



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

March 23, 2020

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at Station 51. Commissioner Copple, Commissioner Geiger, Chief Halverson, and Deputy Chief Clark were present. District Secretary, Cathy Barth, was present via speakerphone.

Additions to Agenda – None

Public Comments – None

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached

Secretary's Report – None

Old Business –

Open Issues and Actions – No new actions.

Resolution 2020-01 Voucher pre-approval authority –

Chief Halverson presented Resolution 2020-01 with the sunset clause.

A motion to approve **Resolution 2020-01 Voucher pre-approval authority with a sunset clause** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Geiger commented that he trusts the Fire Chief but if the other two Commissioners would like the sunset clause included in the document he supports that.

ALS Contract – Chief Halverson provided the ALS contract proposal to the Commissioners for review. Chief Halverson was directed to review the contract with the Attorney and pass on any comments he may have to the Commissioners.

New Business –

Resolution 2020-02 Emergency Declaration –

Chief Halverson presented Resolution 2020-01 to the Commissioners.

A motion to approve **Resolution 2020-02 Emergency Declaration** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.



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New Business - continued

Special Meeting Discussion - Chief Halverson informed the Commissioners that there was no longer a need for a special meeting as the bid opening has been moved back one week to April 7th. A decision on what if any bids to accept can be made at the April 13, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Regular meeting cancellations – Chief Halverson suggested that future meetings may require cancellations due to Covid – 19 outbreak. The Chief believes that any unnecessary gatherings should be avoided. Commissioner Geiger commented that the Board has given the Chief the authority to sign for the payroll and vouchers should it become necessary. There may be a need to meet to approve contracts such as the ALS proposed agreement. The Commissioners agreed that unnecessary meetings should be canceled by the Board Chair.

The Commissioners asked the Chief to look into a more user friendly technology for remote attendance at Board meetings.

Commissioner Comments – None

Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:31p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

March 23, 2020

Station Construction

We are still working on a builders risk policy. It is a difficult market with few insurers. We have narrowed the cost down from \$42,000 to \$22,000 to \$32,000 depending on coverage.

At the advice of Frank Lawhead and his team we are extending the bid deadline by one week. Because of C19 general contractors are having difficulty getting sub-contractor bids, not from lack of contractors but just from the disruption of the normal systems. That notice to bidders will go out tomorrow. If we go into a total lock down we may have to look at this again.

We have some concerns over the effect of the Declaration of a National Emergency language in the Agreement. It appears to allow the contractor to walk away from the project in case of such a Declaration. We will talking with Attorney Yalowitz to see what our options are.

Bid opening will be somewhat complicated given the situation with C19. At present our plan is to have bids dropped in a container between certain hours on a given date at the sleeper carport. We will then disinfect each one and record the bid. Bidders will be allowed to watch from outside the carport. It is possible we can arrange a remote observation and are looking into that.

ALS Agreement

I received a copy of the draft agreement today and it has been distributed to you. It has not been vetted by an attorney. We cannot use any of the local attorneys we typically use because D7 uses the same attorneys. I have a name of an attorney in the Tri Cities that works with Fire District in Eastern Washington that was recommended by Brian Snure. Unless the Board chooses not to have the document reviewed I will send it off tomorrow and ask for a vote at the next Board Meeting.

IT Servers, Network, Website

Once again Chris Davis from ISO has made contact with Caroline Spott and is working with her on transferring the URL to District #5. Although it is difficult to catch up with Caroline it appears she is willing to work with Chris and get this done.

Novel Corona Virus

Again I believe we are seeing proof of Professor of physics Al Bartlett's often quoted remark that "Humanities greatest shortcoming is the failure to understand the exponential curve." may be evident with the Corona Virus. Unless we are very successful with the social distancing initiative prescribed by Governor Inslee by the end of April hospitals will be over-run and many Washingtonians will die from C19.

The gold standard to deal with C19 is to lower the curve slow the progression to the point that the medical system can handle the volume and develop a vaccine in the interim. The alternative is Italy.

PPE remains in short supply in many hospitals and in some Fire Departments and Districts. South Snohomish County and Everett Fire have done an amazing job of providing leadership through this crisis. We have found some supplies and a distribution center is being established at Cathcart for distribution first those that are in the greatest need and secondly on a call volume basis.

Presently District 5 has sufficient PPE to manage. We are in a constant state of resupply because we do not know how long this could last.

Testing is still a problem. We were promised 50 tests in the County last week and received 15. There will ultimately be a test site at South County for first responders with symptoms. How many kits we get and how long it will take to process a test is still unknown.

Snohomish County fire services are remaining in close contact through 7 day per week web conferences and updates from DEM, Snohomish County EMS and Snohomish County Health. A great effort is being made to share information so that we are following similar procedures. I believe we are moving toward a more cautious approach as it becomes evident that PPE will be available.

We have one member who is being tested for C19. It was an exposure outside of his District duties. We were unaware of that possible case until 11 days following his last shift we are following that with the guidance of the EMS Control Doctor.