

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

June 12, 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, Division Chief Jason Van der Veen and Division Chief Herschel Rostov.

The Chair opened the board meeting at 12:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - April 17, 2019 Regular Meeting
 - May 15, 2019 Regular Meeting
2. Staff Reports - Chiefs / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Reports
4. Vouchers
 - District #4 Commissioners Direct Deposit Payroll \$640.00
 - District #4 Expenditure Voucher: \$19.00

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

OLD BUSINESS

GEMT Update:

Chief Noonchester updated the Board that the department expects payments at the end of July.

Ongoing Discussion for Paramedics:

Chief Noonchester and D.C. Van der Veen attended a meeting regarding paramedics for the upcoming class of 2020. This course opened up to other agencies and is taught thru the Bellingham Technical College, has a maximum of 14 students and is a 2 year program. This program is funded by the County EMS program. The district is interested in sending 2 students to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6/29 and the Chief will keep the Board informed.

Department Master Plan:

The Master Plan is under way and budgeted for in 2019. The administrative staff is split up in teams to process the questionnaire. The next step is a site visit by the company to meet staff, commissioners and the community. They will provide us with data to make decisions for the department.

First Amendment to the interlocal agreement for fire and emergency medical services between Whatcom County Fire District 4 and North Whatcom Fire and Rescue:

A meeting between the Chairs of both departments will be arranged for informal discussion. Then a special meeting will be scheduled regarding the interlocal agreement amendment.

NEW BUSINESS

Union Contract Negotiations:

Chief Noonchester informed the Board that he received a letter from the union regarding contract negotiations. The current contract expires on 12/31/2019. Negotiations will start in August/September.

Prevention Division Overview:

Chief Rostov provided the Board with info on the prevention division structure.

5 Areas of Focus:

- Investigations
- Construction Services
- Existing Building Inspections
- Public Education
- Operations Support

New Recruits:

D.C. Van der Veen informed the Board that we have 2 new recruits. They started on June 10th and are receiving their in-house training. This is a 3 week training program and they are taught by our own staff which are certified firefighters and EMT's.

Jackets and Apparel:

Commissioner Neal shared her ideas regarding district jackets and apparel with the Board.

Chief Noonchester informed the Board that he is on vacation for the next NWFR board meeting.

Next Board Meeting: July 17th at 12 p.m.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:54 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.