

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

November 10, 2015

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; Board Secretary Kris Parks, Division Chief Henry Hollander and Captain Joe Noonchester. Chief Pernet was absent due to vacation.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2015 Meeting.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

Division Chief Hollander provided information on the financial statements and on the payroll, expense and capital vouchers.

Approval of the payroll voucher, expense and capital vouchers: Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the payroll voucher, expense and capital vouchers. Commissioner Neal seconded; motion passed.

Chief's Report

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

Newhalem Fire Reimbursement

The department has received full reimbursement for the deployment of NWFR resources to the Newhalem deployment in August.

Budget Planning

The Chief has begun to meet with staff to discuss budget planning for next year. Research on capital items, division expenditures, and forecast revenues will continue.

Coffee with the Chief

Chief Pernet has begun to meet with employees once a month for "Coffee with the Chief". This is an informal forum for the chief to update employees on district issues and to ask questions.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant

The department was notified this month that we were unsuccessful with our AFG grant this year. We will reapply next year and remain hopeful that we will be funded.

Health Insurance

The health Insurance committee has reviewed many options for insurance in 2016. The committee has chosen to make no changes this year and retain our self-funded (ACA Compliant) plan through CAS.

Operations Division Report

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

Crew Activities

Community Halloween Events
Volunteer Training
MCS Drills
Football Standbys
Hose Testing
Strategic Planning Meetings

Meetings Attended

Medical Insurance
EMC Council
Board Meetings
County Ops
Labor/Management
Officer Meeting

Operations Projects

Hose Testing
Safety Committee
Burn Tower Conversion
Life Safety Rope
Annual Appraisals

Calls of Interest

10/9/15 – Grant Rd. Blaine – Commercial Structure Fire, Fed Ex, E63, E61, B76, initially responded for a commercial structure fire. Upon arrival crews observed moderate smoke from a large commercial warehouse. Blaine Command was established and E63 crew made access to the building finding only smoke and restricted access. E61 crew made access to the A side to find heavy smoke with red glow coming from a large walk-in freezer. A second alarm was requested due the large size of the structure.

The fire source was located and isolated to a freezer door inside the facility. There was smoke damage to the building contents and the building was cleared of smoke by crews. 5 million dollars of stored product was saved by aggressively finding the seat of the fire.

10/27/15 – Motor Vehicle Collision with Fire – Hannegan/Kelly Rd. A12, E12, E69, A69, B76, M2 responded for the report of a MVC. B76 on scene reported a three vehicle MVC with one vehicle in a ditch fully involved with fire. B76 assumed command and began assigning resources for fire suppression and patient care. The burning vehicle was about 20 feet from a residential structure. E12, A12 extinguished the fire and E69, A69 performed triage and treatment of 5 patients. One patient was transported to the hospital by M2. The rest of the patients were treated and released from the scene. The vehicle that burned had a grandmother, two grandchildren, and two dogs that were helped out by bystanders before our arrival. Unfortunately one of the dogs died and the other was injured.

Training Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the training division report.

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

North Whatcom's firefighters have completed 283 hours of training for the month of October. Several other events for the month have taken precedence over training like hose and ladder testing. All of the crews participate in this process to meet our NFPA and state safety requirements.

In October, the firefighters performed and completed their routine drills which included topics like SCBA quarterlies, wet hose evolutions and EMS ongoing education. Some outside training has taken place as well. The office staff has taken advantage of some good training in October that will enhance their skill set and performance.

The newest recruits are now halfway to graduation. They are training very hard in firefighter related skills and working as teammates. All five of our new volunteers are excelling and representing NWFR very well!

Each month the training division of North Whatcom attends a training officer's meeting. Captain Noonchester meets with the other county agencies to discuss training as a whole. The group of leaders share resources to assure that the firefighters are trained the same since they work on fires together. One good example is the county operations manual and the newly revised hose manual.

Outstanding effort in October goes to:

- LT Adam Smith
- FF Kailee Steele

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

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

Division Chief Hollander will be providing a contract between PogoZone and the Fire District for rental of the sites for the purpose of providing wireless internet to the department areas. In consideration of the leased space PogoZone will be providing our fiber cable between stations for a 5 year fixed price and also will be providing multiple internet lines to each of our fire stations for a flat fee of \$10.00 a month. Division Chief Hollander can provide any additional information or answer any questions the board may have.

Division Chief Hollander attended the annual SRA (Semiahmoo Resort Association) Meeting on Saturday, October 24th at the Semiahmoo Inn, where he met with citizens and answered questions.

An update on the Dakota Creek Bridge project from James Lee:

“After a busy summer we are nearing the end of construction and are on schedule to have the bridge opened to traffic by the end of November. We should have a better idea of the actual date the bridge will be opened to traffic in the next week or so and will provide that information to you as soon as possible.”

There were a total of 9 inspections completed for the Month of October.

To date for the year 2015 there have been 196 total occupancy inspections.

Apparatus

A61: Had a recall from Chevy on an issue with the block heaters shorting out and starting fires. Our new Chevy ambulance has had the repairs made.

A63: Oil leak issue, oil sensor and oil cooler were replaced.

A69: Fuel smell and pulling to one side, replaced brakes, ball joints, tires, PM.

E12: Replaced front steer tires.

Facilities

Station 64 (Custer): Division Chief Hollander will remind the board that the Custer Station is in need of roof repairs. He is still receiving one or two calls a week regarding the sale of the station.

The factory rep for Magnegrip, our station exhaust company, is sending out a technician to repair some warranty issues we are having along with upgrading of all the trip sensors.

IT

Progress continues on adding additional in-vehicle repeaters to more of our first out apparatus and adjusting the frequency's to match. The additional equipment is being purchased by the COL and funded by the new freezer plant being constructed in their area. The new proposed frequency is in a band area that is less effected by bleed over and interference.

OLD BUSINESS

American Tower Cell Agreement

Division Chief Hollander informed the Board that Chief Pernet is working with American Tower to renew the contract which might be available at the next board meeting.

Training Tower

The first payment for the training tower conversion was approved. The company will start to manufacture the parts and the department will start the demolition. The remaining propane in the tank was picked up. The operational deadline is scheduled for February 1, 2016 and the department is developing a program for running the burn tower. A lot of other agencies will use the burn tower in the future.

Interlocal Agreement/City of Bellingham

Division Chief Hollander informed that the interlocal agreement needs approval from the city council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board Meeting and Public Hearing for the 2016 Budget: December 9th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Meeting Minutes:

Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2015 Meeting

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

Finances:

Approval of the payroll voucher, expense and capital vouchers

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