

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



**April 27, 2020**

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The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for April was called to order at 6:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioners Julie Hiatt and Dominic Barrera participating via GoToMeeting (virtual online meeting) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also participating via GoToMeeting were Chief Mike Marrs, Assistant Chief Ray Pettigrew, and Shauna Sheppard.

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Julie Hiatt moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented. Dominic Barrera seconded.  
Motion carried (3-0).

## Meeting Minutes

Julie Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the February 24, 2020 and March 23, 2020 regular meetings. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

## Accounts Payable

Julie Hiatt moved to approve the March accounts payable vouchers as follows:

- 2030401 to 2030401 in the amount of \$120.00 (March end-month additional voucher)
- 2040101 to 2040104 in the amount of \$308,469.41 (April month-end vouchers)

Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

## Correspondence

- None

### Public Comment

- None

### Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Giba reported that she has been participating in weekly phone calls with King County regarding the Isolation & Quarantine site at Top Hat. At this point, it is not needed, and they do not know when it will open.

### IAFF Local #1461

- None

### Financial Reports

- The Board received copies of the March 2020 Treasurer's and Cash Flow Reports. We are tracking well. There is concern about future property values dropping because of the pandemic. We received some updates from King County regarding delayed property tax collections due to the extended payment deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup> for some taxpayers. We also received notification that King County has collected 60% of property taxes from taxpayers who pay their taxes into an escrow account. Those taxpayers did not receive an extension.

### Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following:

- COVID-19 Update – Burien has 156 COVID-19 cases. There have been 6 deaths; 34 firefighters have had 67 contacts with COVID-19 positive patients; 4 firefighters were tested for COVID-19 and their results came back negative. We do not know the numbers in North Highline. We are trying to get the county to make it available.
- We have implemented advanced social distancing in our stations. It includes conducting daily well checks and wearing a mask at all times.
- Our biggest challenge continues to be the unavailability of PPE. To deal with this, we are using alternatives. We have implemented a "Scout PPE" program. One firefighter in full PPE responds to a call, asks questions, conducts a rapid assessment, and determines the risk of exposure and if more help is needed. We are also looking for alternatives to traditional masks, eye wear, gloves, and gowns (MEGG). We have nylon, reusable gowns and are making Tyvek gown. A special "Thank You" to Commissioner Hiatt and her family for sewing masks and gowns.
- We are looking into UV light boxes to sanitize a small quantity of masks so they can be reused. The cost of the UV light boxes is \$2,000-\$3,000.
- We are also looking into a hydrogen peroxide misting machine at a cost of \$20,000 to \$30,000. The misting machine could be used for large-scale decontamination of masks and to sanitize the stations, aid cars, and large areas.

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- We have not received any federal support for PPE. Captain Wayne Metz is monitoring the different programs and is purchasing wherever we can get purchases efficiently.
  - Bargaining with the union about sick leave due to COVID-19 is ongoing and should soon be finalized.
  - Tukwila might need to reduce staffing as they are reliant on Southcenter Mall tax income and they are losing that income due to COVID-19. The Zone 3 chiefs have been meeting to put a contingency plan in place to cover station call ups, overall call volume and to support the area if an engine is browned out. The plan is not needed at this time, but better to have a plan in place -- just in case.
  - The Isolation & Quarantine (I&Q) site on 112<sup>th</sup> is ready, but not yet housing patients. Staffing continues to be a challenge for King County. The White Center I&Q is not needed because other sites are well below capacity. The Century Link field hospital closed as it was not needed. The Regional COVID Coordination Center (RC3) is coordinating all hospital admissions and is tracking Intensive Care Unit and COVID-19 cases. The hospitals are not at capacity. Concern remains that cases will increase as the stay at home order are relaxed. Captain Joe Kupferling participated in a Type 3 Incident Management Team at the State DSHS Emergency Operations Center. Care facilities continue to be of concern, as once the virus is present, it spreads rapidly. We are working to manage and minimize potential exposures and outbreaks.
  - A huge "Thank You" to Assistant Chief Pettigrew, Trina Norsen, Captain Wayne Metz, Christina Parker, Erin Halter, Shauna Sheppard, and all crews for being amazingly focused and working hard during this unprecedented time.

#### Attorney's Report

- None

#### Unfinished Business

- None

#### New Business

- Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) - The board discussed the 6-year, 10-year or permanent FBC options. Commissioner Giba commented that the 10-year FBC would give us more time between votes and could still be passed with a simple majority. Commissioner Barrera asked about postponing the vote from August to November so we can conduct more outreach. Due to COVID-19, we will not have many opportunities to connect with voters in NHUAC or other community meetings. Chief Marrs said that we can do either or both. If the FBC does not pass in the August election, we can have another vote in November. Commissioners Barrera and Giba like the 10-year option. Commissioner Hiatt is comfortable with either the 6-year or 10-year option. Commissioner Giba suggested we do a flyer, using the one from 2014 as a template and add information about what the FBC has allowed us to accomplish. Commissioner Hiatt noted that she has the original flyer and can send it to everyone to edit and update.

Good of the Order

- We received a "Thank You" card from Gilbert & Alex Loring for the quick response to his emergency call. They appreciate how our crew effectively and efficiently prepared him for rapid transport to Highline Hospital.

As there was no further business, Julie Hiatt moved to adjourn. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0), and the meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



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Secretary of the Board



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Chairman, Commissioner



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Commissioner



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Commissioner