



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

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 -

Chief Halverson asked to add to the agenda a PO# 2021-2644

Public Comments – Ms. Chase asked if there was a target date for Newsletter to be mailed out. Deputy Chief Fulcher commented that he has spoken to the printer and he will be working on the formatting of the Newsletter. Chief Halverson commented that the Newsletter should be going out within the next two weeks, we hope sooner.

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached

Secretary's Report – District Secretary Cathy Barth, reminded the Commissioners of the Annual PDC reporting due date of April 15, 2021.

Old Business –

Open Issues and Actions - No new actions

Commissioner Geiger asked Chief Halverson if any further exploration of Paramedic program had been done. Chief Halverson replied that he is working on the application and has been having conversations with the District Doctor.

New Business –

PO#2021- 2651 ULine - A motion to approve **PO#2021 – 2651 Shelving and storage bins for the EMS supply room at the new station** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

PO#2021- 2644 NRS - A motion to approve **PO#2021 – 2644 Water Rescue gear for T. Snyder** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fox under the emergency order restricting public meetings and District 5 Resolutions 2020-01 and 2020-02, authorized Chief Halverson to sign the purchase orders stated above for this month.

Succession Planning – Chief Halverson discussed with the Commissioners the need to prepare for his intended retirement at the end of the year. He suggests hiring an Assistant Chief with the understanding that they would transition to the new Fire Chief. Chief Halverson believes that the best transition would be for him to spend a few months with the Assistant Chief prior to retirement from District #5. He stated that there are a couple of ways to approach recruitment. One method would be to advertise and conduct interviews. Another would be to employ a recruitment agency which would require the District to first advertise a Request for Proposal (RFP) from interested recruitment organizations. A survey to determine a compensation range for an Assistant Chief will need to be done prior to hiring. This could be left to the recruitment agency if we take that route.



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New Business – Continued

Succession Planning –

Commissioner Fox commented that this is something we have been planning for this for several years. A Recruitment agency would be under contract and set a price for their services.

Commissioner Geiger stated his approval to advertise for an RFP. He also commented that other Districts would be a good resource for obtaining information about a salary for an Assistant Chief. He added, the recruitment agency will most likely have a pool of potential candidates.

Chief Halverson suggested that we could advertise for a candidate and hire a recruitment agency at the same time and see which provides the best candidates.

Commissioner Geiger cautioned against doing both our own search and hiring a recruitment agency. He suggested that the recruitment agency may not want to compete with our own process. The Chief feels that there wouldn't be any conflict given that the Recruitment Agency would be under contract and any assistance they receive from the District would be welcome.

Executive Session – No meeting was required.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Fox commented that he was very happy to see the night shift staff listening in on the Board of Commissioners Zoom meeting. He thanked them for their attendance. He once again stated his appreciation to the crews. He also thanked the staff for all of their hard work on the Newsletter.

Commissioner Geiger also stated his appreciation to the night staff for taking the time and initiative to join us at the meeting tonight. He also offered his thanks to the Part time staff for all of their hard work.

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 7:30 p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

February 22, 2021

Station Construction

Last week the generator and breathing air compressor, two very large and critical components of our new station, were delivered. Interior work continues without being much impacted by the weather. As sheetrock is being completed in one end of the building the other is being painted. Ductwork is being placed in the apparatus bays and individual heating cooling units in each of the bunk rooms. For now the issues of late deliveries has given way to foul weather as a deterrent to completing the building on schedule. Trico is predicting they will not make the May 5th 360 day completion schedule. We believe our objective of a June 1 occupancy remains attainable.

COVID-19

Of the 27 District #5 individuals who opted to accept the vaccination 23 have been vaccinated. The second vaccination is not as available as expected but we have assurances that more second vaccine is coming starting this week. As more of our staff gets vaccinated without serious side effects some who opted not to get vaccinated are changing their minds and opting in. We will do what we can to get them vaccinated as soon as possible.

We continue to organize to help get people vaccinated as quickly as possible when vaccine becomes available. The foul weather has not helped in this regard. Everything from vaccine deliveries to the operation of injections sites was disrupted throughout the storm.

We are still receiving Pfizer and Moderna vaccine only. Both are proving to better control Covid than trials anticipated. No reduction in the efficacy against variants has been found with the possible exception of the South African Variant. Of the 20,000 injections given there have been less than a dozen anaphylactic reactions with no deaths reported.

Weather Issues

Our normal call volume is between 3 and 4 calls per day. On February 13th we responded to thirteen 911 calls. Fortunately in spite of the snow and wind storm we were able to access all calls. Many in our area were without power for 48 hours or more.

Presently we are experiencing the pineapple express expected to bring heavy rains to the lowlands and snow and rain in the Cascades. NOAA is predicting the Skykomish will crest at 12 feet. If that is correct we will not see significant flooding.

Apparatus

All apparatus is in good repair and in service. The remount is on schedule and expected to be complete next month.

Phones

We are transitioning to the Zoom phone system that will be in the new station. We believe there will be less confusion if we make that conversion now than when we move. This system will work from our any location that has an internet connection. The phone will work as if it was at your desk wherever you connect it. As with every transition it will take a while to work the bugs out. DC Fulcher will work with ISO, Zoom and Riply over the next few weeks until it functions properly.