

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



October 28, 2019

The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' meeting for October was called to order at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba, with Commissioner Julie Hiatt and Commissioner Dominic Barrera attending. Also, in attendance were Chief Mike Marrs, Assistant Chief Ray Pettigrew, Bob Price, Pat Price, and Shauna Sheppard.

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Meeting Minutes

Julie Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the August 26th regular meeting as presented.
Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Accounts Payable

Julie Hiatt moved to approve the accounts payable vouchers as follows:

- 19090101 to 19090110 in the amount of \$285,021.62 (September Month End Vouchers)
- 19090201 to 19090202 in the amount of \$661.08 (3rd Quarter Payroll)
- 19090401 to 19090401 in the amount of \$163.52 (3rd Quarter Payroll Taxes)
- 19090501 to 19090501 in the amount of \$16.23 (Quarterly L & I)
- 19100101 to 19090108 in the amount of \$259,589.39 (October Month End Vouchers)

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

Correspondence

- None

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hiatt reported: (1) Insurance coverage was discussed during the WFCA's Annual Conference. District 2 Commissioner Chris Elwell said that in Western Washington alone, there have been 3 firefighter suicides in the past six weeks. Coverage for firefighters through the Commissioner's healthcare plan does not include Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits. KCFD #2 does provide some EAP benefits through Magellan. Unfortunately, the In-network providers do not specialize in the stressors and anxiety specific to the job of firefighters. Therefore, mental wellness counseling can get expensive for our firefighters. Chief Marrs added that all can go out-of-network for mental health counseling as a part of our insurance. There is a gap, but we can research the costs and other aspects and report back on what we learn. Chief Marrs also said that Code4NW, a non-profit organization that focuses on helping first responders, has been very helpful. Code4NW sent a representative to Station #28 to discuss emotional trauma, the physiology of the brain, resources available, and a variety of other topics. Steve Redmond was the guest speaker at the last Code4NW event. Chief Marrs was very impressed. Chief Marrs will contact Mr. Redmond to learn more about his new non-profit and future resources. (2) Commissioner Hiatt also inquired about the upcoming Newsletter. It will include winter 2019 topics of interest and will be ready in the coming weeks. (3) Commissioner Hiatt mentioned that the King County Fire Commissioners Association meeting is Wednesday, November 6th, 2019.

Commissioner Barrera thanked Chief Mike Marrs, the crew, leadership and administration for a wonderful Celebration of Life for Captain Eric Boutwell.

Commissioner Giba joined Commissioner Barrera in his thanks and thanked Chief Marrs for his participation in the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council's September meeting. State Representatives Cody and Fitzgibbon and King County Councilman McDermott also attended. Mr. McDermott reiterated his support for a fireworks ban. Representatives Cody and Fitzgibbon committed to working on the state law requiring a one-year waiting period on changes to local fireworks ordinances so we might see a fireworks ban by the 4th of July 2020. Commissioner Hiatt suggested that we work with an organization from within the community to provide a professional show.

Commissioner Giba also discussed local housing developments. The Executive's proposed Comprehensive Plan is now awaiting the King County Council's approval. The Comp Plan includes building 80-100 units where the White Center Foodbank is located and up-zoning to the East and West on 108th. King County is also proposing a micro-housing demonstration project that will put 50-60 units, many with shared kitchen and restrooms, in downtown White Center. Legislation recently passed by the King County Council may also increase density in North Highline. The legislation mentions adding 700 units but does not specify how they will be split between North Highline and Skyway. The King County website has a Subarea Plan survey. The deadline to complete the survey is October 31, 2019. David Goodman in King County is managing the Subarea Plan and will be attending the December 2019 NHUAC meeting to discuss Subarea planning; which is currently slated to take about a year. Commissioner Giba has asked for a fair housing study and opportunity analysis of North Highline to determine needs and important issues that impact the community and fire service.

IAFF Local #1461

- None

Financial Reports

The Board received copies of the August and September 2019 Treasurer's and Cash Flow Reports. Chief Marrs reported that we are tracking well for 2019 overall. The financial model is holding strong and true based on our original projections. The 2019 budget was structured with a variety of scenarios prior to the implementation of the ILA between North Highline Fire District #11 and King County Fire District #2. Chief Marrs wanted to gain better insight of the commissioners' expectations as to upstaffing needs and budgetary standards for the 2020 budget and its financial impacts.

Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following:

- Update on contractual consolidation – Things are going well. We are working on 2020 budgetary planning. Station shift moves are happening for the upcoming 2020 shift cycle. There is some angst as planning occurs, but we are moving forward. We have aligned the two captain's lists at the four stations. We now have a joint list and have conducted our first joint Captains' test. We have also been working on the new Rescue Squad, a dedicated, higher-trained crew specializing in confined space, trench, and rope rescues. Air 18 is being re-outfitted to become the new Rescue Squad apparatus. We will respond to mutual aid calls from our area. Though low frequency, it is crucial that we be able to respond to high-risk operations. We have a very strong specialized crew ready to respond. Because Captain Boutwell died on September 11, 2019, consistent with the ILA and MOU's with the Union, candidates from the North Highline Promotional list were interviewed and Firefighter Chris Johnson was promoted to Captain. He will be pinned at the District #2 Commissioners Meeting on November 19, 2019. North Highline Fire District Commissioners are invited to attend. Commissioner Hiatt shared the new patch design. Commissioners Barrera and Giba liked its simplicity and professional look. Commissioner Hiatt will arrange to have a sample patch made as soon as possible.
- Update on new engines – We do not have the engines in service yet due to glitches and mechanical changes. We need to establish a new engine roll out date once the new engines are in service. Commissioner Hiatt asked about the depth of bumpers on the engines she saw at the WCFA Annual Conference. She wondered why they were so deep. Chief Marrs explained that the wide bumpers allow for quick access to the hose.
- 2019 Budget Update – We are working on getting both districts aligned. Timing is challenging, but we are striving to meet all our deadlines
- Update on Captain's Interviews – Due to the rule of three; which is new to the North Highline Fire District, there was a bit more stress during the interview process this time around.
- August 2019 King County Sheriff Fire Report - Three fires were listed. We will follow-up on the fatality fire that occurred on the 4th of July, as it has not been noted on the summary reports to date.
- Code4NW – The next meeting will be on Monday, November 4, 2019 @ 6:00 PM at Station #28. It is highly recommended to attend.
- Captain Eric Boutwell - Chief Marrs thanked the commissioners for their support since Captain Boutwell's death. He went on to say that Pat Ellis and Pat Pawlak were instrumental in guiding us in a way that allowed us to make good decisions and honor Capt. Boutwell appropriately, sympathetically, and professionally. Chief Marrs expressed

how proud he is that everyone - our crew, administration and team - came together during this extremely difficult time for our fire district family. Bonnie Watson's director, Carmon Schmock, was an incredible facilitator when Capt. Boutwell arrived at Washington Memorial. Mr. Schmock also paid for everything associated with the arrangements. Pat Ellis' wife made the shadow boxes for the flags and gave them to Capt. Boutwell's daughters and wife. Many local firefighters graciously volunteered to keep our engines staffed and in service so our crews could attend Capt. Boutwell's funeral services.

- Mobile Integrated Health - We anticipate funds when the Medic 1 Levy is approved. The MIH program would focus on responding to low-acuity calls. Tukwila and SeaTac are interested in exploring a partnership, as are South King Fire & Rescue and Auburn (currently with Valley Regional Fire Authority). Chief Marrs will invite the commissioners to the South King Fire & Rescue presentation when it is scheduled.

Attorney's Report

- None

Unfinished Business

- Hawthorne & Company's engagement letter was discussed. Attorney Brian Snure has reviewed it and advised that more specifics would be helpful. We will send it to all commissioners and revisit this.

New Business

- The Board of Commissioners decided to hold the 2020 Fire Benefit Charge and Revenue Source public hearing on Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM.

Good of the Order

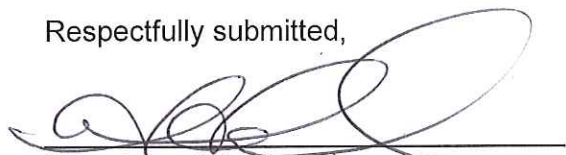
- Community Events – Commissioner Giba said she didn't want to lose track of holding a similar event like Kids Day in North Highline. Commissioner Hiatt asked about holding CPR courses at Station #18. Chief Marrs said we are still working to negotiate specifics so that these courses can be offered as public education.

Executive Session

None

As there was no further business, Julie Hiatt moved to adjourn. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0), and the meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Secretary of the Board



Chairman, Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner