

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 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 April 27, 2026, pursuant to proper notice. In person were, Commissioner Julie Hiatt, Commissioner Terri Robison, Chief Jason Gay, Assistant Chief Wayne Metz, Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais, and District Secretary Christina Parker.

Attendees:

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 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 Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Presentations / Announcements.

Presentation

Assistant Chief Metz provided an update regarding the Call Summary, indicating that a total of 3,782 calls had been recorded up to the 20th of this month, a figure that is comparable to the same period last year. Among the most notable incidents reported were a commercial fire, a Nasopharyngeal Airway (NPA) accident involving medics, and two motor vehicle accidents (MVAs). One of these MVAs involved an electric vehicle (EV), necessitating assistance from the Port of Seattle, which deployed an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) truck. In total, over 5,000 gallons of water were utilized to manage the EV fire.

Commissioner Hiatt inquired whether the volume of water used was greater than that required for a standard automobile fire. In response, Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais clarified that the quantity of water expended was typical for an electric vehicle fire, although it surpassed that of a conventional vehicle fire. Assistant Chief Wayne Metz further noted that a concern associated with electric vehicles is that, upon de-energization of the batteries, all doors within the vehicle lock automatically.

Announcements

- None

Public Comment.

- None

Correspondence.

- None

IAFF Local #1461

- None

Commissioners' Reports.

- None

Financial Reports.

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

Chief's Report.

Operations

Assistant Chief Wayne Metz provided an operational update, which included various trainings as well as a ride-along with the Port of Seattle Battalion Chief in conjunction with our Battalion Chief.

Chief Gay noted that the Port Battalion Chief reached out to us for this ride-along opportunity. This initiative reflects a commendable collaboration with the Port of Seattle.

Fire Prevention

Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais provided an update regarding the summer events, including the Taste of White Center on June 20, 2026. He noted that he will be attending the Northwest Fire Investigator Conference next week.

Assistant Chief Desmarais also highlighted the counties that are engaged in interlocal agreements, allowing them to conduct investigations under the auspices of King County. This initiative aims to help identify specific code issues in coordination with the King County Fire Marshal's Office and Code Enforcement. The team is actively working on this matter and anticipates presenting a formal agreement for board approval once consensus is achieved.

He added that there is a potential for a nuisance fee referendum, which seeks to establish an ordinance regarding fees for false alarm responses. This measure is necessary as businesses currently lack incentives to address issues that lead to repeated false calls. A proposed fee scale for these recurring responses is under development. Implementing this agreement will require several steps to evaluate the validity of the fees and the associated billing processes. It is essential that the objective of these fees is to effectively reduce the incidence of false alarms in a manner that is fair, reasonable, and judicious.

Chief Gay reported on the following:

- Facilities – Chief Gay has indicated that we have allocated funds for the procurement of a bunker gear washer and dryer. We are moving forward with the purchase at Station 18, which is already equipped with the necessary electrical connections, water supply, and drainage for the washer. Regarding the dryer, the Logistics Captain is verifying that an appropriate exhaust system is in place. Moreover, we must comply with the new National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, which mandate the exclusion of an agitator and stipulate that operational temperatures must not exceed specific limits. The Logistics Captain has reported meeting with representatives from the bunker extractor and dryer supplier. The cost for their replacement is accounted for in the 2026 budget for both districts. Once we address a few remaining inquiries, we will proceed with their replacement. The positive news is that the crew will soon be able to wash their gear at Station 18.

- Equipment – No updates

Personnel – On April 14th, AC Metz conducted Evaluation #2 for the five recruits in Recruit Academy 22 (RA22). All recruits are demonstrating commendable performance.

The four new hire candidates for RA23 are progressing on schedule. We are currently preparing for their 'Administrative Day' and 'Family Night' scheduled for June 4th.

