

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



February 22, 2021

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for February was called to order via GoToMeeting (virtual online meeting) at 6:02 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, Captain Wayne Metz, 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

The January 25, 2021 regular meeting minutes will be reviewed at the March 22, 2021 meeting.

Accounts Payable

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the February, 2021 accounts payable vouchers as follows:

- 2120101 to 2120106 in the amount of \$310,864.01 (February month-end vouchers)

Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Correspondence

- None

Public Comment

- None

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Giba made a public comment during in the recent King County Council meeting regarding the proposed fireworks ban. Assistant Chief Pettigrew also participated and did a great job. She is encouraged by the council members' comments. As they did not vote on the issue, another hearing will be held next month.

Local #1461

- None

Financial Reports

The Board received copies of the January 2021 Treasurer's and Cash Flow Reports. Chief Marrs and Commissioner Hiatt met last week to work on the new percentages for the aid car upstaffing for the rest of 2021 and 2022. Hawthorne & Co. accounting firm has been in to review the 2020 financials. We will conduct quarterly reporting going forward.

Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following:

- COVID-19 Update – Mask wearing is driving the decline in cases of COVID-19. No new cases have been reported by district employees. We have a new return to work policy. If there is a verified exposure, employees are no longer required to quarantine for 14 days if it has been at least two weeks since they had their second vaccination.
- Vaccination Update – Two weeks ago, we started vaccinating residents of adult family homes in our area. Of the 35 adult homes, less than half were eligible and not working with another vaccination provider. We will finish administering the first dose of the Moderna vaccine to the remaining eligible adult family homes tomorrow and go back in four weeks with the second doses. So far, we have administered approximately 350 vaccinations We have contacted King County's Department of Health and offered our assistance to any senior facility in the districts. We are starting vaccinations of residents of four senior living facilities in the districts. Boulevard Park Place and Meals on Wheels need help. SeaMar has asked us to collaborate in providing vaccinations in our community. Commissioner Giba mentioned that SeaMar has locations in both Burien and White Center, so that is a good opportunity. Thanks to Captain Sykes who is doing a great job of running the vaccination effort.
- Firework Ban – Thanks to Assistant Chief Pettigrew for sharing with the King County Council, in his comments at the recent hearing, the need for a ban on fireworks in unincorporated King County.
- Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) Negotiations Update – We have completed negotiations with the union, and much was accomplished. Thanks to Seth Maxwell, Ray Desmarais and Bob Lawson for their efforts and support.

- Aid Car Purchase – A committee is working on District 2’s purchase of a ladder truck, two fire trucks and two aid cars. If NHFD orders an aid car at the same time, we will get a discount. The committee worked hard to standardize the apparatus across both districts. The aid cars they picked have 4-wheel drive, which the recent snowstorm proved to be necessary. Attorney Snure has reviewed and approved the proposed purchase through the HGAC Cooperative. A discussion followed about the proposed purchase. Chief Marrs said 15 years of use is a good return on investment. Our aid cars are 2001 models so NHFD has gotten 20 years from its cars. The plan would be to put the old aid car on reserve status while we get on track to replace apparatus on a regular basis. This conforms with the contract we recently negotiated with the union, which requires that funding for replacement apparatus be included in our annual budgets. Another important factor is that old apparatus is expensive to maintain. Commissioner Barrera said that having the old aid car as a reserve is likely worth more to NHFD than its resale value. Commissioner Hiatt moved to authorize Chief Marrs to purchase a new aid car through the HGAC Cooperative. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). Chief Marrs noted that the new aid car will be on site by the end of the year. Copies of the documents pertinent to the purchase are on file with the meeting minutes.
- Aid Car Upstaffing Update – Our goal is to get a full-time aid car in service this summer. To accomplish that, the new recruits need to be trained before expected retirements take place. Chief Marrs and Commissioner Hiatt have been reviewing the costs involved to divide them fairly between both fire districts. When they have completed their review, they will bring their suggestions to the Board.
- Chief Scott LaVielle’s Passing – Chief LaVielle was a long-time employee of the North Highline Fire District. Condolences to his family.

Attorney’s Report

- None

Unfinished Business

- 2021 Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Board Review – Nine formal Appeals of the 2021 Fire Benefit Charge were filed, as reflected on the Appeals List. During the review and discussion of the Appeals, the commissioners noted that only Appeal 9 is supported by documentation. Commissioner Hiatt moved to grant Appeal 9 and not grant Appeals 1 through 8 on the Appeals List. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). A copy of the Appeals List on file with the meeting minutes.
- Commissioner Giba asked why the NHFD website platform was changed. Shauna Sheppard replied that the new platform is more efficient and user friendly. It is also used by District 2. Shauna will add her 2017 election to Commissioner Giba’s biography and Commissioner Hiatt will provide Shauna with a new photo.

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 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary of the Board



Chairman, Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner