



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. Commissioner Copple and Commissioner Geiger were present. Chief Halverson, Deputy Chief Fulcher and District Secretary, Cathy Barth, were present. Members of the public were in attendance.

Additions to Agenda – Commissioner Fox added to New Business a brief discussion of the Sno-Isle meetings he recently attended.

Public Comments – Ms. Chase offered her opinion regarding the purchase of body armor. In doing research she found that FEMA offers grants and that both large and small districts are purchasing vests currently. Danger to Firefighter's has ramped up over the past several years. She commented that moving forward with a purchase sooner rather than later makes more sense. Perhaps purchasing a minimum number of vests to start. Sending the message that we care about the safety of our personnel and are ready to change with the times is in her opinion, the message the District should be sending.

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached

Commissioner Geiger mentioned that passerby found generator with our District identification on it. It has since been returned. He asked if it was possible it was stolen from one of the apparatus being stored at the Ingalls rental. He asked that crews swing in and take a look at the stored apparatus more often. Chief commented that the owners are aware of the vandals and have now installed cameras. Chief will arrange for crews to take a look at apparatus more frequently.

Secretary's Report – None

Old Business –

Body Armor –

Commissioner Fox commented that the Chief mailed out three policy statements from other Districts regarding the body armor and he appreciated receiving that information. He stated that he does not necessarily agree or feel we would utilize all of the language in the policies. He commented as he said at the last meeting, people wearing vests are also carrying side arms. He stated that times are changing and we want to protect our people. He feels it is more of an operational issue not necessarily an issue that should be decided by the Board. He has not heard from the Firefighters as to what they would like to do with regard to the purchase or wearing of vests.

Commissioner Geiger spoke with two staff members, one that thought vests would be a good idea, and the other said that they appreciated the District wanting to keep them safe. Commissioner Geiger stated that the District has an obligation to keep staff safe. Specifically during Slumper calls. He further commented that in his time as Commissioner there has been no progress in discussion as to how these calls should be handled. He stated that he sees planning and foresight as an operational duty of the Commissioners. He commented that having a vest on does not necessitate a side arm.



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2020

Old Business – continued

Body Armor –

Commissioner Fox reiterated that he has not heard staff say that they want the vests. He asked the Chief if our obligations while wearing body armor have been discussed with Attorney Snure. Chief stated that he has spoken to Attorney Snure and there is really nothing that requires Firefighters to wear body armor.

The Chief stated that he intends to move forward with the purchase of ten vests. He said in the past he would have thought this was an over cautious move but in the current climate and times it may be necessary. In particular he pointed to the November election as having potential for unprecedented civil unrest. To date the District's concern about slumper calls has not been addressed at the County level. The Chief feels other fire organizations do not share our concern.

Commissioner Fox disagreed with Commissioner Geiger stating that the conversation about Slumper calls has been ongoing for more than ten years and that the District has repeatedly stated that the first to respond to a Slumper call should be a police officer.

Commissioner Geiger asked if the Chief engaged in any further discussions about ALS contracts. The Chief replied that he has spoken to Chief Andrews and they continue to discuss a cooperative method of providing ALS, but are not discussing a contractual agreement.

Open Issues /Actions – No new actions.

New Business –

Sno-Isle meeting - Commissioner Fox reported on his attendance at the recent Sno-Isle meetings.

Executive Session - None

Commissioner Comments –

Commissioner Fox thanked the staff for providing the information about body armor. He thanked the staff for continuing to respond on calls. He commented that hopefully next year calls will be made from the new station.

Commissioner Geiger also thanked the staff for getting the information to them about body armor. He brought to the Boards attention information he received regarding a timber harvest. He feels that the Board should take a stance on the issue as it may affect District timber revenues.

He mentioned that he will be completing the WFCOA Commissioners survey regarding Legislative actions during the next session. He reported that one of the issues is to increase the EMS levy limit from fifty cents to seventy five cents. He suggested that all of the Commissioners complete the survey.

Commissioner Copple said that society is changing and the DNR timber harvest issue is something we should spend some time educating ourselves about.

August 24, 2020



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

August 24, 2020

Station Construction

On Wednesday the 12th at appx 1800 hours as excavations for footing drains were being completed I received a call that bones had been found on site. Portions of an old blanket were found and as it was being taken to the dumpster three long bones were discovered wrapped in the blanket.

Law enforcement was requested and on arrival took pictures and sent them to the medical examiners who found one of the long bones suspicious. We searched the area where the bones were discovered eventually finding teeth, also in or near pieces of a blanket. The teeth were clearly not human. Pictures of the teeth were also taken and sent to the medical examiner. The medical examiner's advice was to continue excavation while watching for additional bones. The next day a dog collar was found at the same location. It was decided that the bones were from a dog buried on site.

Framing and excavation for the sewer and drainage systems are the present priorities. Water leaking into the 16 foot deep sewer excavation ditch is slowing progress on the sewer connection. The present concern with the framing is lumber supply, specifically the engineered beams. We will require 8,000 feet of the beam material and so far have received only 1000 feet. Trico is shopping for alternatives.

COVID-19

Covid deaths in the County are holding steady. According to Doctor Cooper the, Snohomish County EMS Control Physician, death rates from Covid are four times greater than the worst flu season he has seen in his career. Providence Hospital was experiencing increased numbers of people seeking treatment for Covid last week, probably resulting from a peak in infections in mid-July following gatherings to celebrate Independence Day. The County infection rate is 25 per 100,000 citizens and the total Covid death count is 206. The infection rate is much lower than the peak Covid infection rate earlier in the pandemic but still higher than experts want to see for opening schools and other venues.

The accuracy of testing continues to be problematic. We now believe that after a potential exposure the optimal time to be tested is 8 days. This can be somewhat helpful to our crews who have treated a Covid positive patient and possibly had an exposure. Presently 31% of line of duty deaths in the fire service are thought to be Covid related.

New information out of Duke University shows that second to N95 mask those made of multiple layers of cotton are the most effective. The around the neck wraps referred to as

gators are the worst and may make the situation worse by turning what would have been heavier droplets into more of an aerosol.

We are witnessing Covid Fatigue in society in general and the fire service specifically. It is getting increasingly difficult to gain and maintain compliance with mask wearing and other Covid restrictions.

J D Slick Fire

The individual responsible for the fire at JD Slicks has been identified and apprehended. The County Prosecutor will review the evidence and decide on specific charges.

Vandalism to District Property

Last weekend the garage door to the basement under the gym was tagged, the lock cut and the door broken down. It appears the only things taken were two electric cords. On Thursday of last week my office internet wasn't working when I arrived. Upon investigation we found that the internet cable had been cut as had at least one of the lines to the security cameras. It appeared someone had attempted to force a window to get into the old sleeper quarters. We are not certain if this was a probing process with further plans or a single event.

Trico was robbed of \$2,500 worth of tools a few weeks ago. They are regularly receiving delivery of materials and products that have to be stored on site. Some of our cameras look toward the construction site. They may be the target. I have spoken with Law Enforcement and requested more frequent night time patrols.

Web Site Construction

We are nearing completion of the new web site. It is being reviewed by staff but will remain a product in development for some time following go live. The site has required a great deal of content production by DC Fulcher and will continue to need content added into the near future.