



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2020

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

Additions to Agenda - None

Public Comments – No comments

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached

Commissioner Geiger thanked the Chief for attending the new station inspections. He asked for clarification as to what type of inspections the Chief was attending; Architectural inspections or building inspections. The Chief replied that the District retains and pays for many inspectors overseeing the building process and those are the meetings he attends. He stated that he does not monitor the City Building Inspectors.

Secretary's Report – None

Old Business –

Body Armor- Chief Halverson stated that staff undertook a risk verses benefit assessment of purchasing body armor. He stated that violence against firefighters in our rural bedroom community is not prevalent. Issues relating to body armor include proper fitting, level of protection, and requirements for mandatory verses permissive use. The Chief questioned how we would be able to assure that body armor is worn when necessary. He suggested if purchased armor would be mandatory in some cases such as a school shooting, rioting, reported domestic violence, slumper investigations, and when directed by a Chief Officer. Use of body armor would also be allowed on a personal preference basis except under bunker gear. Chief Halverson stated that he sees no persuasive reason not to buy body armor and suggested that the cost for the vests be added to the budget for 2021. Commissioner Fox inquired if there is a known shelf life for the vests. The Chief replied that the plates last indefinitely and softer material has a shelf life that depends on the style and is dictated by the manufacturer. Commissioner Geiger stated twenty five departments have purchased or will be purchasing body armor for their Firefighters. He also commented, that the vests would be worn based on state law in some cases. He stated that Fire District crews were sent to the Seattle riot response and that there had been a shooting near station recently. Commissioner Geiger stated that he thinks it would be a valuable purchase and would offer more security for the firefighters. He suggested that more research be completed and shopping to find a purchase price that fits the budget. He would like to see it purchased from this year's budget. Chief Halverson said that a big purchase such as the vests would usually be added to a new budget, but that we move forward with whatever plan the Commissioners agree upon. Commissioner Geiger stated he feels we should be expediting this purchase. Commissioner Geiger asked if we have ball parked a cost yet. The Chief said the information obtained has been through other Districts so far. We are currently looking into the possibility of using a state Bid. Commissioner Fox expressed his concern of continually adding more gear on firefighters. He is concerned that it may burden our crews even more than what is already expected of them. Commissioner Geiger suggested that the wearing of a vest be a discretionary choice for occasions other than the mandatory situations.



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ALS Contract - Commissioner Fox inquired as to the status of the ALS contracts. Chief Halverson stated there are ongoing discussions with Chief O'Brien, Chief Haverfield and Chief Andrews. Chief Halverson suggested to Chief O'Brien that the ALS contract be extended out a year if the Chiefs choose to explore a regional ALS concept which Chief Halverson sees as unlikely. Commissioner Geiger would like to see a contract signed this year. Commissioner Geiger asked if a cost study has been done to compare the cost of maintaining an ALS contract versus hiring our own medics. Chief Halverson replied that it is currently being produced and that one factor is the need to hire firefighters and the difference in cost between firefighters and firefighter paramedics. Chief Halverson suggested that we budget for medics next year. Commissioner Geiger would like to see the costs associated with our own program sooner than later.

Executive Session – None required.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Fox expressed his thanks to the crews for providing great service.

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 8:10 p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

July 27, 2020

Station Construction

Stem walls are poured, under slab plumbing and electrical are being placed and backfilled this week with scheduled slab pours next week. The schedule is now primarily affected by demands for personnel and equipment on other jobsites, unknowns in underground work and the required engineering approvals of change orders.

In spite of our extensive studies of the soil conditions, sub grade excavations continue to be problematic. The foot print of the building, parking lots and drainage systems is large and the soil composition can change dramatically in a few feet. We are mostly through the excavation of structural and parking areas, the next issue will be the drainage systems which require soil conditions much different than those under the building and parking areas.

Issues in discussion include footing insulation placement, the cost of tree removal, costs attributed to COVID-19 mitigation, sub grade excavations and notifications of arrival of inspectors.

Apparatus

All apparatus is in service with scheduled maintenance continuing. The old utility/backup aid unit (1994 Chevrolet) was listed on Craig's list and sold for \$7,000.

COVID-19

The nations reopening is not going well. It was rushed because of the restlessness of the population and concerns about the economy. COVID infections are on the rise in Washington, throughout the nation and most societies around the globe. The increase is being attributed to younger people gathering at parties and social events and then passing their exposures to family members.

Snohomish County's positive tests and deaths are steady over the past month. This is good news, but given the mobility of our population this will not hold if other areas cannot be brought into containment.

It is a good reminder that what we are trying to do is reduce the R-00 (R-Naught) to less than one so that the virus will burn itself out. Consequences to the world economy, and human welfare in general are catastrophic if we do not find a way to beat this sickness.

We are also suffering the predatory practices of businesses and individuals who peddle subgrade masks, dangerous cures and contaminated disinfectants. Wood alcohol in hand sanitizer is one example.

We continue to add to our supplies through our DEM led group purchasing. We use the group purchasing to build our inventory while we supply our daily activities through our typical supply process. Our goal continues to be to retain a three month worst case scenario supply.

Weather Conditions

Hot dry weather will likely soon bring Red Flag conditions to the Cedar Ponds area. A fire burn ban was imposed by the Snohomish County Fire Marshall on June 22nd. The ban includes all fires with the exception of recreational fires contained in noncombustible containers no larger than 3' by 3'. August is our most vulnerable month for wildland fires.

911 Responses

Call volumes are normal for mid-summer. The only water rescue call in District recently was a concern about an empty canoe floating down river. It was discovered that the canoe owner had left it on the beach and it floated away. No action on our part was required.