

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

August 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 and Captain Joe Noonchester.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the July 16, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes with one date correction for a fire report.

Commissioner Neal seconded; motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

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

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

Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

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 July, the dollar loss activity and response times.

Personnel

David Comp will be separated from the volunteer pension system to become a career LEOFF firefighter.

Amanda Brassfield will be recognized for her 7-years of service to the department.

Swearing in of new firefighters

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

FEMA Grant

No new information to report on the Fire Act Grant requesting funding for a vehicle exhaust system for Station 63 and upgrades to Station 61. The department also requested funding for 2-bunker gear extractors (heavy-duty washing machines) and drying racks. The department will install a vehicle exhaust system and the bidder with the lowest bid will be approved at the next NWFR board meeting.

Sale of Custer Fire Station

The Custer Station listing expired in June. Shortly after the last meeting Chief Anderson was contacted by Realtor Jeff Johnson indicating that he may have someone interested in the property. Jeff then forwarded a purchase offer which the department then countered and are waiting to hear back if the buyers are still interested.

MOA with Northwest Regional Council

This Memorandum of Agreement between North Whatcom Fire & Rescue and the Northwest Regional Council creates a formal partnership where the services offered by the Regional Council can be offered to the citizens on a referral basis with the patient's approval. The purpose of which is to reduce unwarranted use of the County's 911 system and to put the citizens in touch with the services that can be provided through the Regional Council such as Medicaid, Food Assistance, Fall & Injury prevention training, Meals on Wheels, Respite Care, Adult Day Services, Case Management and Caregiver Support.

Operations Division Report

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

Annual Ladder Testing

Crews facilitated annual Ladder testing the first two weeks of August. All ground ladders were inspected and tested to industry standards.

Annual Hose Testing

Crews are currently working on annual hose inspection and testing. Each full time station is testing their hose and the hose of the volunteer stations assigned to them. Hose testing is expected to be completed by the first week of September.

Special Events

Crews attended several public events; Camp Horizon (camp for special needs children); Faces NW (apparatus show and tell for autistic kids); Discovery Days Parade; and a Tractor Show standby.

A Pancake Feed is scheduled for September 6th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Station 12.

Significant Fires

- July 9 – Room and contents structure fire. E61, E63, B76, dispatched for “smoke in the building” at 942 3rd ST in Blaine. Upon arrival units found a two story residential structure with smoke showing from the rear of the building. A boy and several animals were safely outside and accounted for. The fire was in the laundry room and burned the contents of the room along with creating smoke damage throughout the home. Crews extinguished the fire and checked for extension. The fire was contained to room of origin. The Red Cross provided assistance to the family. The cause was electrical.
- July 14 – RV/Barn Fire with victim. C7103, B76, E12, A12, T12, E69 and many mutual aid units responded to 1424 Mt. Baker Highway for a reported RV fire. C7103 on scene and assumed command of a RV fire fully involved with exposure to barn. Additionally one male victim code arrest. Units battled high ambient temperatures, blocked access, and limited water supply to bring the incident under control. Unfortunately the victim passed away. Fire did extend to the barn structure and damaged the upper mezzanine area. Several vehicles stored on the first floor of the barn were saved.
- July 27 – Barn/Workshop fire. E12, E69, B76, C7103 responded to 2691 Mt. Baker Highway for a reported fire from the roof of a shop. E12 found light smoke from the roof of the structure and initiated command. The fire was located on the inside wall and extended to the roof truss area. E12 extinguished the fire and units investigated the cause. Cause appeared to originate from a pail of exposed gun power on a work bench.

Training Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the training division report.

The report included the staff productivity, the crew training for July and the following information:

The month of July was very busy wrapping up the joint academy with Lynden Fire, testing for the position of a full-time firefighter, and processing a new group of volunteers who will begin their training in September with the Whatcom County Academy. Although there was a lot of activity, all of the efforts are paying off with one great addition to our full-time staff, David Comp, and seventeen new recruits that will begin their work at the department very soon.

