

STEVENS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 1
REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Monday, July 19th, 2021
Location: Online using Whereby

CALL TO ORDER

The commissioner meeting of the Stevens County Fire Protection District #1 was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Commissioner Whittaker. Commissioners Mark Whittaker and Claude Earl “Skip” Wells were present; Commissioner Danny Lee was not present, excused absence. Also, in attendance were Chief Mike Bucy and Board Meeting Clerk Dee-Andra Schmidt, Administrative Assistant Cari Richardson, and Firefighter Greg Nowak. Commissioner Whittaker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Wells moved that we approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Whittaker seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting recessed at 7:04 p.m.
BVFF meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

BVFF

Commissioner Wells moved to approve Voucher AR 21-04-01 for INV16644C18424. Commissioner Whittaker seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously.**

BVFF meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.
Regular meeting reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

CHIEF’S REPORT

See attached report.

1. **MVA update;** FF Schade, is improving, he has approximately 8 more weeks of recovery. Lt. Vandervert returned to work on July 9th. We are still working with the insurance company on values and replacement.
2. **Fires;** The Webb Road fire was our largest since the last meeting at 30 acres. We had a fire in Springdale that was 4 acres and in the same area we have responded to at least 2 or 3 others. Capt. Gallagher is on mobe to the Goddard Road fire in Rice; estimate 3-5 days for it to wrap up. Tender 7 is on mobe in Central Washington, Travis Thornton is our operator, he has acquired a partner from Dist. 10 who’s own partner had to return home. It is getting busier around the State and Region; they are using type 2 teams more. Resources are starting to get thin, air support is being utilized all over the State. As of today, July 19th all of DNR controlled lands are closed to all use. The FDR may be raised to Extreme by Friday, there are Red Flag warnings in effect. We did receive a very generous donation from a grateful resident who’s home is under construction in the area of the Corkscrew Fire on July 3rd. I told them it was not necessary, but they insisted; I said we would use it for an end of season appreciation BBQ for the crews.

3. **Grants;** The FEMA website is still having issues and causing delays. The DOE grant should be decided soon. The Leary Foundation grant for \$20,000 to go toward pagers has been applied for. 24 or 26 radios should arrive this week from Spokane County, they are programming them now. We are waiting on the Invoice for the pagers purchased under the 50-50 grant to finish the reimbursement process.
4. **Administrative;** ARPA money meeting went well, the County actually has \$8.8 Million available to distribute. My understanding is that the money has to be earmarked by 2024 and spent by 2026, so this will be a process over the next few years. I presented 8 options that I thought would best support the Fire services across our County. One being Broadband to each of the stations for better connectivity and response to our Communities. Rural Resources, the Sheriff's Office and others were present and involved, the conversations went well and everyone was responsive.
There will be payroll increases for July due to severity staffing and overtime.
5. **Levy Update;** The ballots arrived earlier than expected, our flyers should be delivered to mail boxes sometime this week explaining the Levy better.
6. **Calls;** Our call volume continues to increase, on Friday the 16th at 0430 we hit call #1029; that was the total of our call volume in the entire year of 2011. We do not see it decreasing any time soon. We are averaging over 5 calls a day, last year it was under 4.
7. **Addendum;** Commissioner Wells asked if Chief Bucy would attend the Deer Lake Property Association meeting on August 14th, 10:00am at Station 5. County Commissioner Mark Burrows will also be in attendance. Chief Bucy said he will be there. The Loon Lake Home Owners Association meeting went well last Saturday.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. STATION 2 UPDATE

Moved to Executive Session

b. SALARY AND BENEFITS PROGRAM

Moved to the Planning Session; Chief Bucy will send information to Commissioners Lee and Wells, Commissioner Whitaker has already been given the updates.

BUSINESS

a. 2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Administrative Assistant Cari Richardson read the report recap and provided copies to all three Commissioners. Commissioner Whittaker said he will look it over and get back to her if he has any questions.

b. SCHEDULE STRATEGY MEETING THAT WAS POSTPONED ON JULY 8TH

This will be discussed and scheduled at the regular meeting on August 2nd when Commissioner Lee will be present.

c. ADOPT STEVENS COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN

Commissioner Wells moved that the board adopt the Stevens County Mitigation Plan #2021-4. Commissioner Whittaker seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION (42.30.110(1)(g) Review performance of public employee(s); (42.30.110(1)(c)), consider real estate offer.


1. **Commissioner Wells made a motion for both Meral Painter and Pat Lowery to receive a 1% merit raise effective August 1st, 2021, noting that the CPI this year took up most of the budgeted amount.** Commissioner Lee seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously
2. **Commissioner Lee moved to reject the offer for the old station 2 property outright.** Commissioner Wells seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously**
3. **Commissioner Wells motioned to move Chief Bucy's evaluation process from July 31st to August 15th with the consent of the Fire Chief.** Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. **Motion passed unanimously**

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Whittaker adjourned the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. to go into Executive Session for no more than 25 minutes. Commissioner Lee joined the meeting at 8:05 p.m., Executive Session adjourned at 8:10 p.m.. The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Dee-Andra Schmidt
Board Clerk

Accepted by:


Claude E. Wells in lieu of Commissioner Lee, Board Chair
Commissioner

Date: July 19th, 2021