

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

September 17, 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 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the August 13, 2014 Regular Meeting.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

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

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

Commissioner Andrews 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 August, the dollar loss activity and response times.

Personnel

Jeff Walker will be separated from the Board of Volunteers Pension System. Jeff served with District 4 & 21 for five years before being hired by the Boeing Fire Department. New hire David Comp is currently assigned to the State Fire Academy in North Bend and will be joining his shift sometime in

October. Our A-Shift Lieutenant remains off duty with a non-job related injury. He has been off since Aug 12th and is not expecting to return until October 31st.

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	Erin Hendershot	Elizabeth Bowman
Haley Urling-Ehinger	Kailee Steele	Travis Tallquist	

FEMA Grant

Just when we were about to give up hope on our grant request from last year we were contacted by FEMA on September 5th notifying us that we were successful in obtaining our 2013 Assistance to Firefighters Grant request for 2 vehicle exhaust removal systems for Stations 61 (Blaine) & 63 (Birch Bay). Our original grant application included a request for 2-bunker gear extractors (heavy-duty washing machines) and 2-drying cabinets that FEMA determined to be ineligible thus reducing the amount awarded from \$168,158 to \$130,440.

Sale of Custer Fire Station

The Custer Fire Station listing expired in June and we will be discussing what the Districts future plans are for the station at our September retreat.

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 August and information on:

Annual Hose Testing

Completed and all crews did a great job. Crews tested over 58,000 feet of hose!

Special Events

- Assisted Lynden with assessment process for lead firefighter
- Camp Horizon fire truck demonstration
- Demolition Derby standby (volunteers)
- Tractor Show standby (on duty crews)
- Tsunami flyer distribution

Chief Anderson informed the Board on the type of tsunami warning tools that are available in case of a tsunami and that donations are needed to fund this program.

Significant Calls

- August 17 – Mobile Home Fire, EN61, EN63, EN65, EN6102, TN65 and B76 responded for a reported structure fire at 3358 Haynie Rd. The homeowner was on scene upon arrival and suffered minor burn injuries. This fire began as a cooking fire that extended to the home. The main body of fire was knocked down by Engine 61 personnel. Extinguishment of the fire was slowed by the presence of several 15-20 gal propane tanks located near the structure that had vented. Mutual aid from District 7 and the City of Lynden assisted with additional engines and rehab unit. The Red Cross and the county support officers assisted the residents after the fire.
- August 29 – Kitchen Fire, EN63, EN61, EN65, B76, C71, EN6102 responded for a reported kitchen fire at 8670 Harbor Dr. in Blaine. Engine 63 arrived on scene to a one story modular home with a working fire. Engine 61 began a fire attack and pulled hose lines. The residents were safely out of the house when crews arrived. A fire was located inside the kitchen area and extinguished. Units performed overhaul and salvaged most of the home contents.

Training Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the training division report.

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

The month of August was a very busy time for North Whatcom with an increase of emergency responses, hose testing and community events. Even with the increased work load and public outreach, our firefighters were still able to complete 800 hours of training that included several different topics. Great work crews. The training department is also considering an advanced extrication type class.

Our newest member, David Comp, has successfully completed week 3 of the Washington State Recruit Academy in North Bend Washington. David continues to work hard in his class and is emerging as a leader of the group, not in title but in spirit. We are very proud of him as he represents this fire district well.

The North Whatcom Volunteers have increased their numbers as we have added 7 new recruits to the Whatcom County Fire Academy. The group is comprised of young energetic people and is just into their 2nd week. By December this year, we will have them sworn-in as firefighters. The most unique quality of this group is that 4 of them are already EMTs which means that they will be ready to go work very soon.

Finally, honorable mention goes to the two firefighters who have completed the most training hours for the month: Lt. Jorgensen and Diego Oliver

Well done....

A new part-time data entry assistant has been hired for the training department with a start date of October 1st 2014.

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

Division Chief Hollander 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. There continues to be progress on completing all the required engineering in order for the city to issue the building permit.

The Whatcom County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the draft Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County Facilities 2015-2020 (Appendix F of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan) that would replace the existing Six-Year CIP for 2013-2018. This hearing will be held Thursday, September 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Planning & Development Services Northwest Annex, 5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham. We continue to work with Whatcom County on updating our 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 proposed Lincoln Park Retirement Center project is scheduled to go before the Hearing Examiner in September.

The new Edaleen Dairy is scheduled to be completed and open in early October.

BlueRidge Semiahmoo Point LLC is proposing a project to include 220,000 square ft. of Destination Spa, 90,000 square ft. of overnight accommodations, 70,000 square ft. of spa wellness services, and 60,000 square ft. of back-of-house and common areas. Also included in the project are 110 residential units.

Prestwick Village is proposing a Planned Unit Development of 52 condominium (multi-family residential) units.

The City is moving forward with a request for a processing plant at 2252 Odell Road in the Blaine Business Park. This project does not qualify for SEPA.

North Bay Christ the King Church is proposing a new 16,000 square ft. community church at 2748 Peace Portal Drive.

Stem Enterprises is proposing a 5,000 square ft. single story cannabis grow facility at 3210 Peace Portal Drive.

Can-Amer Freight has applied for a new 60 x 140 ft. storage warehouse at 1927 Boblett St.

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. Due to the estimated high cost of repair it has taken a while to get management approval for the repair. Currently the repairs have been approved and the contractor is scheduling the work.

7 company inspections have been completed in August.

Apparatus

Our new Van (AP-312) has been detailed, and striped with our departments logo and is now in service. Now that AP-312 is in service we can begin the process of surplus the old white suburban (AP-304).

Facilities

With the awarding of the AFG grant we will be collecting additional bids for a station exhaust system for upgrading station 61. We have signed the contract for the upgrade to station 63 and all material is on order.

Stations 12 washing machine had a support shock break and penetrate the machine drum causing it to not be repairable. We were able to find a replacement in our storage and our shop personnel made the switch out.

IT / Communication's

Harvey Rd. Repeater Site: We are in the final testing stages of the repeater site and the expectation is for it to go online any day.

9-11 Memorial Ride

I would like to thank all the participating agencies for their support and involvement for the 911 memorial Ride at the Peace Arch Park on the morning of September the 11th. I would like to give an extra thanks to Fire District #7 and Division Chief Dean Crosswhite for both their support in man hours and equipment that they provided. Each year we request Ladder 41 and their 20ft American flag and they always provide them without hesitation. This year they also provided an ALS ambulance for standby along with three staff members as staging officers.

OLD BUSINESS

Standard & Poor's Rating Letter & Report

Chief Anderson informed the Board that Standard and Poor's Ratings Services affirms its "A+" rating on Whatcom County Fire Protection Districts No. 4, Washington's general obligation (GO) refunding bonds. The outlook is stable.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Issue Compliance Reporting

Chief Anderson informed the Board regarding the bond issue compliance reporting.

Commissioner Ness made the motion to submit the compliance report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Next Board Meeting: October 14th at 12:00 p.m.

The annual retreat is scheduled for September 20th at 8:30 a.m. at the Semiahmoo Cannery Lodge.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Meeting Minutes

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