

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

October 14, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held on the above date at the district office. Those who attended were as follows: Commissioners Mary Beth Neal, Harry Andrews and Steve Ness; Fire Chief William Pernet, Board Secretary Kris Parks, Division Chief Henry Hollander and Captain Joe Noonchester.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the September 15, 2015 Meeting.

Commissioner Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Approval of Minutes of the September 19, 2015 Meeting.

Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

Chief Pernet provided information on the financial statements and on the payroll and expense vouchers.

Approval of the payroll voucher: Commissioner Ness moved to approve the payroll voucher.

Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Approval of the expense voucher for legal services: Commissioner Ness moved to approve the expense voucher. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Approval of the expense voucher for the intergovernmental payment: Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the expense voucher. Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

Chief's Report

Chief Pernet provided information on the chief's report which included the response activity from September, the dollar loss activity and response times.

Dale Rutgers – 40 Year Anniversary

Tender Operator Dale Rutgers was recognized by co-workers, the district, and friends and family for 40 years of service to Whatcom County as a volunteer firefighter. The district dedicated Tender 68 to Dale for his years of service and a bronze dedication plate will be placed on the truck in his honor.

Budget Planning

The Chief has begun to meet with staff to discuss budget planning for next year. Research on capital items, division expenditures, and forecast revenues has begun. Budget planning will be ongoing throughout the next few months.

Burn Tower Retrofit

Staff has received two bids back from vendors and will present the information to the District 4 Board for consideration. A plan to retrofit the burn tower with a Class A burn prop is ongoing.

Career Hiring Process

The Training Officer and the District Captains are beginning to put together an outline for a new hire process in order to create a hiring list. The department hopes to finish the process by the beginning of the new year.

Operations Division Report

Chief Pernet provided information on the operations division report which included the department time-off statistics, September staffing, overtime hours and volunteer shift hours for September and information on:

Crew Activities

Business Inspections
Volunteer Training
September 11 Peace Arch
Quarterly Training
Ladder Testing
Business Inspections

Meetings Attended

Medical Insurance
Border Chiefs
Board Meetings
County Ops
Labor/Management
Officer Meeting

Operations Projects

Hose Testing
Safety Committee
Burn Tower Conversion
Life Safety Rope
Annual Appraisals

Calls of Interest

9/5/15 –BBL – Mobile home fire, E63, E61, E6102, B76, T65, and E69 responded to a reported mobile home fire with a person trapped. Units arrived on scene to find the home 25% involved with fire. Crews conducted several searches of tenable areas and found a fire victim upon secondary search of the most heavily damaged area. The fire was extinguished and the fire investigator arrived to begin his

investigation. At this point the fire cause is still under investigation and the cause of death has not been reported.

9/9/15 – Portal Way – Excavator Fire

9/13/15 – Sunrise Drive – Structure Fire, E63, E61, E69, E68, E65, E12, E6102, T68, T6802, T63, T65, T12, and B76 responded for a reported fully involved barn with multiple exposures.

9/16/15 – Emerald Lake Road – Injured Logger, A12, TR63, and L6 responded to the area of Emerald Lake Rd for a reported injured male from a falling tree. Crews arrived on scene to discover the victim down a logging road and 250 yards off the roadway. The patient was extricated from the scene and transported to the hospital where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries.

Training Division Report

Captain Noonchester presented the training division report.

The report included the staff productivity, the career and volunteer firefighter training for September and the following information:

North Whatcom’s firefighters have completed 645 hours of training for the month of September. The call volume has decreased somewhat allowing the crews to get back into their routine of training. As the department moves into the fall and winter, hours spent on the drill ground will be greater.

In September, the firefighters and company officers completed their routine drills which included topics like SCBA quarterlies, ground ladders, size-ups and EMS ongoing education. Some outside training has taken place as well. Our department encourages our members to continue their education and will support them when possible. Outside training for September included company officer 1 and 2.

In September, the training division was involved in new projects like the tower conversion at 12, Lieutenant promotional development and numerous meetings. One such meeting is the monthly EMS Education Committee Group. Last month the group discussed topics like grants for the county, new equipment and staffing.

Lastly, the new volunteer recruits are moving along in their academy well.

All have been enjoying the process and working very hard to become our newest firefighters. Great effort by all involved.

Outstanding effort in September goes to:

- LT Kevin Biery
- FF Jeff Haley

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

Division Chief Hollander presented the technical services & maintenance division report.

There are three projects of significance in the month of September:

- Drayton Harbor phase two consists of a proposal for 36 additional single family residential lots near Dodd Street in Blaine.
- Mountain States Builders, a proposed 17 residential lot subdivision near the corner of 16th and D Street in Blaine.
- A signed and recorded mitigation agreement with A1ways, LLC and Joseph Shen and Dorothy Pao for a proposed development consisting of three separate short subdivisions into four lots each, with a total of 12 lots. The purpose of the subdivided properties will be commercial and industrial uses. The proposed development is located on the east side of Portal Way in Blaine.

D.C. Hollander provided a 2014 response time analysis to the board that was prepared with the assistance of the Whatcom County Planning GIS department for use in our section of the Counties Capital Facility Plan.

The dispatch center is beginning the process of purchasing new software for the dispatch center. We have attended demonstrations by the top three vendors, Motorola, Versaterm, and Intergraph in the last three weeks.

There were a total of 14 inspections completed for the month of September.

Apparatus

Annual Pump testing continues for all fire trucks and tenders as required by NFPA.

Facilities

Station 64 (Custer): D.C. Hollander will be looking for direction regarding the roof repairs for the Custer Station.

Division Chief Hollander provided information on a proposed agreement with PogoZone and the Fire District for rental of the sites for the purpose of providing wireless internet to our areas. In consideration of the leased space PogoZone will be providing the fiber cable between stations for a 5 year fixed price and also will be providing multiple internet lines to each of our fire station for a flat fee of \$10.00 a month.

IT

The department continues working with the City of Lynden Fire Department on adding additional in-vehicle repeaters to more of the first out apparatus and adjusting the frequency's to match. The additional equipment is being purchased by the COL and funded by the new freezer plant being constructed in their area. The new proposed frequency is in a band area that is less effected by bleed over and interference.

Division Chief Hollander informed the Board that he received prices from vendors regarding the station 12 doors. One vendor quoted \$900 per door, which adds up to a total of \$9,000 for ten doors. The other vendor quoted \$13,000 for a new computerized system plus a monthly fee of \$100.

OLD BUSINESS

American Tower Cell Agreement

Chief Pernet informed that he is working with American Tower to renew the contract which might be available at the next board meeting.

Training Tower Conversion Bids

Captain Noonchester handed out two proposals which were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Commissioner Ness made the motion to accept the proposal from Trainingtowers.com in the amount of \$62,257. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Interlocal Agreement/City of Bellingham

Chief Pernet gave an update and handed out a map.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Board Meeting: November 10th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

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Vouchers

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