

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
Whatcom County Fire District #21
Station 61 – Blaine
9408 Odell Street, Blaine WA 98230
9:00 am
November 5, 2016
Special Fire Commissioners Meeting – Budget Study Session**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bosman called the special Whatcom County Fire District #21 and District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for November 5, 2016 to order at 9:03 a.m. at Station 61 – 9408 Odell Street, Blaine, WA 98230.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Berkeley exited the meeting room during the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

District #4 Attendees: Chairman Harry Andrews; Commissioner Mary Beth Neal.

District #21 Attendees: Chairman Rich Bosman; Vice-Chairman Larry McPhail, Commissioners Dean Berkeley, John Crawford and Bruce Ansell; Fire Chief William Pernet; Division Chief Henry Hollander; Business Manager Benita Williams, Administrative Assistant Jennie Sand.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

2017 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Chief Pernet noted that the purpose of this study session was to educate and provide opportunities for discussion to strategies for the upcoming year. Chief Pernet provided a budget process overview which included the budget development process, revenues and expenditure information along with bond and capital request reports.

Chief Pernet reported that revenues include property taxes, District #4 contract, ambulance transport fees, grants, delinquent taxes, contract fees, state parks, investment interest, rents, donations and insurance reimbursements. Chief Pernet reported on district expenditures including the administration, operations, training, fire prevention and public education, facilities and vehicle maintenance divisions as well as debt payments and capital purchases.

Chief Pernet reviewed some of the 2017 capital requests that will be discussed in greater detail during the next budget work session.

Chief Pernet pointed out some of the upcoming challenges regarding formulating the 2017 budget which includes:

- Economy is slowly rebounding
- Statutory limitations 1%
- Expenses outpacing revenues
- Debt payments
- Operational / Capital needs

In addition, Chief Pernet identified information that remains unknown at this time including final property tax revenues, healthcare costs, wage and benefit costs, and unfunded mandates.

A break was taken at 10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Chief Pernet reviewed the substantial need and one percent increase resolutions that will be proposed at a public hearing held on Thursday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. at Odell Station 61.

Another budget work session has been scheduled for Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 a.m. to be held at Odell Station 61. Division heads will be available to answer questions and the Fire Commissioners will set priorities for 2017.

The 2017 budget will be presented for approval during the regularly scheduled Commissioner meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business Vice Chairman McPhail moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Berkeley and approved 5-0.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary