NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2025
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 2026 FBC HEARING & BUDGET

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the North Highline Fire District (NHFD) was held in person and remotely on November 10, 2025, pursuant to proper notice. District officials in attendance were Commissioner Hiatt, Commissioner Dominic Barrera, Commissioner Terri Robison, Chief Jason Gay, Assistant Chief Wayne Metz, and District Secretary Christina Parker.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Commissioner Barrera.

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 (3-0).

Discussion.
Commissioner Barrera started the meeting by delivering the opening statement for the Fire Benefit Charge Hearing.

Commissioner Hiatt initiated a discussion concerning the 2026 Fire Benefit Charge (FBC).

Chief Gay provided a comprehensive overview of the Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) and the accompanying Budget Packet. He indicated that the proposed FBC is based on preliminary levy figures. It was noted that an updated levy limit worksheet was received on the date of the meeting, which reflected a slight decrease; however, the overall increase in taxes remains at 3.6% compared to last year's actual tax figures.

Chief Gay presented a summary of the District's revenue projections, which included the tax levy, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy, Basic Life Support (BLS) Core Services, interest

income, and Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) initiatives, along with contributions from local schools. This data reflected an overall appropriation increase of 4% based on actual figures.

The costs related to the Interlocal Agreement between King County Fire District 2 and North Highline Fire District 11 show an overall increase of 8.56%, attributed to rising Personnel Costs stemming from wage increases and an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement that raised the Personnel Costs percentage from 20% to 29%. Additionally, the staffing requirements of the Aid Car impact overall personnel expenses. It was noted that apparatus fees have been reduced as there are no anticipated additional costs associated with expenses such as SCBAs, as in 2025.

The Long-term Care insurance costs for the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' (LEOFF-1) plan have remained unchanged for the eight retirees.

An allocation of $30,000 has been added to the Miscellaneous Equipment – Capital account for the procurement of a bunker extractor at Station 18. The District has been approved for a fire grant that will reduce Labor and Industries (L&I) costs by 10%, making the organization eligible to apply for additional Safety Grants; however, the budget accounts for the full cost of this purchase.

Additional funds have been allocated to the Capital Assets account in anticipation of purchasing a new engine and building up the reserve account.

Chief Gay discussed the Tax Bond Fund set to expire in 2027, which continues to impact taxpayers residing in the unincorporated areas annexed by Burien until the bond is repaid in 2027. This includes contributions from both Burien and North Highline.

The Chief reviewed the preliminary Levy Limit worksheet utilized for calculations, which indicates an increase, while emphasizing the receipt of a new preliminary worksheet on the day of the meeting.

Funds from the 200 General Obligation Bond Fund (8510) have been utilized to purchase a bunker gear locker this fiscal year. It is anticipated that the remaining balance may be transferred to the Expense Fund (001), pending a definitive resolution from legal counsel; so, the funds will remain allocated in this account until Chief Gay receives conclusive guidance from the bonds contact.

The Benefit Charge for 2026 will remain fixed at $2,250,000 in light of rising expenditures. In response to a question from Commissioner Hiatt regarding the proximity to the $1.50 levy rate, Chief Gay indicated that the current rate stands at $1.57.

Chief Gay briefly summarized the highlights of the Proposed Budget Changes, linking them to the ongoing budgetary discussions.

Commissioner Robison inquired, from the perspective of a homeowner, about the implications of the increase in costs. It was clarified that the increase would amount to 3.6% multiplied by the total assessed value of the property.

The Travel/Petty Cash account remains inactive, with no transactions occurring, and its potential closure is currently under consideration, with the intention of reallocating the funds to the Expense Fund.

The draft resolutions were also reviewed and will be presented for adoption and approval at the upcoming meeting to meet the County deadline.

Commissioner Robison inquired about the remaining balance in the 200 GO Bond Fund. It was indicated that once Chief Gay receives the necessary guidance, we will proceed to transfer the Bond balance into either the Expense Fund or the Capital Fund, based on the recommendation provided.

Motion to set the 2026 Fire Benefit Charge amount for the 2026 Tax Year.
Commissioner Barrera moved to set the 2026 FBC in the amount of $2,250,000.00. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried, 3-0.

Public Comment.

- None

Adjournment.

As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary of the Board

Julie Hiatt
Chairperson, Commissioner

Dominic Barrera
Commissioner

Terri Robison
Commissioner