



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2020

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing. Commissioner Copple, Commissioner Geiger, Chief Halverson, Deputy Chief Fulcher and District Secretary, Cathy Barth, were present.

Additions to Agenda - None

Public Comments – Debra Chase questioned when and if people are removed from the Disability and Pension plans under the Board for Volunteer Firefighters. Commissioner Fox reported that people are removed from the plans by the Board annually. She asked that we add the Chief's reports to the meeting minutes on the website.

Consent Items – None

Chief's Report – See Attached

Secretary's Report – None

Old Business – None

New Business –

PO#2020 – 2583 Braun Northwest - A motion to approve **PO#2020 - 2583 New Chassis for A51a** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

Public Works Contracts – A motion to approve purchase orders 2020-2585, 2589, 2593, 2581, 2586, 2810, 2586, 2587 and associated public works contracts as vetted by council was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Fox under the emergency order restricting public meetings and District 5 Resolutions 2020-01 and 2020-02, authorized Chief Halverson to sign the above mentioned Purchase Orders and associated agreements.

Executive Session-

A motion to recess to Executive Session until 8:32 p.m. per RCW 42.30.110 for the purpose of discussing contracts was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously at 7:32 p.m. District Secretary, Cathy Barth, was excused at that time. At 8:32 Commissioner Fox informed the public in the Zoom "waiting room" that the Executive Session would be extended until 8:50 p.m. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:50 p.m. No actions were taken, the regular meeting resumed.

Commissioner Comments – The Commissioners thanked the crews for their hard work during these difficult times.

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 8:51p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to Board of Commissioners

November 23, 2020

COVID-19

At this point Covid is pretty much out of control. Efforts to regain a downward trajectory would need to be so draconian that they would not be enforceable. Many people seem to either not take Covid seriously or make a conscious effort to roll the dice and hope for the best. Even though Covid is the second leading cause of death in the Nation many people still choose to believe it is no different than the seasonal flu. Seasonal flu has never killed as successful a killer as Covid.

Hospitals are approaching critical shortages of beds and staff. Medical professionals are choosing to leave their jobs rather than work under the exhausting conditions before them. Even so the ultimate goal is to keep the hospitals functioning and reduce the R-naught to less than 1 so that the virus burns itself out. It is unlikely that will happen until we develop and distribute a vaccine. In the interim our advice is that we adhere to the layers of defense that we know will lessen each individual's likelihood of becoming infected. Nothing good comes from being infected by Covid. Even the belief that Covid can only infect a person once is suspect.

Station Construction

We remain slightly behind schedule due primarily to winter weather conditions and a brief shut down during atmospheric smoke conditions this summer. It is likely those days can be picked up if we get favorable weather prior to the end of the year. The immediate goal remains getting the building dried in. This primarily involves getting the roof on and all window installed.

The movement to the inside requires more effort from staff because we begin to work on those issues that were left to the owner. The most critical of those being low voltage systems but also includes some cabinetry and equipment such as the breathing apparatus compressor.

The job site has been hit by thieves on three occasions. Locks have been cut on storage containers and ignition switches tampered with when heavy equipment is parked to block access to the containers. On the last occasion there is evidence of a pickup parked near the entrance and windows moved to a staging area to be taken. Thieves have also broken into the cabinet shop west of the construction site and stolen from us and others using the covered storage in what used to be Pure Foods also on Cascade View Drive. Trico is upgrading their security system and we have asked law enforcement to patrol the area more frequently.

Christmas

As Covid heats up for a second attack on society we continue to balance the needs of the community to remain as Covid free as possible against a desire to raise spirits during the Winter Holiday. It is illegal, and in my view, irresponsible to have indoor or outdoor gatherings so we

continue to work with the school to identify the routes they use to deliver sack lunches and see if we can develop a plan around that.

ALS Agreement

We still have not had any official communication from District 7. I did miss a call from Chief O'Brien during a Zoom meeting and will try to contact him this week. As previously reported we have a copy of the proposed regional agreement delivered to District 17 that includes District 5 as a participant. We will discuss that negotiation process in Executive Session.

Labor Agreement

Because of the Covid restrictions on meetings Local President Michael McConnell and I met briefly so we could receive the Locals initial proposal. We were unable to spend much time together and will speak by phone to discuss further clarifications and details.