

# Whatcom County Fire District 4

## Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

### June 11, 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 and Harry Andrews; Fire Chief Ron Anderson, Board Secretary Kris Parks and Division Chief Henry Hollander. Commissioner Steve Ness attended the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **BOARD ACTION**

##### Meeting Minutes

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

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

##### Interlocal Agreement

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve to sign the Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

##### Finance

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

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

Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

##### Chief's Report

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

Personnel

***New firefighters joining the department***

Jordan Clark	Austin Harris	Justin McGarvin	Zachary Scott
Jeff Hayley	Jesse Harris	Vern Simpson III	Richard Walter
Andrew Winch	Skye Luke		

Chief Anderson informed the Board that Firefighter Amanda Brassfield resigned from the district and accepted a position with the Shoreline Fire Department. Her last day with the department is June 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Division Chief Hollander is currently requesting quotes for the vehicle exhaust system.

Sale of the Lynden and Custer Fire Stations

The sale of Station 71 (Lynden) on 19<sup>th</sup> street is complete! The proceeds from the sale were used to pay off two old District 3 bonds saving the District over \$70,000 in interest payments alone. The bulk of equipment and furnishings from the building were moved to Station 70 (Wiser Lake) with some equipment such as our bunker gear being relocated to Station 12 (Britton Loop). Our realtor Jeff Johnson continues to actively market the Custer Station however no serious buyer has been identified at this point in time.

Fire Commissioner Training

Attorney Frank Chmelik will be instructing a class on Fire Commissioners Roles and Responsibilities on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> 8:00-12:00 at Station 61 (Blaine).

**Operations Division Report**

Chief Anderson provided information on the operations division report which included the department time-off statistics for May and information on:

The selection process is complete for a new Division Chief of Operations and the department tendered an offer of employment to Mr. William Pernet that he has accepted. His first day on the job will be Monday June 16<sup>th</sup> and he hopes to have his family moved up here from Tucson by August. Bill comes to the department with over 24 years of experience all of which he has spent coming up through the ranks of the Golder Ranch Fire District. He has spent time as a Firefighter, Company Officer, Training Officer, Paramedic, Hazardous Materials Team Coordinator and Battalion Chief. Bill's education includes AAS Degrees in Fire Science, Paramedicine and General Studies. He also has a BS in Public Safety Administration and is working on his Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Leadership. In addition, he serves as the Chairman of their Fire District's Policy Committee and as a member of their Honor Guard. As you can see, Bill is well qualified for this position and the department is looking forward to his joining the management team and the skills he will bring with him.

## Significant Incidents

- 5/17/2014 8000 Block of Birch Bay Drive: The crew was dispatched to a report of a kitchen fire located at the corner of Birch Bay Drive and Shintaffer. Upon arrival Engine 63 discovered the owner had extinguished the fire with a garden hose. The fire appeared to have been started by hot oil left unattended on the stove. Crews performed salvage and overhaul, ventilation and investigation. Engine 63 and Batt 76 handled the call; all other units were code greened (cancelled). Units responding: 2-Engines, 1-Tender, 2-Command Officers, 9-personnel total. Total Loss to property and contents was estimated at \$20,500.
- 5/17/2014 2200 Block of Pangborn Rd north of Lynden: The crew arrived on location to a fully involved residential building with flames shooting through the roof approximately 30-40 feet in the air. The owner of the property was not home at the time of the fire however two cats were reported as unaccounted for. Upon the homeowners return he was treated for possible cardiac problems and later for stroke like symptoms. The fire was contained to the building of origin and was kept from spreading to a nearby shop and garage located just a few feet behind the residence. Units dispatched 4-Engines, 4-Water Tenders, 3-Command Officers, 2-Aid Units. We received auto and mutual aid from the City of Lynden, Whatcom Fire District 1 and Bellingham Medics for a total of 28 personnel on scene. The property and content dollar loss was reported at \$195,000.

## Training Division Report

Chief Anderson presented the training division report.

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

The firefighters have trained very hard in May accumulating 1122 hours. Most of what they concentrated on was engine related topics such as company drills, hose deployment and ground ladders. In addition to all of that, the training division conducted the annual "Air Management Course" training at Station 63. This course was developed to have the firefighters recognize their potential and practice maintaining a good understanding of breathing supplied air as they perform moderate fire ground activities.

In May every year, Kelly measures their V02 Max levels prior to air management day. This provides each firefighter the information they need to stay safe while working in a hostile environment. They also get the chance to work through these events as a team to develop good cohesion and camaraderie as an engine company.

North Whatcom Fire had several other agencies use the facilities for their training such as live fire (WCFD#18), pump operations (BFD) and hazmat 99.

The joint academy is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> week. The new recruits are doing very well and seem to be enjoying the experience. Their hard work and dedication is appreciated.

## **Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report**

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

Progress has begun with the Semiahmoo Marina with the goal of bringing them into compliance with the IFC (International Fire Code). The Marina has installed a Fire Department Connection (FTC) and five new standpipe outlets located evenly on both the main and fuel docks. The crews have begun training on the new temporary system. The installation of this new temporary system will greatly enhance the ability to establish a quicker water supply in the event of a fire. They have also submitted a complete set of engineered plans for approval from both the City of Blaine and the Fire District. Their intention is to begin the installation of the new system shortly after Labor Day.

The district continues 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. Since the County has not received their latest numbers for growth both for population projections and job analyses they have canceled the last two meetings.

The Semiahmoo Inn has completed all their remodel work in the restaurant sections.

The district has met with the developer of the proposed Lincoln Park Retirement Center and provided information regarding fire code concerns. The department is also preparing a mitigation agreement with some slight language modification that more accurately reflects the proposed development.

This month has been very busy with all TRC or Pre TRC meetings for both the City of Blaine and Whatcom County. The district is seeing a large increase in permit requests relating to the marijuana industry.

51 company inspections have been completed in May.

### **Apparatus**

The mechanics have discovered some cracking and water leak issues on one of the newest engines, E-69. The factory has agreed to cover the repair expenses under their ten year chassis warranty. The department would not be surprised to see the same issue develop on the other two.

### **Facilities**

Station 71 (Lynden): All work is complete, and the property is now turned over to the new buyer. There is one small issue with some door locks that will have to be negotiated with the Sheriff's Department.

### **IT / Communication's**

Harvey Rd. Repeater Site: The contractor has installed copper wire from the telephone connection to the Conex box. We are now waiting for the phone company to make their connections followed by each radio shop installing their respective equipment on both ends. No update this month.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

Next Board Meeting: July 16th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

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Harry Andrews, Chair

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Kris Parks, Board Secretary

## **Motions and Directives:**

### Meeting Minutes

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### Finance

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