



## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

*October 26, 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 and Deputy Chief Fulcher were present. District Secretary Cathy Barth was absent due to a family emergency. Members of the public were in attendance. Chief Halverson recorded the minutes.

**Additions to Agenda** - None

**Public Comments** – Ms. Chase commented that she liked the new Fire District website. She found some punctuation and grammatical errors and offered her services to proof read the material presented on the website. She asked if it was possible to add the Chief's reports to the minutes.

**Consent Items** – None

**Chief's Report** – See Attached

**Secretary's Report** – None

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** –

**Standard Operating Policy/Procedure 03.11.01 Body Armor** - Chief Halverson presented SOP/P# 03.11.01 Body Armor.

A motion to approve the **SOP/P# 03.11.01 Body Armor** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

**Standard Operating Policy/Procedure 04.01.20 Paid Time Off** - Chief Halverson presented SOP/P# 04.01.20 Paid Time Off.

A motion to approve the **SOP/P# 04.01.20 Paid Time Off** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session** - None

**Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Geiger offered his thoughts and prayers to Cathy and her family during the family emergency.

Commissioner Fox thanked the Firefighters and staff for their good work during these difficult times.

**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 7:35 p.m.

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Merlin Halverson  
Fire Chief

# Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

October 26, 2020

## COVID-19

In Snohomish County Covid cases are again on the increase, we are at 121 new cases per 100,000 population on a two week rolling average. At the end of May we were between 20 and 25 cases per 100,000. People under 40 years old account for 50% of all cases. Those 40 to 59 account for an additional 30%, those between the ages 59 and 79 add another 15%; the last 5% are people 80 years old and up. The demographic is split approximately evenly between females and males.

Hospitalizations and death rates tell another story. Those 39 and under are hospitalized 3.5% of the time and have a negligible death rate. Those between 40 and 59 are hospitalized about 10% of the time and have a death rate of 1%. Those 60 to 79 have a hospitalization rate of 26% and a death rate of 7%. People 80 and over are hospitalized 44% of the time and have a death rate of 26%.

Perhaps these demographics explain why we have such a difficult time getting people to follow simple requests to wear masks, social distance, keep gatherings small and wash hands. Covid may be viewed as a threat only to a minority of the population as identified by age and comorbidity.

From my reading of history the death demographic is one difference between Covid-19 and other pandemics. For instance nearly half the deaths from the 1918 Spanish flu occurred in people between the ages of 20 and 40, and 99% of deaths were in those younger than 65. The mean age was 27.2 years. The 2009 H1N1 pandemic death demographic was similar to the 1918 pandemic. For example the mean age of individuals who died from the 2009 H1N1 pandemic was 37.4 years much younger than Covid-19.

There are many theories about why different viruses impact different age groups, but it is clear that we cannot rely on viruses being deadly only to older people. Any mutation of Covid-19 or the arrival of a new novel virus could result in an entirely different demographic.

## Station Construction

All roofs with the exception of the apparatus bays are trussed and most are sheathed. Apparatus bay trusses did not arrive as scheduled, reportedly due to difficulty sourcing the long timber needed to build the trusses. They are now scheduled to arrive the first week of November. This delay may also delay the concrete pour in front of the bays because that location is where the crane will be located to set the bay trusses.

Civil work on the west side of the building is complete and grass is being planted along our west property line.

We continue to develop our low voltage system in a fashion that will be more robust and less reliant on in house servers and systems. We presently are focused on a fiber connection through Zipler that will give us better reliability and faster internet speeds. HVAC systems are still under review by the Architects and engineers to determine if there are scrubbing systems that are proven to deliver results.

The schedule has slipped slightly but not enough to endanger the scheduled May completion. The goal for the coming relatively dry weather is to pour curbing for parking areas, pads for the propane tank and generator and to set trusses on the bay roofs.

#### **E911 Outage**

There was a statewide 911 outage on Thursday. I am unsure when it began but we were notified at around 1700 on Thursday that the issue was resolved. It is SNOCOM's understanding the problem was with the State's ESI-Net (911 network) provider.

#### **ECC – ESF 4**

Snohomish County will be standing up the Emergency Communications Center on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. ESF 4 the fire service command portion of the Center will be staffed. Intelligence gathered regarding acts of violence or large scale demonstrations will be distributed and responses coordinated with law enforcement.