Each month the firefighters are required to complete a series of drills that help to keep them proficient. In July, the career staff completed almost 700 hours of training. This shows their dedication to their job and the passion they have to provide quality service to the customers. The volunteer firefighters also have been attending training events and training with the duty crews while working on shift. They accumulated almost 700 hours as well, but a good portion of these hours were spent in the current academy.

Our training division has begun a slightly different approach to Monday night training. The career staff and the volunteers have begun working closely as one group to study and complete drills. The efforts by all have been well executed and have been enjoyable to be part of.

Overall, the firefighters and EMTs are doing well to learn and hone their skills to be even better than they are. Captain Noonchester is always impressed with the work ethic of the crews. Great month all.

The crews are currently training with Medic 45.

Training with the Northwest Regional Council is scheduled for the crews.

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the technical services & maintenance division report.

Fire Marshal

Semiahmoo Marina has submitted their engineered plans for a building permit to the City of Blaine. The city has sent the plans out for a third party review. The goal is to begin construction during the second week of September. The latest information is that there has been much discussion between the plan reviewer and the engineer regarding the proposed design.

The department continues to work with Whatcom County on updating the capital facilities plan (CFP) in a format that would meet both the needs of the fire district and the needs of the county for the purpose of Growth Management Act (GMA) planning. The County is still waiting for their latest updated numbers for population and job projections. No progress was made this month.

The department has not had any updates this month for the proposed Lincoln Park Retirement Center.

The department continues to attend TRC or Pre TRC meetings for both the City of Blaine and Whatcom County.

The old Rite Aid store has experienced a large underground leak in their fire suppression system that caused a small flood in the empty store. The department is currently working with Rite Aid to make the needed repairs.

8 company inspections have been completed in July.

Apparatus

Both department ladder trucks and the City of Lynden ladder truck have successfully passed their annual five year UL inspection as required by NFPA No. 1911.

The District provided a Staff Car, Fire Engine, Tender and a Ladder truck for the Discovery Days Parade.

Facilities

Station 63 Birch Bay: The department has collected updated bids for the vehicle exhaust system for this station. After processing the documentation the next step would be to place the order and complete the installation. It is expected to take 6-8 weeks to complete the installation from the date of order.

The resealing of Station 62, Semiahmoo parking lot is now complete.

IT / Communication's

Harvey Rd. Repeater Site: All wiring for the new telephone connection is complete. The connections at the dispatch center are also complete. The final connection inside the site is scheduled for July 15, once that is complete it will be ready for testing.

9-11 Memorial Ride

Every year NWFR participates in the annual 9-11 Memorial Ride to honor those souls that lost their lives in the horrific attacks in 2001. This year the ride has expanded and now includes two ride options. One for the Canadian side and one for the US side. The US ride will be from the Swinomish Resort and Casino in Anacortes to the Peace Arch Park in Blaine. It is our hope that everyone that is available can come out Thursday, September the 11th and participate in the ride. Following the ride there will be a short ceremony that will include honored guests from New York, then a barbeque. This will be a great opportunity to meet, share stories and remember. This is an amazing and extremely emotional event. For more information please visit the web site, 911 memorialride.org.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Andrews inquired about the relationship regarding the training, coverage and training facility use with the City of Lynden. Chief Anderson updated the Board about the current situation including the engine loans to the Lynden Fire Department. The department is currently trying to recruit for station 72 to cover the area without the help of the Lynden Fire Department if necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Negotiations with Local NW106 (wages & benefits only)

The department received a letter from the Local NW106 to participate at the labor negotiations. Commissioner Neal will consider serving as the WCFD # 4 representative on the labor negotiations board.

Credit Rating for WCFD # 4

The department received and completed a questionnaire from Standard & Poor's. This is important for future credit ratings.

Next Board Meeting: September 17th at 12:00 p.m.

The annual retreat is scheduled for September 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the Semiahmoo Cannery Lodge.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Meeting Minutes

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