Chief Gay commented on the additional Logistics position as well as the role at the Consortium, emphasizing that staffing adjustments will enable an additional resource in

Logistics. This will help to alleviate some of the workload from the shift crews and provide further support in this area. Additionally, at the beginning of the year, we plan to add another member to the training division, which will yield a credit for the district. It is noteworthy that recent adjustments to the cost structure for the fire academy at the Consortium have resulted in an increase in academy costs, yet we will benefit from a discount on the Consortium costs.

Chief Gay provided an update regarding the FIFA World Cup, noting that, although we did not receive a grant to upstaff an engine, we plan to upstaff an engine for the first two matches to maintain the same level of service for the community during any emergent events and to evaluate the necessity at that time.

A date has been established for the initial negotiations concerning the 2027-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The meeting is scheduled for May 6th at 10:00 AM at Station 28.

- Events -
 - **May 2, 2026** (Glen Acres Golf & Country Club) – **Appreciation Banquet**
 - **October 21 – 24, 2026** (Spokane) **2026 WFCFA Annual Conference & Snure Seminar**
 - *Hotel reservations open. Classes to be announced in August when registration opens*
- Other – Chief Gay provided an update during the Labor Management Meeting held on April 16, 2026, indicating that progress has been made with the advancement of nine policies that have been updated and implemented. There are a few remaining policies for review and approval, and numerous others that necessitate revision; however, forward progress continues to be made.

We are currently undergoing an audit of North Highline for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Chief Gay expressed his gratitude to Christina for her diligent efforts in supplying all the required information to the auditors. She has been working with three auditors who were assigned. This undertaking represents a considerable workload in addition to her regular responsibilities.

Chief Gay delivered an update regarding the LEOFF I Long-Term Care (LTC) status, noting that the policy is being utilized with associated reimbursement expenses. This expense line will be reviewed in detail during the upcoming budget season.

Chief Gay shared an announcement that, effective July 1, 2026, there will be an increase in the annual premiums for the Transamerica LTC policy. A policy change notice indicated that an initial rate increase of 139.20% was filed, while the Department of Insurance has approved a revised increase of 38.07%. Transamerica has indicated intentions to file for an additional rate increase in the near future. It was noted that this increase applies statewide and is contingent upon the claims experience for all long-term care insurance policies.

We have received a reimbursement from the 2025 King County Basic Life Support (BLS) Core Services Reimbursement, which represents the final payment for the levy that expired in 2025.

The Chief also briefly discussed the attached SAO Audit Entrance Invitation, which took place on April 14, 2026.

Commissioner Hiatt inquired whether the SAO required an interview with a Commissioner this year. Chief Gay responded that the SAO has the contact information for each Commissioner should the need arise.

Consent Agenda Approval.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0).

Voucher Approval for April 2026.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve the April 2026 accounts payable vouchers as follows:

260401001 to 260401002 in the amount of \$564,418.21 for payment on April 30, 2026.

Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0)

Unfinished Business.

- None

New Business.

- Chief Gay brought to the attention of the Board a Notice of Retirement for a former North Highline volunteer who would like to access his volunteer pension from 1999 through 2008.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to approve and sign the volunteer pension eligibility certificate for William Staab with a base pension of \$200 and an earned pension of 35% for 18 years, totaling \$270.00. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0)

Good of the Order.

- Commissioner Barrera was not present at this evening's meeting, and Chief Gay called for a motion to excuse Commissioner Barrera.

Commissioner Hiatt made a motion to excuse Commissioner Barrera from the April 27, 2026, meeting. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0)

Chief Gay extended his final remarks and expressed his anticipation of seeing all attendees at the banquet this weekend.

As there was no further business, Commissioner Hiatt moved to adjourn. Commissioner Robison seconded. Motion carried (2-0). The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,



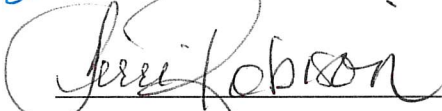
Secretary of the Board



Julie Hiatt
Chairperson, Commissioner



Dominic Barrera
Commissioner



Terri Robison
Commissioner