

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING



MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 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 January 26, 2026, pursuant to proper notice. In person were, Commissioner Julie Hiatt, Commissioner Dominic Barrera, Commissioner Terri Robison, Chief Jason Gay, Assistant Chief Wayne Metz, and District Secretary Christina Parker.

Attendees: Chris Reed, Local 1461 Secretary, & Firefighter Erik Claflin

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 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 (3-0).

Presentations / Announcements.

Presentation

- Assistant Chief Metz provided an update on the Call Summary in light of the challenges encountered in capturing data during the CAD system transition. Among the most significant incidents reported were a residential fire, a shooting, two motor vehicle accidents, and a stabbing. As of late this afternoon, Station 18 responded to the residence of former North Highline Commissioner Wayne Alishokis, resulting in a transport to the hospital.

Announcements

- None

Public Comment.

- None

Correspondence.

- None

IAFF Local #1461

Captain Chris Reed, Secretary of Local 1461, is pleased to represent the Local members at these meetings. He looks forward to collaborating with Chief Gay and the administration to restore Labor Management Meetings on a regular basis. He is committed to upholding health and safety standards for the membership and actively seeking opportunities for growth.

Commissioners' Reports.

- None

Financial Reports.

The Board received copies of the **January 2026** Accounts Payable Report

Commissioner Robison inquired about the status of the sewer issue at Station 18. Chief Gay reported that the facility was experiencing a "no flush, no shower" situation, which resulted from an old collapsed pipe located under the bay area. This issue has since been addressed, and the repairs are currently awaiting inspection; the associated costs will be categorized as a capital expense for North Highline.

Assistant Chief Desmarais further noted that Logistics had engaged in discussions with the contractor concerning additional concerns identified within the scope of work, which appeared to pertain to issues on the Sewer District's side that require further investigation.

Captain Reed added that the station is currently experiencing further complications, purportedly related to the newly installed piping. Additional information to come.

Chief's Report.

Operations

Assistant Chief Wayne Metz delivered an operational update that included various trainings. He announced that three recruits will be graduating tomorrow, January 27,

2026. Additionally, five new recruits started day one of their pre-academy training today, January 26, 2026, at Station 28, marking the first of eight days.

Fire Prevention

- Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais announced a couple of organizational changes for the upcoming year. He stated that Captain Reed has transitioned from the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO) back to operations and is assigned to Station 18. Captain Brien Marcus will assume responsibility in the Inspector's Office for the next two years. AC Desmarais emphasized that the primary focus of the Fire Marshal's Office for the first two months of the year will be on conducting inspections of apartment buildings.

Commissioner Hiatt inquired regarding the automatic alarm system. In response, AC Desmarais explained that certain buildings have modified their smoke detectors to operate in a supervisory capacity only. Under this system, building owners receive notifications upon smoke detector activation; however, the fire department is only alerted when there is water flow detected, which serves to minimize false alarms. This modification has been identified as a significant enhancement to the alarm system's operational efficiency.

Chief Gay reported on the following:

- Facilities – The repair of the sewer pipe at Station 18 was discussed in response to Commissioner Robison's prior inquiry.

At the Station 28 Emergency Operations Center (EOC), a successful dry run was conducted in collaboration with the City of Burien. During this exercise, certain areas within the room were identified where camera visibility was inadequate, indicating a need for further improvements.

Additionally, concerns regarding the roof at Station 28 have been raised, particularly related to the HVAC system, which is supported by wooden structures that are deteriorating due to weathering and rot. The proposed course of action involves opening the roof to potentially install composite decking in order to mitigate this issue. There are additional roof-related concerns that will be classified as capital expenses for KCFD2.

- Equipment – No updates
- Personnel – Chief Gay commended Firefighter Nicholas Turner for his performance during the JATC testing, while Firefighter Austin Makowski actively participated in the pumping portion of the test. Both individuals received recognition from the training chief for their efforts. Chief Gay expressed a desire to acknowledge their dedication.

Logistics Captain Eric Williamson has made significant contributions in addressing the sewer system issues at Station 18, as well as managing fleet and facilities matters for all four stations. He has effectively taken the lead on the bunker gear initiative raised by

Labor and Industries. Captain Williamson also facilitated the inaugural annual bunker gear inspection, with a second rotation planned to ensure that all bunker gear is inspected annually, in compliance with the required standards. Chief Gay emphasized the commendable work Captain Williamson has been undertaking.

- Events – **January 27, 2026** – (River of Life Fellowship) Recruit Class 21 Graduation Ceremony at 6:00 PM

January 30, 2026 – (Burien Community Center) – Empty Bowls, Lunch from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM and Dinner from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Proceeds to benefit the Highline Area Food Bank and White Center Food Bank.

May 2026 – (Glen Acres Golf & Country Club) – Appreciation Banquet, date and time to be determined

- Other – The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program funds request has been submitted for reimbursement, as this marks the final year of the levy.

Chief Gay had a meeting with representatives from the Department of Local Services and the City of Burien to discuss the potential organization of a watch party for the FIFA event during the summer of 2026, to be held in White Center. Details regarding logistics needed to be finalized, and Chief Gay anticipates further information concerning parking and transit arrangements. Additionally, we are in the process of applying for FIFA Grants for 2026 to support engine staffing during all six events, taking into account the anticipated need for mutual aid and the potential pull of resources from the surrounding cities, to ensure we are well-prepared.

A Labor Management Meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, with the intention of establishing these meetings on a monthly basis for the remainder of the year. Chief Gay remarked on having a productive discussion with the President of the Local and expressed his optimism about collaborating effectively moving forward. Following these meetings, Chief Gay will present the topics discussed and relay the information to the Commissioners.

The deadlines for W-2 and 1099 forms are approaching; those will be distributed by January 31, 2026, in compliance with IRS requirements.

The deadline for Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) appeals is set for Friday, February 13, 2026, at 5:00 PM. To date, there have been few new requests, with one pre-approval having been previously excluded. It has come to our attention that an audit of the FBC database for new construction is overdue, necessitating an audit as part of the FBC formula.

The mileage reimbursement rate for the fiscal year 2026 has been increased to 72.5 cents per mile, which will be subject to approval through a motion.

The rates for Meals and Incidental Expenses for the fiscal year 2026 have been increased to a total of \$92 per day, to include breakfast, lunch, and dinner, which will also require approval via a motion.

Additionally, Chief Gay will propose a motion to revise the schedule for the regular meeting in May, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. This concludes the Chief's report.

Consent Agenda Approval.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Barrera moved to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2025, Special Board Meeting, the November 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting, and the December 22, 2025, Special Board Meeting. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Voucher Approval for October 2024.

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve the January 2026 accounts payable vouchers as follows:

260101001 to 260101003 in the amount of \$623,908.20 for payment on January 26, 2026. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0)

Unfinished Business.

- None

New Business.

Motion: Resolution 549 Increase Meal Reimbursement Rates

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve and sign Resolution 549 to increase the meal reimbursement rates. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0). A copy of Resolution 549 is on file with the meeting minutes.

Good of the Order.

Motion: Resolution 548 Change Regular Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve and sign Resolution 548 to change the regular meeting schedule of May 25, 2026, to May 18, 2026, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0). A copy of Resolution 548 is on file with the meeting minutes.

As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

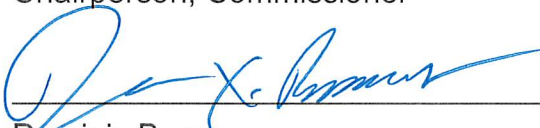
Respectfully submitted,




Secretary of the Board



Julie Hiatt
Chairperson, Commissioner



Dominic Barrera
Commissioner



Terri Robison
Commissioner