

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING



## MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 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 February 23, 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:

### **Call to Order.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 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. Among the most significant incidents reported were a stabbing, a residential fire, and a commercial fire.

#### Announcements

- None

## **Public Comment.**

- None

## **Correspondence.**

- None

## **IAFF Local #1461**

- None

## **Commissioners' Reports.**

- None

## **Financial Reports.**

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

Chief Gay provided an update on the organization's financial status, specifically highlighting our recent LEOFF-1 retiree, who is now using the Transamerica long-term care (LTC) policy for in-home care. We will consider these expenses for the upcoming fiscal year's budget.

Commissioner Hiatt expressed interest in understanding the monthly coverage for in-home care and agreed that, as the remaining LEOFF-1 retirees within the District continue to age, it is imperative to evaluate the significant increase in LTC costs.

We have reached out to the Highline School District concerning the payment for fire protection services due in 2025. We anticipate receiving this payment in the first quarter of the new year. However, we do not yet have clarification regarding the reason for the delay; Christina is actively communicating with the school district to resolve the delayed funds.

## **Chief's Report.**

### Operations

Assistant Chief Wayne Metz delivered an operational update, noting that new hire interviews are scheduled for March 2 – 5, 2026.

### Fire Prevention

- Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais has no comment.

Chief Gay reported on the following:

- Facilities – On February 20, 2026, Highline Amateur Radio Club (HARC) arranged for a company to collect the container located at the southeast corner of Station 18, clearing that area of the station.

To ensure the North Highline Board remains informed, it was approved during the King 2 Board meeting to surplus obsolete fitness equipment and SCBAs that are no longer under warranty as surplus. The intention is to donate these items and facilitate their transportation to South America, as the regulatory guidelines in that region differ from our operations.

Chief Gay has received communication from Air Exchange, which indicated that they are currently awaiting the arrival of parts for Stations 28 and 29. They plan to initiate the upgrading process for these two northern stations at the end of the month, following which they will proceed south to begin the initial installation of the Plymovent systems.

- Equipment – No updates
- Personnel – Recruit Academy 22 (RA22) is currently concluding its second week of training. Assistant Chief Metz is scheduled to attend their inaugural evaluation on March 13, 2026.

Firefighters Kavin Tayag, Megan Hughes, and Nicholas Barrón have completed their 18-month probationary period and are now designated as third-class firefighters. Chief Gay has communicated his congratulatory sentiments to them.

- Events – **May 2, 2026** – (Glen Acres Golf & Country Club) Appreciation Banquet – Save the date

**June 6, 2026** – (Lake Chelan) – WFCFA Spring Series – Lake Chelan Seminar

**October 21 – 24, 2026** – (Spokane) – 2026 WFCFA Annual Conference & Snure Seminar

- Other – Chief Gay provided a brief update regarding the Labor Management Meeting that occurred on February 12, 2026. All material information is being communicated to the commissioners to ensure transparency. A topic for discussion at the upcoming Labor Management Meeting will include consideration from the Labor Union regarding the Uniform Policy.

Through the Labor and Industries Fire Grant process, it is anticipated that there will be a monthly savings on our workers' compensation costs due to the Workers Compensation Employee Premium (WCEP). Chief Gay is seeking confirmation of this anticipated discount.

The Chief has engaged the Safety Committee in an initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive safety improvement plan that focuses on reducing exposure to carcinogens. This initiative has the potential to enable the District to qualify for grant funding of up to \$25,000 annually. The Safety Committee is currently tasked with identifying key issues that they believe would yield the greatest impact on safety. Among the proposed measures is the Plymovement upgrade for all stations, which aims to minimize contact with carcinogens.

Chief Gay introduced the implementation of the Wellness Committee. He has expressed his desire for both the Safety Committee and the Wellness Committee to collaborate effectively in order to optimize their budgets and resources.

Chief Gay provided an update on our information technology (IT) planning. The planning includes both short-term and long-term goals, focusing on establishing a Capital IT fund to ensure continued investment in our technology infrastructure.

KCEMS Core Services Reimbursement was received and deposited, closing out the final year of the levy budget.

Bunker Gear – The second set of bunker gear was received last week, completing the annual inspection requirement. We're now on an annual cycle for advance inspection, and the semi-annual inspection will be conducted by the firefighters.

Commissioner Barrera sought clarification on whether the Labor and Industries issue is separate from the washer/dryer extractor. Chief Gay replied that it was a separate issue.

Digital Transition – Chief Gay commended Battalion Chief Joe Kupferling for his work in developing an online document for apparatus checks. He also extended commendations to Battalion Chief Tim Zimnisky for creating an online version of the monthly probationary firefighter evaluation tool.

Commissioner Hiatt inquired about the compatibility of the digital transition with Public Records Requests. Chief Gay clarified that there are specialized companies that manage such requests, and suggested that the department may consider evaluating the costs associated with those services. Commissioner Hiatt expressed interest in further discussions.

Commissioner Hiatt informed everyone that she would not be able to attend the March Board meeting. She also proposed a future discussion on hosting a community event at Station 18.

### **Consent Agenda Approval.**

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

## **Meeting Minutes.**

Commissioner Barrera moved to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

## **Voucher Approval for February 2026.**

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

260201001 to 260201004 in the amount of \$528,557.07 for payment on February 23, 2026. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0)

## **Unfinished Business.**

- Review FBC Appeals:
  - **Dale Felt – Parcel #6303400075 at 10404 19<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, Seattle, 98146**

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve a 10% Veterans discount on Dale Felt's parcel 6303400075.

- **Robert Hess – Parcel #5357200123 at 10641 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. S**

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve a 10% Veterans discount on Robert Hess' parcel 5357200123.

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

- **Keopanya, Kaesri – Parcel #7262200031 at 9630 30<sup>th</sup> Ave SW**

Commissioner Barrera moved to approve a 10% Sprinkler discount on Kaesri Keopanya, parcel 7262200031.

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

A copy of the Appeals List is on file with the meeting minutes.

## **New Business.**

Commissioner Barrera made a motion to excuse Commissioner Hiatt from the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

**Good of the Order.**

- None

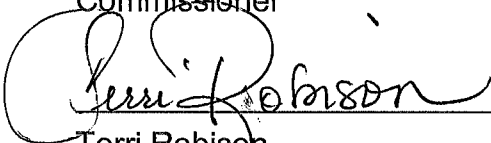
As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Hiatt  
Chairperson, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dominic Barrera  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terri Robison  
Commissioner