMS Levy

The county approved the ALS EMS levy to be on the November ballot. The Chief foresees there will be many questions from the public as the county moves forward. The county has asked the fire district boards to approve a resolution in support of the levy.

Meetings Attended

- Monthly County Operations Meeting
- Cascadia Rising Meetings
- Birch Bay Chamber Meeting
- Monthly Officer Meeting
- Monthly Labor / Management Meeting
- Coffee with the Chief
- State Fire Chief's Conference

Operations Division Report

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

Crew Activities

- Quarterly Training
- Volunteer Training
- Medical Physicals
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Save Your Own Training
- Air Management

Operations Projects

- Upcoming Ladder and Hose Testing
- Quarterly Safety Committee
- Extrication Equipment In-Service
- Rescue Rope In-Service
- Annual Appraisals
- Equipment Needs

Calls of Interest

May 6, 2016: Crews responded to a reported barn fire on Mt Baker Hwy. E12 upon arrival found a 60 X 30 barn with smoke and flames from the second story. E12 laid a supply line and started extinguishing the fire. B76, E21, E81, B22 and T12 also responded. The crew extinguished the fire on the second floor. Fire cause was determined to be from a nearby burn pile that was not fully extinguished.

May 7, 2016: Crews from station 63, 61, and 65 along with B76 responded to Seabreeze Ct for a reported porch fire. Upon arrival E63 initiated command and pulled a hose line helping a resident that had begun extinguishing the fire. The porch was damaged and the possible cause was a smoldering cigarette.

May 24, 2016: Crews responded to Zell Rd for a reported structure fire. Station 69 and 63 along with B76 responded. This was an abandoned house that was well involved with fire upon arrival by the first units. The fire was fought in a defensive strategy. Crews extinguished and performed overhaul. The cause is still under investigation.

May 26, 2016: Crews responded to I-5 at the U.S. Border prescreening area for a vehicle fire. E63 arrived on scene with a fully involved passenger van. The fire was quickly extinguished and the investigator was called out. The incident is still under investigation.

Training Division Report

Division Chief Hollander presented the training division report.

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

North Whatcom's firefighters/EMTs have completed 633 hours of training for the month of May. This is the second month of Q2 and they are emphasizing urban interface, diversity and air management training.

Kaleb Bruch successfully completed his delivery of firefighter survival drills. He has done a great job planning and training our firefighters to save themselves in the event of a catastrophic event which may drive them out of a structure.

At the Washington State Fire Academy, the five new recruits are remaining at the top of their class in both classroom and manipulative skills. They are representing NWFR very well. Great effort goes to Jeff, Haley, Levi, David and Zach.

After several months of planning and construction, the burn cell is complete and operational. The department hosted a very successful live fire event for the Skagit Valley Community College students on May 25th. 14 new recruits had their first exposure to fire here at 12 and had a great experience. Thank you to all involved.

Outstanding effort in May goes to:

- Captain Mike Schmidt
- Volunteer Jacob Onouye

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

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

The technical review meetings were for a variety of small subdivisions / lot splits, smaller construction projects.

There are two applications for firework sale stands and also one application submitted for the annual fireworks show in the City of Blaine.

The department has a new volunteer by the name of Joyce Rivers who will be volunteering her time one morning a week to enter data into our records management computer system for the Fire Marshal and also the shop.

Planning has begun for the 911 memorial event at Peace Arch Park for this year. The event has grown to the point that the department now will no longer be participating in the ride portion. The department will be focusing all our efforts on the event itself.

The preliminary work has begun with the architects, engineers and the State for the new Blaine School project.

Inspections completed by occupancy report:

There were a total of 0 inspections completed during the month of May.
To date, for the year 2016, there have been 35 total occupancy inspections.

Apparatus

AP 118 (A61): The recall by GM has been completed.

AP 107 (A-12): Tires were replaced.

AP 510 (E-63): Working on a warranty repair with Spartan for cracks in the body in the compartment.

Facilities

Mike Kent with Windermere Real Estate has been selected to list the Custer Station. A contract has been signed between him and the district.

All stations have completed their required annual sprinkler and fire alarm testing.

All upgrades and repairs are complete on the training tower at station 12. The department is just waiting on a few parts to complete the east gate repair.

There has been some parking lot damage at the Custer station with regards to the bollards.

IT

The department has begun the planning meetings with the new dispatch vendor Versaterm. They have a very aggressive schedule to have the new system up and running by March 2017. This means there will be a lot of upfront loading time this year to prepare for that date.

OLD BUSINESS

Fire Wise Program

Chief Pernet informed the Board that he received an email from Mr. Chaudiere from the Whatcom Conservation District. Mr. Chaudiere attended the April board meeting and informed the Board about the Fire Wise Program. Mr. Chaudiere reminded in his email that the fire grants are opening in June. The grant amounts are \$500 - \$1,500 and the department needs to match half if interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on using a Consent Agenda

Chief Pernet provided the Board with an overview on the consent agenda.

Commissioner Andrews made the motion to adopt the consent agenda for future meetings.

Commissioner Neal seconded; Motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board Meeting: July 13th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Meeting Minutes

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