

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
Whatcom County Fire District #21
Station 61 – Blaine
9408 Odell Street, Blaine WA 98230
1:00 pm
November 11, 2017
Special Fire Commissioners Meeting – Budget Study Session**

CALL TO ORDER

Whatcom County Fire District # 21 Chairman Rich Bosman called the special meeting/budget study session for November 11, 2017 to order at 1:00 p.m. at Station 61 – 9408 Odell Street, Blaine, WA 98230.

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, Commissioner John Crawford and Bruce Ansell; Fire Chief William Pernet; Division Chief Henry Hollander.

Commissioner Berkeley requested to be excused from the meeting due to medical reasons.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

2018 BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Chief Pernet stated that the goal of the budget study session is to give the Commissioners a view of the budget process and then review the line items in the budget for 2018.

Followed by a discussion of the Commissioners priorities versus what the Chief has budgeted.

The Chief introduced a draft budget and informed that the tax revenues are unknown at the time.

The departments received some initial numbers from the County but the County still needs to collect all the property values due to new reassessment due to the well digging issue. The department won't have the updated numbers until the end of November or early December.

The Chief informed that he had his last state mediation meeting for the collective bargaining agreement with the Local and they came to a tentative agreement on the contract.

Labor will be voting on this on Tuesday, November 14th. The Chief informed that he will announce the outcome at the next regular WCFD# 21 board meeting on the 16th. The Chief will discuss the details with the Commissioners in the executive session at that meeting to show the changes and benefits that were decided on. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to approve the changes as well. The whole compensation package was about 8%; the Chief's goal was to stay under 9%. There is an agreement to retro-pay back to January 1, 2017. There is a 1.8% wage increase which is the current

CPIU for 2017 and for 2018 the CPIU is 3% but we got the Local to agree to 2%. For 2019 they agreed to a range between 1% and 3%.

The health insurance cost increased by 3%. The department will change to a new network in 2018, from First Choice to Cigna. If there is an increase over 10% in the next year then both Labor and Management will get together and bargain those increases.

The labor contract negotiations for the new contract will start in July 2019 to negotiate the next 3 year contract.

Chief Pernet provided a 2018 budget overview for both districts which included all the line items and the 2017 year to date comparisons.

This included the development details, county tax information, property tax levies, revenues, the District #4 contract payment, transport fees, grants and expenditures like salaries, benefits, operations, capital expenditures, bonds and some challenges that the department might have for 2018.

Chief Pernet informed the Board on the healthcare using a 6 year comparison.

Labor and Industrial Insurance: In 2018 we don't expect to have a high increase in L&I. The department has the highest premium allowed. He informed that the department had success with the stay at work program for one of our employees. These reimbursements don't affect our rates.

Division Chief Hollander and Chief Pernet answered any questions and provided additional information as needed.

The 2018 WCFD # 4 budget will be presented for approval during the regularly scheduled Fire Commissioner meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business Commissioner McPhail moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ansell and approved 3-0.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary