



## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

**March 22, 2021**

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:04 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 – None**

**Public Comments –** Ms. Chase read a statement in opposition to placing a board size increase ballot measure before the voters. A full copy of her statement is attached.

### **Consent Items – None**

### **Chief's Report – See Attached**

Commissioner Geiger asked if there were any new updates regarding labor negotiations. Chief Halverson replied that there was a meeting last week and there will be another meeting tomorrow.

Commissioner Geiger inquired as to the status of the ALS process. The Chief replied that he is working with the State to get the application completed accurately and then submitted.

Commissioner Fox asked when the new station will be commissioned. Chief Halverson said he expects that to happen by the end of May. The final process will include training provided by contractors and subcontractors to educate the District on the operation of the building.

There was discussion regarding a plaque for the new station.

### **Secretary's Report – No report**

### **Old Business –**

#### **Five Member Board of Commissioners Discussion –**

A lengthy discussion was held as to whether or not to proceed with a resolution to the County for the addition of two more Board members. Commissioner Fox commented that there are many District's surrounding us that already have five member boards. He feels that a five member board offers better public representation and a broader perspective. Commissioner Geiger expressed that although he saw the merits of a five member board he had concerns about the timing with all that the District is undertaking currently and the upcoming levies. He also discussed the need for diversity. He would like to include new people to the area the opportunity to run for the position. Commissioner Copple commented that he firmly believes a five member board has merit and would be a benefit to the District.

A motion to approve the resolution to the County and place before the voters a proposal to increase the Fire District Board from three members to five was made by Commissioner Copple, seconded by Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Geiger voting nay. Motion passed.



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### **PO#2021 – 2640 Neoteric Hovercraft, Inc. -**

The timing and cost to purchase a Hovercraft and the need to see it accounted for in the Cushman model prior to making a decision was discussed. Items tabled until the second Board meeting in April.

### **Open Issues / Actions –** No additional actions

**Succession planning** – Discussion was held as to the wording that should be used in the ad for the Chief's position. Chief Halverson suggested that the ad be reviewed by the Board prior to submission to the public.

**New Business** – Commissioner Geiger suggested that contact information for the Commissioners be added to the Website. He also inquired if it would be possible to add more years of Board minutes to the website. Staff will look into this matter.

The Commissioners discussed and agreed that they would like to see a worst case scenario view of the Cushman model to see what the District's position would be in the event of a recession.

Commissioner Geiger brought up for discussion the prospect of consolidation. Commissioner Fox pointed out that Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue is currently not interested in a merger with District 5 to his knowledge. No formal communication has occurred. The matter was discussed with no action taken.

**Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Geiger stated that he agreed that having a five member Board of Commissioners offers the potential to benefit the Fire District. However, he disagreed with the timing. He stated that he felt midterms next year would provide us with a more diverse member for the Board. Given the influx of new people expected to purchase homes in the area, he expects there will be a more diverse group to choose from. He stated that he will be voting no for anyone that is not a minority or is not a new resident of the area. He thanked the staff for all they are doing from administration to the newest recruit.

**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 8:35 p.m.

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Cathy Barth  
District Secretary