

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



**September 9, 2008**

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The first regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of North Highline Fire District for September was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chairman Ron Malaspino with Commissioners Barbara Peters and Wayne Alishokis present. Also in attendance were:

Sharon Alishokis  
Liz Giba  
Greg Jackson  
Scott LaVielle  
Tom Leshner

David Malo  
Mike Marrs  
Jeff Miller  
Ray Noble  
Charlotte Ryan

Patrick Sand  
Brian Snure  
Tom Strom  
Bill Tracy  
Mark Ufkes

Barbara Peters moved to approve the meeting's agenda as presented. Wayne Alishokis seconded. Motion carried.

Barbara Peters moved that the August 5, 2008 regular meeting minutes be approved as presented. Wayne Alishokis seconded. Motion carried.

Barbara Peters moved that the August 18, 2008 special meeting minutes be approved as presented. Wayne Alishokis seconded. Motion carried.

Barbara Peters moved that the August 22, 2008 regular meeting minutes be approved as presented. Wayne Alishokis seconded. Motion carried.

After reviewing vouchers No. 09001 — 09044 in the amount of \$31,549.53 (accounts payable), Barbara Peters moved to approve them to be paid on September 12, 2008. Wayne Alishokis seconded. Motion carried.

### Correspondence

- **WFOA Health “FireLine” Newsletter**  
The August 2008 issue was mailed to each Commissioner’s home.
- **Email from Heidi Johnson (dated August 15, 2008)**  
Ms. Johnson is requesting the regular meeting time be changed and a copy of the department’s budget.
- **King County Boundary Review Board**
  - We received a copy of the letter from the City of Burien to the BRB withdrawing their intent to annex a portion of the North Highline unincorporated area (dated August 27, 2008).
  - We also received a letter from the BRB accepting the City of Burien’s request to withdraw (dated September 3, 2008).
- **King County Fire Commissioners’ General Meeting**  
The Board was sent an invitation to attend the meeting to be held Wednesday, September 17 at King County Fire District 40 (6:00 p.m.).

### Public Comment

Liz Giba made the following comments:

- A request to change the regular meeting time
- Her formal objection that a recent meeting was adjourned, and then the Board went into Executive Session
- Thanked the Chief for changing the way he was reporting about firefighters who were off duty in his report
- Stated she understood that a sensitive letter (regarding a medical condition) was left out for people to see
- A member of the Boundary Review Board recused himself from the Burien annexation issue because of a conflict of interest
- Commissioner Alishokis should recuse himself from any annexation discussion because his wife works for North Highline Fire District (a possible conflict of interest)
- Kenny Pittman (City of Seattle’s Senior Policy Analyst) was quoted in **The Highline Times** that there would be no fire service in the area not being annexed by the City of Burien, but she believes that North Highline Fire District would ensure that this would never happen
- Thanked Commissioner Peters for writing a letter to the City of Burien supporting the proposed Burien annexation

Mark Ufkes spoke next and said:

- He encourages the Board to continue their effort to protect the long-term interest of the community
- He was disappointed that a Board member emphasized her own personal issue regarding annexation instead of the “collective interests of the District”
- Wants the District to ensure the citizens that they will receive the same level of fire protection whatever happens with annexation
- Encouraged the Board to negotiate a solution “up front,” which would be in the best interest of the District and citizens

Chairman Malaspino thanked them for their comments.

### Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Peters stated that she attended the Victory Outreach Picnic (August 28), which was very good. She also attended Burien Kids’ Day (September 6), and she thanked Chief Marrs for a successful event.

Commissioner Alishokis reported that this department responded to a call at his neighbor’s home. Although he passed away, his wife wanted to thank the firefighters (Lt. Zimmerman, Firefighters Briggs, Rosenthal, and Staab) who responded for their professionalism and compassion.

### Local #1810 Report

None

### Local #3780 Report

None

### Chief’s Report

- **2nd Quarter Safety Committee Meeting**  
Chief LaVielle handed out copies of the minutes of the meeting held August 26.
- **September Training**  
He then handed out copies of this month’s drills and training classes. He pointed out that we will be participating in a Zone 3 Trench Rescue drill in Federal Way, which begins today through September 12.

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- **Volunteer Recruitment**

The Chief reported that:

- Five people (out of nine) passed the oral boards, which were held September 2.
- Those five people are scheduled for employment physicals this week.
- Upon passing their physicals, they will be fitted for gear next week.
- The Volunteer Academy begins October 7 at Mt. View Fire & Rescue (a nine-week course).

- **Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

FEMA requested our bank information to make direct deposits into our account. This is a good sign that we will be receiving grant funds. The Chief stated we have applied for a \$100,000 grant for bullet-proof vests, an exhaust extraction system at both stations, and three thermal imaging cameras.

- **Vehicle Maintenance**

The rear tires were replaced on Engine 19.

- **Quarterly Officers' Meeting**

The next Quarterly Officers' Meeting will be held Monday, September 15 at 8:00 a.m. Deputy Chief Van Horne (Renton) will be giving a leadership presentation. The Chief requested that no board members attend this meeting, since it is for suppression personnel only.

- **Meeting with King County Fire District #2**

A scheduled meeting for August 23 was canceled. The two fire chiefs, Commissioner Elwell and Chairman Malaspino will now meet next Thursday, September 18 at 9:00 a.m. (Station 18).

- **Department Personnel**

- A firefighter who injured himself on the job in August has been released back to full duty.
- Another firefighter who injured himself on duty will be out until September 10 (unless surgery is required).
- A lieutenant injured himself off duty and will be gone until the end of November.
- A firefighter that was on disability for surgery returned to duty September 8.

- **Meetings Attended**

Chief LaVielle reported he attended the following meetings:

- City of Burien's Annexation Open House  
The event was held Thursday, August 28 with about 30 citizens attending. Burien City Manager, Mike Martin, explained the delay in pushing for the partial annexation.
- Boundary Review Board Hearing  
The BRB met on Tuesday, September 2 to review the City of Burien's request to withdraw its annexation petition.

- **Community Events**

- Victory Outreach Kids' Festival

- As reported by Commissioner Peters, this event was held Saturday, August 23 at Puget Sound Park.

- C.E.R.T. Class

- The Citizens Emergency Response Training class began September 2 (sponsored by SeaTac and Burien).

- Burien Kids' Day

- Again, as reported by Commissioner Peters, we assisted King County Fire District #2 on Saturday, September 6 for their annual event.

- **Upcoming Events**

- NHUAC Community Meeting

- Thursday, September 18 at St. Bernadette's School (7:00 p.m.). However, we were not invited to the event.

- Commissioner Peters responded that the meeting is not just about annexation. NHUAC will have tables set up with different entities around the room – code enforcement, gang units, graffiti, etc.

- "Give Burns the Boot" Drive

- Saturday, October 4. A pancake breakfast will begin the event at Boulevard Park Place (8:30 – 11:30 a.m.).

- Washington State Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Service

- Sunday, October 5th at the Capitol Rotunda in Olympia. Our Honor Guard may be participating.

- White Center Eagles Medic One Dinner

- Friday, October 17 (5:00 – 9:00 p.m.), with proceeds benefiting North Highline Fire District's Aid Car Fund.

- White Center Food Bank Auction

- Saturday, October 18 at South Seattle Community College.

- Medic One Foundation Auction

- Friday, November 14.

- Shorewood Communityfest

- This Saturday at St. Paul's of Shorewood Church (11:00 – 2:00 p.m.).

Commissioner Peters asked the Chief why the Commissioners weren't welcome at the Quarterly Officers' Meeting on September 15. The Chief replied that the request came from the officers, who felt they couldn't speak freely if board members were present.

### Attorney's Report

Brian Snure, District Attorney, reported that he sent a letter to the Boundary Review Board stating North Highline Fire District has no objection to the City of Burien withdrawing its annexation proposal.

He then clarified two issues that were raised by a citizen:

- 1) The Boundary Review Board is subject to an appearance of fairness standard because they are a quasi-judicial body. The Board of Fire Commissioners is a legislative body. The two Boards are different in the purposes they serve, but both entities have to be fair and avoid conflicts of interest. Commissioner Alishokis' potential conflict of interest was addressed over a year ago.
- 2) The suggestion that the Board improperly went into an Executive Session is incorrect. Chairman Malaspino did announce that we would be going into an Executive Session. Unfortunately by that time, everyone in the room was standing up, it was noisy, and some people did not hear him.

### Unfinished Business

Chief LaVielle presented revised Policy 2900 (Training Reimbursement Policy). Chairman Malaspino explained that the amended policy was negotiated with IAFF Local #1810. After a brief discussion, the matter was tabled until the next regular meeting so the other board members could review the revised document.

A discussion was held whether North Highline Fire District should write a letter supporting a partial fireworks ban in King County. Chief LaVielle explained that King County Councilmember, Jane Hague, has proposed that citizens could petition to ban fireworks in their community instead of waiting for a county-wide ban. It was agreed that the Board would send a letter to Councilmember Hague supporting a fireworks ban in the North Highline area.

### New Business

A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 24, at 8:00 a.m. to meet with City of Seattle representatives regarding annexation impacts to fire and emergency medical services. The Secretary will notify the newspapers.

### Good of the Order

Chief LaVielle shared an email and photograph from Okanogan County Fire District #16 thanking us for the aid car.

He then reported on an aid call in which Lt. Marvin, Firefighters Crossen, Doyle, Johnson, Pham, and Richards, saved a patient by administering CPR for 1 ½ hours and shocking him 13 times at the scene. The patient was transported to the hospital by Medic One where he was shocked an additional 20 times. All the effort was successful, and the patient survived.

The Chief stated that the flags at both stations will be at half staff on Thursday, September 11 in remembrance of those that lost their lives that day in 2001.

#### Executive Session

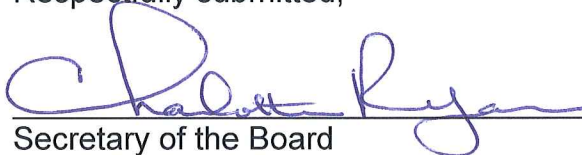
An executive session was called at 8:35 a.m. for approximately 30 minutes to discuss a personnel matter (RCW 42.30.110 [g]).

The Executive Session was extended an additional 15 minutes at 9:03 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:15 a.m.

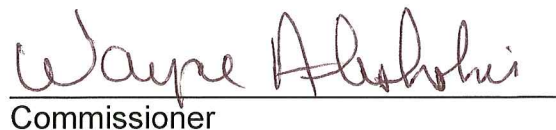
As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary of the Board

  
Chairman, Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner