

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



## January 24, 2022

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for January was called to order via GoToMeeting (virtual online meeting) at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioner Julie Hiatt and Commissioner Dominic Barrera participating. Also attending via GoToMeeting were Chief Mike Marrs, Assistant Chief Ray Pettigrew, and Shauna Sheppard.

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the November 22, 2021 and December 27, 2021 regular meetings as presented; Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

### Accounts Payable

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the January accounts payable vouchers as follows:

- 22010101 to • 22010106 in the amount of \$381,488.68 - (January month-end vouchers)  
Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

### Correspondence

- None

### Public Comment

- None

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Commissioners' Report

- North Highline Subarea Plan Update –Commissioner Giba suggested the board focus on things in the proposed Subarea Plan that would directly impact NHFD, specifically, the proposed land use amendments. She asked Jacqueline Reid of King County several questions about them and learned the proposed land use and zoning amendments would likely result in a substantial increase in housing density that would directly impact NHFD. Inclusionary zoning could double the new housing density. We will address our response to the Subarea Plan at our regular February 2022 meeting.
- Commissioner Giba asked if we had received the Benefit Charge data. She wants to review the tax-exempt and commercial properties with an assessed improvement value of \$1,000. It seems some commercial properties might not have been updated for many years. Chief Marrs recalls that the Assessor's Office updates its assessment process every 3-5 years based on a market-rate analysis of the area.
- Commissioner Giba is trying to find someone with the county who will reach out to the new business owner about permitting the old Paradise building

IAFF Local #1461

- None

Financial Reports

- All financials are tracking.

Chief's ReportChief Marrs reported on the following:

- Aid 318 Upstaffing - We are working to ensure we have a full-time aid car. So far, we are accomplishing this through overtime. This is a large financial burden, so we are exploring possible funding sources. We have found three possibilities: (1) raising the Fire Benefit Charge, (2) Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) or (3) Fee for Service Transport. With the Fee for Service option, we would not. Instead of contacting TriMed or AMR we would transport and use the income to supplement the aid car. The GEMT monies are part of Medicaid program that reimburses fire departments for transports and stay at home care. Chief Marrs knows of one department that has received over \$1M in one year from GEMT. Commissioner Hiatt asked if we have adequate administrative support for GEMT. Chief Marrs responded that is one of the questions that needs to be answered. A review of the details and the process are a worthwhile effort as it seems to be a viable funding option for us.
- Station 18 Remodel Update – We are making progress. We will be meeting with the architect again in early February.
- Omicron Variant Update – We are still in record high territory. The current hospital occupancy of COVID patients is 22.7%. This goal is to bring it below 10%. The National Guard is assisting at Harborview. Patients are experiencing bed delays, which means waiting in an ambulance for a bed in the emergency room. Vaccinations and boosters are highly encouraged.

- COVID Tests – People are being directed to community health centers and/or [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) for free tests. Accessibility to testing is very important. We test at the beginning of each shift. Commissioner Giba asked if any of our staff are in isolation. AC Pettigrew noted that we are currently at 2 folks out due to COVID. As healthcare workers, we have a 7-day quarantine, and then re-test before coming back.
- Commissioner Jim Fassos passed away last year.

Attorney’s Report

- None

Unfinished Business

The state audit is tracking, and we are hoping to finalize it in the next week or two. It may be possible to reduce our state audits from annual to every two years.

New Business

- None

Good of the Order

- None

As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0), and the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.

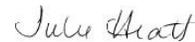
Respectfully submitted,



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Secretary of the Board



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Chairman, Commissioner



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Commissioner



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Commissioner