



## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

*February 25, 2019*

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at Station 51. Commissioner Cople 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 under New Business Road Closure on Ben Howard Road, a House Bill in the State Legislature and report on the Sno-Isle Board meeting he recently attended. Chief Halverson asked to add under Old Business a draft of the Five Year Plan.

**Public Comments** – None

**Consent Items** – None

**Chief's Report** – See Attached

**Secretary's Report** – District Secretary Cathy Barth reported to the Commissioners regarding the question Commissioner Geiger posed about the necessity for two different cell phone providers. The District currently utilizes two providers, Verizon and Sprint. Both plans are offered at a government rate. Verizon offered a ten dollar per phone plan for call only use that we signed up for over 20 years ago. This plan was for the phones on the apparatus which utilize no data. Verizon changed the plan about 15 years ago increasing the cost, the decision was made to switch the apparatus phones to Sprint as they offered a plan similar to what Verizon offered prior to the increase. The Verizon contracted plan currently covers phones for Chief Halverson, Deputy Chief Clark and the Aid and Utility apparatus' tablets which utilize data and are used to access ESO. The Verizon data plan for the phones and tablets was less expensive than what was offered through Sprint so the decision was made to continue the Verizon plan for those phones and tablets.

**Old Business** –

**Open Issues/Actions** – No new actions.

**Station Progress** - Discussed in the Chief's report. Commissioner Cople inquired as to who would be responsible for fixing Cascade Road Drive at the stations new location. Chief Halverson replied that the City is responsible but the County should cover it as much of the damage is from County Solid Waste trucks and customers accessing the solid waste disposal site. The City would need a grant to afford repairs on the road.

Commissioner Geiger asked about a definition of "Soft Costs" and if they were part of the current District estimate to build the new station. Chief Halverson replied that the soft costs are included in the estimate. The Chief gave the definition of "Soft Costs" as costs that are not direct construction costs. Soft costs include architectural, engineering, financing, legal fees, permits and other pre-and post-construction expenses. Commissioner Geiger asked if there are any estimates for the maintenance costs related to maintaining the building after it is built. Chief Halverson responded that there is a process prior to occupying the building in which the maintenance and operational issues are discussed.

**Five Year Plan Draft** – Chief Halverson presented the Commissioners with a draft of the Five Year Plan for their review.



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### **New Business –**

**PO#2019-2198 – NetDuty Software, Gallatinweb LLC.** - A motion to approve **PO#2019 – 2198 Annual Subscription** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

**PO#2019-2022 – R & D Service** - A motion to approve **PO#2019 – 2022 Printing and postage for Newsletter** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

**Road Closure on Ben Howard Road** - Notices are being posted on Ben Howard Road notifying residents about upcoming road closures for construction to elevate the road on a corner that floods most years.

**House Bill** - There is currently a House Bill allowing Rural Fire Districts with less than 10,000 residents to have a sales tax exemption for capital purchases. Commissioner Fox contacted Representative Carolyn Eslick regarding the bill and inquiring if the Bill could also include adding an exemption for taxes on new construction of Fire Stations. Representative Eslick said she would certainly look into it.

**Sno-Isle Board meeting** - Commissioner Fox reported on the Sno–Isle Commissioners Trustee meeting he recently attended.

**Executive Session** - None

**Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Copple reminded those in attendance that the Community Awards Ceremony is next Saturday. Commissioner Fox and Geiger thanked the Chief and staff for their work on the Five year plan. Commissioner Geiger was also appreciative for the information presented about the Station and the Newsletter. Commissioner Geiger said he thinks the residents will be excited about the Newsletter as well.

**Adjourn** - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Cathy Barth  
District Secretary