NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 22, 2026 REGULAR MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the North Highline Fire District (NHFD) was held in person and remotely on May 18, 2026, pursuant to proper notice. In person were, Commissioner Julie Hiatt, Commissioner Dominic Barrera, Chief Jason Gay, and District Secretary Christina Parker.

Attendees: Captain Reed

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:22 p.m. by Commissioner Hiatt.

Flag Salute.

Chief Jason Gay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Presentations / Announcements.

Presentation

- None

Announcements

- None

Public Comment.

- None

Correspondence.

- None

IAFF Local #1461

- None

Commissioners' Reports.

- None

Financial Reports.

The Board received copies of the **2026** Budget Position Report.

Chief Gay conducted a review of the monthly expenses and provided an analysis of the primary expenditures for the shared expenses of King 2, as well as the specific expenditures for the NHFD.

Three significant categories contributed to the increase in monthly costs. Puget Sound Fire Garage submitted an invoice for 2025, resulting in an increase in apparatus fees. Additionally, while an annual property insurance expense was anticipated, the unexpected cost associated with the sewer line repair presented an unplanned financial burden. It is important to note that adjustments have been made within the budget to allocate funds from the building maintenance budget line to the capital expense line to cover costs that surpass the original expenditure plan.

We are approaching the planned acquisition of a new engine, which is expected to be delivered in the years 2028-2029.

Commissioner Hiatt requested that Chief Gay reiterate the cost associated with procuring a new engine. Chief Gay confirmed that the cost is approximately $1.4 million. Commissioner Hiatt expressed surprise at the nearly 80% increase since the last engine purchase. Chief Gay further clarified that it is necessary to place the order early, due to a production timeline ranging from 48 to 60 months, allowing for adequate budgeting of funds.

Chief's Report.

<u>Operations</u>

No update

Fire Prevention

Chief Gay provided the Fire Prevention update in the absence of Assistant Chief Desmarais. On June 1, 2026, the new Public Education trailer was delivered, classified as a capital expenditure for the King 2 budget. Chief Gay expressed his appreciation for Inspector George Stoess for his efforts in equipping the trailer. The Chief will arrange a tour of the trailer for the Commissioners.

Chief Gay reported on the following:

- Facilities – Chief Gay addressed the topic of bunker gear extractors and dryers that have been ordered, indicating that the electrical and plumbing are in good condition. He stated that these units will be installed at Station 18 upon delivery.

- Equipment – No updates

  Personnel – Chief Gay read a letter of recognition from Captain Lehner regarding Firefighter Kody Henderson, which will be added to his personnel file.

  The second Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations meeting took place on June 1, 2026, for the 2027-2029 contract year. The Local presented several of its interests, and discussions regarding ground rules are ongoing. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2026, at 10:00 AM at Station 28.

  The announcement for the Logistics Day Firefighter position will occur on June 23, 2026. Two firefighters have expressed interest in this position, which will take effect on August 1, 2026. The Chief is enthusiastic about the addition of a full-time firefighter to the Logistics office to assist the Logistics Captain.

  The position for Assistant Chief will close on June 30, 2026, with interviews scheduled for July 6, 2026. This recruitment is intended to fill the role of the current Operations Chief, Wayne Metz, who is set to retire in September.

  The graduation ceremony for Recruit Academy 22 is scheduled for July 7, 2026, and will be held at the River of Life Fellowship in Kent, as indicated in the flyer.

  In preparation for the FIFA World Cup, there are plans to upstaff with an additional engine for the first three games, alongside the associated watch parties and Pride festivities.

- Events -

  June 29, 2026 (MS Teams) **SAO Exit Conference** | 10:00 AM

  July 7, 2026 (River of Life Fellowship Kent) **Recruit Class 22 Graduation Ceremony** | 6:00 PM

- Other – Chief Gay provided an update to the Labor Management Meeting held on June 11, 2026. The District presented two new policies for the Local's consideration, one of which pertains to an alternate water supply for fire extinguishment. This initiative arose as the City of Burien is in the process of updating its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) materials. It was communicated that in the event of a significant failure, the Water District intends for the water reserve located in front of Station 28 to be allocated specifically for hospitals and communities. The District is actively engaged in drafting operational protocols and establishing a policy regarding the necessary procedures. An upcoming drill is scheduled to facilitate participation and familiarize all personnel with the various locations and operational procedures.

  Additionally, the District provided the Local with a comprehensive list of training activities deemed sufficiently valuable to warrant potential mandatory backfill. This list includes classes required by the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC), training for Consortium adjunct instructors, required training for promotions, and training aimed at developing specialty skills. The Local is currently reviewing this information, and further discussions will ensue.

  Boat 328 is no longer operational or capable of repair. As the summer months approach, access to adequate resources for shoreline protection is imperative. The Logistics department has identified a suitable replacement for the longstanding zodiac boat. King 2 has acquired a new vessel in anticipation of the summer season.

  Chief Gay reported on the passing of former Fire Chief Russ Pritchard on June 2, 2026. Chief Pritchard dedicated 42 years of service to the North Highline Fire Department, beginning his career as a volunteer in 1965. The family has indicated their intention to hold a public celebration of life in the future, and we will ensure that they receive appropriate support when they are prepared.

Consent Agenda Approval.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Voucher Approval for June 2026.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the June 2026 accounts payable vouchers as follows:

260601001 to 260601011 in the amount of $637,244.63 for payment on June 30, 2026. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Unfinished Business.

- None

New Business.

- None

Good of the Order.

- Commissioner Robison was not present at this evening's meeting.

  Commissioner Hiatt made a motion to excuse Commissioner Robison from the June 22, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (2-0)

As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (2-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board

Julie Hiatt
Chairperson, Commissioner

Dominic Barrera
Commissioner

Terri Robison
Commissioner