



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

October 25, 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 an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a proposal for an employee contract.

Public Comments – None

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached.

Commissioner Geiger clarified his comments from the last meeting about community involvement and the hiring process for the Assistant Fire Chief position. He suggested a meet greet between community leaders and the candidates. Once the interviews and the meet and greet are concluded the Commissioners could meet with the community members to get their input.

Chief Halverson said as long as there is time it sounds fine to him. He added, keep in mind that some candidates will need to catch flights back home the same day and all of the candidates will not be in the facility at the same time. It might be difficult to have members of the public available to do a meet and greet for an entire day. Commissioner Geiger suggested that a special meeting could be called to make the hiring decision a day or so after we have input from the community members. The Chief advised that ideally an offer of employment would be made that evening following interviews.

Commissioner Geiger inquired how long the District is intending to rent space for our antique apparatus and the sleeper quarters. Chief Halverson responded, some painting and cleaning needs to be completed in the sleeper quarters. We are working toward moving the apparatus from the rental. Our expectation is to be clear of all rental obligations by the end of November.

Secretary's Report – None

Old Business –

Aid calls report – Discussion was held regarding the statistics report, costs of service and goods, call volume for ALS transports, need and impact to medics, unit utilization hours, and staffing expenses. Chief Halverson commented that a paramedic program offers several benefits to the District. Shorter response times, a more reliable system, the ability to mutual aid our neighbors. The Chief feels costs will be offset by transport fees including GEMT and the discontinuance of paying other Districts for ALS services. County Doctors are encouraging of this program as is Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue. Commissioner Geiger inquired about the availability of our medic unit for mutual aid. The Chief replied we would give and receive mutual aid. Commissioner Geiger asked to see more information about the cost of the program. Commissioner Fox agreed. Commissioner Fox stated that he is encouraged by the figures that were presented in the past. Chief Halverson commented that getting an ALS program now is better than later.



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2021

Old Business – *Continued*

Aid calls report –

Commissioner Geiger inquired if the startup costs have all been accounted for and if we already have all of the required equipment. He would like to see a budget for that as well. He would like to see the Cushman model to help make decisions going forward. Commissioner Fox agreed. Commissioner Geiger asked when the Commissioners could expect to see the model. Chief Halverson said that the current numbers had just become available and are being input into the model. We can expect to have that ready for the Commissioners by the next meeting or at the latest, the second meeting.

Painting proposal for New Station – Chief Halverson reported that David Hose would be coming in Tuesday to take some photos, so he can present a drawing to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Geiger stated that he might be reconsidering the idea of a painting in the station. He has not seen publicly purchased artwork at other stations or departments. He has seen mementos that community members have provided. He stated that he has had some push back from members of the community regarding the project and its cost. Chief Halverson commented that David Hose is a respected member of the community and a painting by him depicting among other things a memorial to one of our own fallen firefighters, would be valuable asset. Commissioner Geiger stated that a member of the public commented that buying art for the station is for the staff not for the public.

Open Issues/Actions – No new actions

New Business – None

Executive Session-

A motion to recess to Executive Session until 8:10 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 for the purpose of discussing a proposal for an employee contract was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously at 7:49 p.m. Commissioners Fox, Copple, Geiger, Chief Halverson and Deputy Chief Fulcher were in attendance. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:10 p.m. No actions were taken. Returned to the regular meeting.

Discussion was held regarding the process to select interview questions. Chief Halverson was asked to contact the District Attorney to see if this could be done in an Executive Session.

A motion to hold a special meeting per RCW 42.30.080 on Thursday the 28th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom was made by Commissioner Geiger, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments – Commissioner Fox stated that he was happy to see staff moved into the new station.

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 8:24 p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary