



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2022

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at 32905 Cascade View Dr. Station 51. Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Geiger and Commissioner Chase were present. Chief Johnson, Deputy Chief Fulcher and District Secretary, Cathy Barth, were present. Members of the public were in attendance.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public/Staff Comments – Lieutenant Tim Tullis thanked everyone that contributed their time and energy helping with the levy campaign.

Consent Agenda -

Approval of July 12, 2022, Minutes

Approval of July 25, 2022, Minutes

Approval of August 2022 Payroll = \$135,025.33

Approval of August 2022 General Fund Vouchers #0393 - #0438 = \$29,693.62

A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

Chief's Report – See Attached

Commissioner Chase asked Chief Johnson if a person that had the Monkey Pox and Polio vaccines would be protected from the current virus outbreaks. The Chief replied that he thought that those vaccines would still offer protection but was not positive.

Reports – Commissioner Chase asked for clarification on the spending pattern for two budget categories. Chief Johnson explained that budgeting for the categories was done prior to his assuming the Chief's position and he was uncertain as to how some of the figures were decided on. He further stated that spending less for firefighting gear, uniforms etc. was due to less personnel being employed.

Old Business –

ALS Contract Sky Valley Fire and Rescue – Discussion was held regarding the need for further action on the ALS contract with Sky Valley Fire and Rescue. Chief Johnson stated that he felt given the current plan to hire paramedics there was no need to take further action on this issue. The Commissioners agreed.

Open Issues/Actions – A motion to close the discussion regarding an ALS contract with Sky Valley Fire and Rescue was made by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

New Business –

EMS Lid Lift Update – Chief Johnson reviewed the results of the election with the Commissioners. He also informed the Commissioners that the ballot measure that was to be on the November ballot will automatically be removed. The Commissioners will need to rescind the resolution. Chief Johnson reviewed the preliminary assessed value figures with the Commissioners.



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Firefighter/Medic Job Description – Chief Johnson reviewed the firefighter/medic job description with the Commissioners. The Commissioners expressed their satisfaction with the document. Chief Johnson asked the Commissioners if they would like to have input regarding the position. The Commissioners agreed that creating job descriptions should be under the Chief's purview but would be willing to assist if needed. Chief Johnson suggested a policy be developed to assist with the process. He will create one.

Firefighter/Medic Hiring Process Brochure – Chief Johnson reviewed the brochure, the hiring process, and timeline with the Commissioners. Discussion was held regarding the difference between the County assessed figures and real estate figures. The Commissioners asked the Chief to include in the brochure the County figures and a sample of real estate figures for recent sales. The Commissioners discussed out of state candidates and the need for them to have Washington State credentials. Chief Johnson has spoken with Dr. Cooper, Snohomish County Medical Program Director, and discussed the process for an out of state candidate to obtain their state credentials.

Discussion was also held regarding the need to have the memorandum of understanding (MOU) from the Local. Chief Johnson stated that this is currently in the drafting stage.

The Chief spoke of the need to have an integrated program with nearby Fire Districts.

The question of the what the Fire District's current population is was discussed. Chief Johnson reported that the County provided an estimate of 10,000. Chief Johnson was given the authority to begin the hiring process.

Part Time Firefighter Program Proposal – Chief Johnson reviewed the proposal with the Commissioners. Some discussion about the incentive program, and the number of part-time positions that would be offered was held. Commissioner Geiger expressed some apprehension regarding the incentive program and the type of candidates that would apply. He also inquired if the same number of part-time positions would still be needed given the new full-time positions that we are filling. Chief Johnson said that he would like to maintain the same number of part-time positions. Commissioner Chase stated her support of the proposal and rate increases and commented that she would like to see the Fire District be a place where people want to stay. The Commissioners agreed that they like the proposal and rate increases.

Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) – *First Reading*

20.05.22 – Shift Incentive Policy

Discussion was held regarding the Shift Incentive Policy. The Commissioners reviewed the document and Commissioner Chase made some suggestions and minor corrections.

Commissioner Comments –

Commissioner Fox stated his appreciation to everyone who worked on communicating information related to the EMS Levy. He commented that the levy passing allows us to move forward toward completing our staffing goals.

Commissioner Geiger stated his excitement at seeing us move forward. He reported that he heard many positive comments from the community as he was doorbelling.



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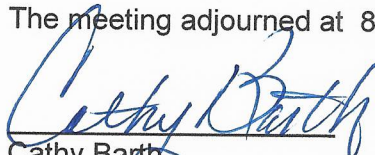
Commissioner Comments – *continued*

Commissioner Chase commented that she was thrilled when the results first came in. We have a very supportive community. She also expressed her thanks to staff. She reported that our Levy was one of the highest passing in the County.

Chief Johnson thanked the local for their support with the levy. He also extended his thanks to the citizens.

Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners

August 8th, 2022

GEMT Funding

- Staff has been working with Systems Design West for future GEMT Service Cost reports, specifically capturing the construction cost of Station 51 and how to best reflect those costs into an annualized amount.

Significant Events

- There has been a series of significant events occurring over the last few weeks including a fatality auto/motorcycle accident, a murder, and a fatality trauma. These incidents are significant for both our community members as well as our responders.

Staffing

- Adequate staffing continues to be a challenge, and the recent rash of significant events has highlighted the need for additional staffing. Crews are behind staffing plans and as well as the timeline of implementation, however the concern for the short term may continue to see a below optimal crew strength. I look forward to having some staffing related discussions this evening.

Public Health Issues

- New COVID infections have dropped 25% in the last two weeks. Though it is promising, there is a high likelihood that new infections are not captured in the data, and 12% of hospital beds are still being occupied by COVID patients.
- Vaccinations for Monkeypox is available in incredibly limited supply in this state, and being reserved for those in close contact or healthcare workers who test samples. Later this month Washington is expecting a larger delivery of vaccine, however the distribution plan remains to be determined.

Misc.

- Be sure to get a hardcopy of the most recent District Proposition 1 election information for discussion later in the meeting.
- Office staff will be attending a webinar with Springbrook Software (formerly BIAS) to investigate new financial management software for the District. This system is being looked at as a potential replacement of our current system of Access and Excel spreadsheets, and is widely used in the Fire District and Municipal finance worlds.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Johnson
Chief, Snohomish County Fire District 5