

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING



MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE 2025 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 28, 2024, pursuant to proper notice. District officials in attendance virtually via the GoTo Meeting software were Commissioner Dominic Barrera and Assistant Chief Ray Desmarais. Attending in person were Commissioner Julie Hiatt, Commissioner Terri Robison, Chief Gay, and District Secretary Christina Parker.

Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 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 Hiatt initiated a discussion regarding the 2025 Fire Benefit Charge (FBC).

Chief Gay provided an overview of the FBC Budget Packet. The proposed FBC is based on preliminary levy figures. The district's financial status is currently stable, as indicated by the available funds in the accounts. The costs associated with the Interlocal Agreement between the two districts include a 9% increase in personnel expenses. These personnel costs encompass staffing for an aid car, which includes eight (8) full-time firefighters.

Proposed budget modifications for the current fiscal year include allocating additional funds to the Apparatus Replacement account to facilitate the purchase of a new engine, as mentioned in the Interlocal Agreement. We are looking to omit the 200 GO Bond Fund (8510) from the budget,

as the bond has been fully paid off. There is also a need to determine the appropriate allocation of the appropriated funds.

Chief Gay reported that the Assessed Value (AV) has increased by \$400,000 compared to the previous year. He noted that a levy correction is being implemented to reimburse the overpayment from 2022 due to the county's overlevy.

Additionally, he mentioned that this budget year, funds are being allocated to the reserves, which contribute to the apparatus replacement. The 201 LTD Bond Fund is set to expire in 2027. He also highlighted the increase in personnel costs, which now allows for eight (8) personnel to staff a full-time Aid Car.

In reviewing the Proposed Budget, there is a property tax increase, an increase in BLS Core Services, and an increase in the Benefit Charge. The overall increase in ILA is driven by the addition of staffing for the Aid Car to improve response times. Call costs are also projected to increase.

Commissioner Robison inquired about the higher costs in January. The Chief explained that this increase is due to the graduation of fire personnel from the academy during that month.

Commissioner Barrera asked about the zero Upstaffing Costs. The Chief clarified that these costs are included in the personnel expenses. The Chief also noted that funds are being allocated to reserves for the engine, which accounts for its absence in Vehicle Equipped and Vehicle Expenses.

Commissioner Hiatt requested information regarding the Station 18 parking lot funds. The Chief indicated that these funds are currently on hold in the budget for utilization as needed.

The Travel/Petty Cash account is being considered for closure, now that the District has a credit card available for any external training expenses, with plans to transfer the funds into the expense fund.

The Draft Resolutions were reviewed and will be presented at the next meeting for adoption and approval.

The FBC has been calculated to be 30% of the Expense budget, and a motion was made to establish the 2025 FBC Budget.

Motion to set the 2025 Fire Benefit Charge amount for the 2025 Tax Year.

Commissioner Hiatt moved to set the 2025 FBC in the amount of \$2,250,000.00. Commissioner Barrera 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 5:39 p.m.


Respectfully submitted,




Secretary of the Board



Chairperson, Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner