

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



April 22, 2019

The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for April was called to order at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioners Julie Hiatt and Dominic Barrera in attendance. Also, in attendance were Mike Marrs, 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 March 18th regular meeting as presented. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Accounts Payable

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

- 190401001 to 190401001 in the amount of \$9.99 (*Payroll – L & I – 1st Quarter 2019*)
- 190401002 to 190401002 in the amount of \$94.69 (*April Expense*)
- 190401003 to 190401011 in the amount of \$672,908.86 (*April Month End Vouchers*)

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

Correspondence

- Letter dated April 15, 2019, received on April 22, 2019, from Mindy Tiangson of the King County Department of Assessments in response to Commissioner Giba's April 2, 2019

letter to King County Assessor John Wilson and Ken Guy of King County Treasury Operations – The response from Ms. Tiangson explained that the Coronado Springs property was deemed fully taxable by the Department of Revenue (DOR) when the property was sold in 2016. Its tax status was retroactively changed to partially tax exempt per DOR's letter of October 10, 2018. The response also indicated that the unpaid 2017 Fire Benefit Charge was due to NHFD's failure to identify the taxable parcel number in its Fire Benefit Charge submission to King County. The letter closed by saying that there is nothing the King County Treasury or Assessor would do to help NHFD secure the unpaid 2017 Fire Benefit Charge. Commissioner Hiatt asked if a lien could be placed on the property for the 2017 Fire Benefit Charge. Commissioner Giba would like to know the history of the DOR's original decision that the property was not tax exempt and its retroactive reversal nearly two years later. She noted that DOR's December 16, 2016 letter, which was attached to Ms. Tiangson's response, gave the property owner a 30-day appeal period. Chief Marrs will forward the Ms. Tiangson's letter to Brian Snure and Neil Blindheim for their review and input. The commissioners will have an opportunity to review any draft letters before Commissioner Giba signs them. A copy of Ms. Tiangson's April 15, 2019 response from the King County Department of Assessments, with attachments, is on file with the meeting minutes.

Public Comment

- Pat Price commented that the Friends of the White Center Library will hold a plant sale at the library from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Friday, April 27th. She will forward the flyer to Commissioner Barrera.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Hiatt reported: (1) Our sales tax bill was passed by the legislature and is waiting for the governor's signature. This is a low-profile bill and it is important to stay on top of it to ensure it gets signed. Once signed, the legislation will go into effect in July 2019. (2) At the April meeting of the King County Fire Commissioners Association, the State Auditors' office presented information about updates, annual reporting, and the kinds of things they review during their annual audit. (3) She will be running for re-election to the board of commissioners for North Highline Fire District.

Commissioner Barrera reported: (1) The sales tax legislation is one bright spot in this year's legislative session. The volunteer firefighter pension bill died along with other legislation supported by the firefighting community. (2) South King Fire Commissioner Jim Fossos is still in the hospital. King County Fire Commissioners sent him a card wishing him well and a speedy recovery. (3) Commissioner Barrera announced that he will be running for Port of Seattle Commissioner Position #2, but it will not interfere with his NHFD duties.

Commissioner Giba reported that Douglas Baxter-Jenson of CHI Franciscan Health shared some disturbing health information about North Highline at the last NHUAC meeting. The data he presented shows that North Highline residents face serious health challenges in areas such as mental health, physical activity, substance use, maternal and child health, violence and injury prevention. A copy of Mr. Baxter-Jenson's presentation is on file with the meeting minutes.

IAFF Local #1461

- None

Financial Reports

The Board received copies of the March 2019 Treasurer's and Cash Flow Reports.

Chief Marrs reported that the expenses for 2019 are still tracking and the first quarter invoices from King County District #2 for shared expenses are included in this months' vouchers.

Chief Marrs followed up with Hawthorne Accounting. There will be a meeting and he will report back to the board. He thinks it would be a good idea for a commissioner to review the bills and invoices as has been done in the past. Early indications reflect the solid strategic planning conducted last year by the North Highline board.

Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following:

- Update on Interlocal Agreement – April 1st was the target date to functionally consolidate the labor pools. Leading up to April 1st, the Battalion Chiefs expressed concern that we were not ready. Accordingly, the timeframe was extended. No hard date has been established. We want to be sure that all concerns are addressed so the crews are comfortable.
- Domain Name – Currently looking to consolidate all departments into one domain name utilizing King County Fire District #2 as the overarching organization name. Several domain names we were looking into are already taken. Commissioners Hiatt and Barrera would like Chief Marrs to review the possibility of a .gov domain. The .gov process is more cumbersome and lengthier, but Chief Marrs said it will be reviewed. The commissioners were unanimous that .org or .gov is more desirable than a .com address.
- Update on New Engines – Almost finished. The engine crew is back in Appleton, Wisconsin. A June 30, 2019 target date for delivery seems possible. Still looking at deployment for the engines and where they are housed until procedures and reserves can be established. After we review the current reserves at all stations, the sale of old apparatus will be considered.
- Air packs – All but two are fit-tested and the labor union has agreed to this new equipment going onto the apparatus so we can start using it as soon as possible.
- Competency Based Training (CBT) Instructors – We have had off duty paramedics teach courses, so our crews are trained above the minimum standard. Tony Scoccolo, the North Highline FD trainer, is going to retire. John Nolan, Burien's trainer, is also retiring. Jeff Alan and Mark Snowden are being considered as co-teachers. They would share the responsibilities of 10 classes for each shift (3 shifts) for 10 months out of the year (summers off). Neither would be responsible for all 4 stations. Quality assurance and improvement funds are available from King County EMS to partially cover this expense for a higher level of training.
- New Hire – Effective May 1, 2019, Seth Richmond will be our newest a full-time, career firefighter.
- The Firefighter of the Year Banquet will be held at Glen Acre Golf and Country Club on May 4th, 2019.
- Universal Defibrillators – Still working to obtain all the pieces and additional training.
- Patch Committee – The first meeting has not yet occurred, but all members are reviewing ideas and will be getting together after tomorrow's Burien/Normandy Park

commissioner meeting. Commissioner Hiatt did some early work in reviewing the different elements of different patches that are used in the firefighting community. She will attend tomorrow's meeting and assist with the patch planning process. Once the guidelines are established by both boards of commissioners, the committee can come up with ideas to present to both boards. Commissioners Barrera and Giba prefer a simple, classic, and easily recognizable look.

Attorney's Report

- None

Unfinished Business

- None

New Business

- Review the long-term care benefits for LEOFF I – Premiums for LEOFF I long term care increase significantly each year. Commissioners would like to review and compare plans. Chief Marrs suggested revisiting this issue at the next regular meeting after gathering additional information.

Good of the Order

- None

As there was no further business, Julie Hiatt moved to adjourn. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0), and the meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary of the Board


Chairman, Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner