

Whatcom County Fire District 4

Meeting Minutes of the Board of Commissioners

October 14, 2014

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 Ron Anderson, Board Secretary Kris Parks, Division Chief William Pernet, Division Chief Henry Hollander and Captain Joe Noonchester.

Commissioner Andrews called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD ACTION

Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes of the September 17, 2014 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Ness moved to approve the meeting minutes with a correction of the name of Commissioner Andrews on page 5. Commissioner Andrews seconded; motion passed.

Retreat Minutes

Approval of the September 20, 2014 Retreat Minutes.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Finance

Chief Anderson provided information on the financial statements and the vouchers.

Approval of the expense voucher: Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the expense voucher. Commissioner Neal seconded; motion passed.

Approval of the payroll voucher: Commissioner Andrews moved to approve the payroll voucher. Commissioner Ness seconded; motion passed.

Chief's Report

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

Personnel:

New hire David Comp will be graduating from the State Fire Academy on Oct 31st @ 10:00 a.m. down in Burien at the State Police Headquarters. Commissioners are always invited to attend with us to show their support.

Separations: We will be formally separating two volunteers from the Board of Volunteers at the District 21 Commissioners meeting.

- Scott Mellema was with District 3 and District 21 for 18-years
- Kelly O’Connor was with District 21 for 3-years

Retire/Rehire: Paul VanDyken has cleared all the hurdles and is rejoining our department as a tender support operator.

Firefighters currently attending EMT Class

Jordan Clark	Austin Harris	Justin McGarvin
Zachary Scott	Jesse Harris	Andrew Winch
Richard Walter	Jeff Haley	

Firefighters currently attending County Fire Academy

Amanda LaPierre	Christopher Faber	Erin Hendershot	Elizabeth Bowman
Haley Urling-Ehinger	Kailee Steele	Travis Tallquist	

Annual Retreat

The Chief would like to thank the Commissioners for attending our Annual Retreat. The opportunity to get together once a year to share information and exchange ideas about the future direction of the department is critical to our mission. The changes we made to our “mission statement” will help us in tying our values closer to our overall mission and set the tone for expectations for both our members and the public.

FEMA Grant

We are in the process of updating our quotes to install vehicle exhaust removal systems at Stations 61 and 63 and hope to begin work shortly thereafter. The grant was reduced by FEMA from \$168,154 to \$130,440 and requires a 10% match or roughly \$13,044 contribution by the Fire District. Our original grant application included a request for 2-bunker gear extractors (heavy-duty washing machines) and 2-drying cabinets that FEMA determined to be ineligible thus reducing the amount awarded.

Sale of Custer Fire Station

No decisions have been reached and we will be discussing what the Districts plans are for the station at a future date.

Labor Negotiations

We have held two meetings to date discussing ground rules and providing an overview of the budget. An Insurance Industry representative will be at our next meeting to present the pros/cons of VEBA accounts and the various ways they can be funded.

What-Comm/Prospect Communications Administrative Board

Commissioner Mary Beth Neal has been selected by the County Fire Commissioners to serve on this Board as their representative. Her appointment to the Administrative Board comes at a critical time for the fire service as the future of both dispatch centers will be determined by this Board as well as important decisions on co-locating the centers, CAD system replacement and the Next Generation (NexGen) 911 is introduced. The Fire Chief's Association has asked for a position on the Board as well and it appears this will happen near the end of this year.

Operations Division Report

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

Monthly Activities

- Tsunami Flyer Distribution
- SCBA Fit Testing
- Friday night HS football standbys – Meridian and Blaine
- Tractor pull standby
- 9/11 event participation at the Peace Arch
- WCFA instruction
- Blood Pressure Checks at the Blaine Service Center
- Participation in an airport disaster drill
- North West Regional Council Training

Significant Calls

- NWFR units E69 and E12 were dispatched to 7170 Holz for a report of smoke in the area. Upon arrival E69 observed a wood mulch pile that was on fire. The pile was approximately 100' by 100' in area and about 25' in height. E69 and E12 requested the NWFR Tender Group, T65, T68 and T6802 responded. E69 was utilized with the deluge deck gun to suppress the flames and attempt to penetrate into the pile. The Fire Marshal was requested who arrived and located a contact number for the owner. The owner sent out equipment operators to run the large front end loader to extinguish the fire. Once the operators arrived the scene was turned over to them and all NWFR units cleared the scene.
- NWFR units L63, A63, E61, A61, B76 as well as M45 along with B75 were dispatched to Badger and Sunrise for a reported truck vs motorcycle MVC. CPR was in progress from bystanders on one female victim as units arrived. M45 along with A61 and A63 personnel provided care for the CPR patient who was the passenger of the motorcycle while the crew from L63 provided BLS care to the driver of the motorcycle. M45 transported the CPR patient with three NWFR personnel. The crew from L63 provided BLS care and transported the driver of the motorcycle BLS. The truck driver was uninjured.
- NWFR units A63, E61, B76 as well as M45 responded to 4058 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd. for a reported traumatic injury. A 41 year old male became trapped underneath his car while doing some repairs. Crews arrived and lifted the car off the patient. CPR was initiated on the patient and transported to SJH. The patient regained a pulse before transfer to M45.

