

Whatcom County Fire District 4
Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
March 30, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on the above date. Those who attended by phone were as follows: Commissioners Dave Hanson and Harry Andrews, Board Secretary Kris Parks, Acting Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen, NWFR Chair Bruce Ansell and Legal Counsel Rich Davis.

The Chair opened the board meeting at 12:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- Meeting Minutes
February 18, Regular Meeting
- Staff Reports – Chief/Operations/Training/Fire Marshal
- Financial Reports
- Vouchers
District #4 Commissioners Direct Deposit Payroll: \$640.00
District #4 Expenditure Voucher: \$172.90

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.

A COVID response report will be provided with the next staff report.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Chief Selection Process

Commissioner Ansell stated that according to the interlocal agreement the District 4 Commissioners will be involved in the Fire Chief selection process. He informed that NWFR is moving forward in the selection of the Fire Chief now by forming a committee which would consist of two NWFR commissioners and one District 4 commissioner. Legal counsel stated that no executive session is needed for the Fire Chief selection.

Commissioner Hanson stated that District 4 should not be involved in the hiring/firing of the NWFR Fire Chief because District 4 only contracted for services with NWFR. This should be a NWFR Board decision. Commissioner Andrews supported this opinion.

Legal Counsel Rich Davis informed that this right can be waived if there is a consensus of the D4 Board that NWFR would appoint the Fire Chief. Commissioners Andrews and Hanson agreed with Rich Davis.

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to waive section 5.9 of the interlocal agreement. Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.

Appointment of new Chair of the Board

Commissioner Andrews announced that former Commissioner Melillo resigned from her position as Fire Commissioner/Chair due to her moving out of the fire district. The Board thanked her for all her work she did for the department.

Commissioner Andrews made the motion to appoint Commissioner Hanson to Chair of the Board. Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.

Legal Counsel Rich Davis provided an update on public meetings and that restrictions are in place until April 30th. He stated that several platforms are available to hold meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board called an executive session at 12:22 p.m. for 45 minutes 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”.

The regular board meeting commenced at 1:09 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: April 15th, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.

SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS

The documents will be signed by Commissioner Hanson and Commissioner Andrews.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.

Dave Hanson, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directions:

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.

Fire Chief Selection Process

Commissioner Andrews made a motion to waive section 5.9 of the interlocal agreement. Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.

Appointment of new Chair of the Board

Commissioner Andrews made the motion to appoint Commissioner Hanson to Chair of the Board. Commissioner Hanson seconded; motion passed.