

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

April 17, 2019

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 Anna Melillo; Board Secretary Kris Parks, Interim Fire Chief Joe Noonchester and Division Chief Jason Van der Veen.

The Chair opened the board meeting at 12:02 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. Staff Reports - Chiefs / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Reports
4. Vouchers
District #4 Commissioners Direct Deposit Payroll \$512.00
District #4 Expenditure Voucher: \$464,220.80

The following items on the consent agenda received clarification:

- The overtime hours were explained to the Board by D.C. Van der Veen.
- The Board received information on the response map from D.C. Van der Veen.
- Chief Noonchester explained that GEMT stands for Ground Emergency Medical Transportation and the department should receive a payment soon.
- Chief Noonchester explained the expenditures for the WA ST audit and some other revenue and expenditure line items to the Board.

Commissioner Neal moved to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Melillo seconded; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement between the City of Bellingham and WCFD #4 concerning mitigation of annexation impacts:

The Board discussed the interlocal agreement and Commissioner Neal moved to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Bellingham and WCFD 4 concerning mitigation of annexation impacts, Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Power Point Presentation

Chief Noonchester gave a power point presentation regarding the Interlocal Agreement which included staffing, line and administration, resources, budgets and planning.

Milestones since the consolidation in 2011:

- New staffing model
- Elimination of apparatus debt
- Development of new burn tower operations/policy and procedure
- EMS levy for WCFD#4
- Upgrade of safety systems at station 12
- Sale of an easement at station 13
- Mitigation payments from the annexed Trickle Creek area and other UGA area
- Fire Chiefs and Interim Chiefs, new Fire Commissioners and Board Chair
- Automatic aid agreement with COB
- Increased staffing to 3 person engine companies at station 12

Current agreements include the revised interlocal agreement for services from 2014, the interlocal agreement for the use of the training facilities, the automatic aid agreement with the City of Bellingham and mitigation agreements. In 2023, the mitigation payments from COB end for WCFD#4. At that point the department might have to terminate the auto-aid agreement and/or reduce the staffing at station 12 to a 2 person engine.

Next steps could be a merger, a separation from NWFR, the forming of a Regional Fire Authority, a levy lid lift for WCFD#4 and/or WCFD#21 and other funding sources.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Mary Beth Neal recessed the meeting for an Executive Session,
Per RCW 42.30.110(g) *“to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.”* at 12:58 p.m. for 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Mary Beth Neal called the regular meeting back into open session at 1:05 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: May 15th at 12 p.m.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Mary Beth Neal, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Consent Agenda:

Commissioner Neal moved to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Melillo seconded; motion passed.

Interlocal Agreement:

The Board discussed the interlocal agreement and Commissioner Neal moved to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Bellingham and WCFD 4 concerning mitigation of annexation impacts, Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.