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:

Combined training for the month of September was significantly up over August. The career staff and volunteers recorded almost 1000 hours of engine, aid and specialty training even though the calls for service remained high.

We had the privilege of visiting David Comp during one of his live fire classes at The Washington State Fire Training Academy. David has demonstrated solid leadership skills and is very anxious to begin his new career with North Whatcom Fire. He will be graduating with his class on October 31st.

With the new medic program in place, our crews have adapted to some minor modifications to how they work on ALS calls in the district. All of our crews have completed ongoing training with the new medic 45 who is housed in the old medic 3 quarters. Both FD#7 and NWFR have overcome any operational or staffing changes they have experienced and done very well to provide a flawless transition into the new system.

Finally, we have received all line staff quarterly training requirements with 98% completion. Their efforts in this have shown well for their dedication to their skills and abilities.

Career and volunteer firefighters with the most training hours:

Career - Lt. D. Riehl, and FF M. Lyshol (tied)

Volunteer - FF D. Murphy

Technical Services & Maintenance Division Report

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

Fire Marshal

The permit for construction for the Semiahmoo Marina has been approved by the City of Blaine. They have committed to the following schedule; 30 days to obtain materials, and weather cooperating, getting the additional 15 standpipes installed in five working days.

The proposed Lincoln Park Retirement Center project update: They have completed all of the county requirements and county staff will be ready to make their comments by November. At this time they have settled on a hearing date of December 10th.

The new Edaleen Dairy opened at noon on October the 6th.

Aileen and Ed Brandsma cut the ribbon to officially open their Edaleen Dairy store at 458 Peace Portal Drive on October 6.

The City is moving forward with a request for a processing plant at 2252 Odell Road in the Blaine Business Park.

The old Rite Aid store has experienced a large underground leak in their fire suppression system that caused a small flood in the empty store. Due to the estimated high cost of repair it has taken a while to get management approval for the repair. Currently the repairs have been approved and the contractor is scheduling the work.

The Whisper Lake development has provided an emailed signed mitigation agreement to the Fire District.

10 company inspections have been completed in September.

Apparatus

Engine 69 needed a radiator replacement.

Aid 69 needed a brake job and while in the shop we discovered head gasket leaks on the 6.0 liter diesel engine. This repair will take specialized tools and equipment and will need to be farmed out.

We have prepared three resolutions this month. One is for the surplus of the old white suburban AP304. One is for surplus medical equipment that will be donated to (SAR) Whatcom County Search and Rescue, and the third is for one lot of surplus metal including old weight training equipment.

Facilities

The new exhaust system for station 63 is scheduled for installation in the week of October 20.

We are working on getting updated quotes on Station 61 and Station 68.

We have completed the installation of fax lines and machines at the following stations; 65 Haynie, 68 Enterprise, 13 Smith Rd., and 72 Northwood.

IT / Communication's

Now there are apparently problems with the phone lines. There is a scheduled date for NW Communications, City of Bellingham Radio Shop and Frontier to meet and try and resolve this issue.

Division Chief Hollander informed the Board that the surplus Posicheck3 Flow Test Machine sold for \$2,750.

CORRESPONDENCE

The district received a letter from Division Chief Dean Crosswhite from WCFD #7 thanking Firefighter Andrew Martin for his support with the cadet training on September 13th.

The district received another thank you letter from a patient and his wife thanking the department for the help that was provided by Captain Ward, Firefighter Jensen and Firefighter Schwab.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

NEW BUSINESS

Auto-Aid

Chief Anderson informed the Board regarding the update to the fire response list.

The Fire Chief of the Bellingham Fire Department is looking at options with the nearest station responding to an incident. The auto-aid will be between North Whatcom Fire & Rescue, the Bellingham Fire Department and the South Whatcom Fire Authority. Future meetings are scheduled. It will increase the call volume at station 12 and provides better service to the public.

Next Board Meeting: November 13th at 12:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Harry Andrews, Chair

Kris Parks, Board Secretary

Motions and Directives:

Minutes

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