



## Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

*July 26, 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.

Commissioner Fox informed the public that although meetings are now allowed to be held in person, they must still be made available to the public via a video platform for those that choose not to be physically present. We currently do not have microphones or cameras available for this purpose so therefore we will continue to hold Board meetings via Zoom.

**Additions to Agenda** – Chief Halverson added to the agenda Purchase Order 2021-2760 Stair Chair. Commissioner Geiger added to Old Business discussions about the Five Year Plan with regard to District finances and the possible need for a levy lid lift. He also wished to discuss the recruitment agency's progress, process and the ad for an Assistant Chief as opposed to a Chief. ALS Paramedic progress was also added.

**Public Comments** – No comments

**Consent Items** – None

**Chief's Report** – See Attached

Commissioner Fox inquired about the recruitment process status for the Chief Officer position. Chief Halverson replied that Strategic Government Resource (SGR), will have a pamphlet out for review by the Board next week.

Commissioner Geiger asked if plans were in place for the possibility of the Covid -19 Delta variant affecting District staff levels. Chief Halverson responded that plans have not changed from the beginning of Covid. Our neighboring Districts are willing to assist with our staffing shortages and we will do the same for them. Vaccinations, keeping hands clean and wearing masks are our best defense.

**Secretary's Report** – None

**Old Business** –

**ALS Paramedic program** – Chief Halverson stated that there was nothing new to report. Commissioner Geiger inquired if we currently have a Paramedic license. Chief Halverson replied that we do not have a license but the application has been approved. He further stated that the District will need to hire Paramedics before Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue, our current ALS provider, will release their approval for the license to be granted.

**Five Year Plan** – Commissioner Geiger asked that discussion be held as to the District's financial status and the funding of Paramedics, equipment and a new Fire Chief. He expressed his concern that hiring of these positions could put the District in a financially difficult position. He questioned if the District would be able to meet our financial demands without running a levy lid lift?



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### Old Business – *continued*

#### Five Year Plan –

He stated that he was frustrated that the Board had not held discussions to determine if there are adequate finances and that the Five year plan did not reflect any of the financial changes that had been decided.

Commissioner Fox replied that the Board had discussed the need for a levy lid lift and mutually decided that it would not be a good idea to run a levy lid lift on the heels of the Bond passing. Commissioner Fox said that perhaps we need to update the five year plan. Discussion was held regarding the costs for a Paramedic program and a Chief Officer. Commissioner Fox stated that the M & O levy will continue to bring in revenue through December 2022. He would like to see the M & O levy discontinued at that time. Discussion by the Board must be held next year to decide if a levy lid lift will be brought to the voters.

**Chief Officer Recruitment** – Commissioner Geiger commented that the posting on the recruitment agencies website is confusing. He asked if the District is hiring an Assistant Chief or Chief Officer. Commissioner Fox stated that we are at the pamphlet stage of the process. Commissioner Geiger commented that he would like to meet the candidates and conduct interviews. He suggested the Commissioners be part of the hiring process. He asked if this was part of the plan. Chief Halverson responded that Commissioner involvement is part of the plan. He also stated that if the Assistant Chief proves capable of the Fire Chief position a promotion could take place on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2022. Commissioner Geiger asked what the process would be to make sure the Assistant Chief is the same caliber as that of a Fire Chief. Chief Halverson replied that the qualifications will be the same, and that two or three months of watching the Assistant Chief work will be an advantage to determining the Assistant Chief's capability. Commissioner Geiger suggested the Commissioners meet with the recruitment agency to tell them what qualifications the District is looking for in a Chief Officer. Commissioner Fox stated that a pamphlet would be provided by the next meeting per the Chief and that will allow the Commissioners an opportunity to provide feedback to SGR regarding the position qualifications. The final decision as to the pamphlet wording will be decided during an open public Board meeting. Chief Halverson reiterated that SGR is currently working on a draft of the pamphlet to bring before the Board. Chief Halverson asked Commissioner Geiger if he thought he, (the Chief), was doing what was asked of him by the Board. Commissioner Geiger replied that he was. Commissioner Geiger intends to meet with Chief Halverson this week to see what has been suggested by SGR so far.

### New Business –

**PO#2021- 2745 Rescue Source** - A motion to approve [PO#2021-2745 Safety rope](#) was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.



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### **New Business –*continued***

**PO#2021-2760 Ferno** - A motion to approve **PO#2021-2760 Stair Chair** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger and passed unanimously.

**Executive Session** – Not needed.

**Commissioner Comments** – Commissioner Fox stated that he is looking forward to the day we can get back to normal, work in the new station, and meet new staff. He thanked the crews and staff for their hard work.

Commissioner Geiger echoed those sentiments and added his thanks to the crews and staff for their hard work. He suggested that perhaps we can look into meeting in person with some simple technology. Maybe staff can look into an easy solution for microphones and cameras. Meeting in person is important he stated, as sometimes context is not as clear over a video meeting.

**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.

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Cathy Barth  
District Secretary