

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



## January 23, 2017

---

As there was no quorum on January 19, 2017, the North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for January was continued to January 23, 2017 and called to order at 7:00 PM by Commissioner Julie Hiatt with Commissioner Dominic Barrera present and Commissioner Liz Giba present by telephone. Also in attendance were Gill Loring, Mike Marrs, Jim Reed, Charlotte Ryan, Brian Snure, Calen Regnier, Scott Thorsteinson, and Joe Walker.

Commissioner Hiatt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### Meeting Minutes

Dominic Barrera moved to accept the minutes of the December 19, 2016 regular and the January 9, 2017 special meetings as presented. Liz Giba seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

### Accounts Payable

Dominic Barrera moved to approve the January vouchers as follows:

- 1701101 to 1701133 in the amount of \$40,930.27 (mid-month)
- 1701201 to 1701232 in the amount of \$88,341.70 (month-end)
- 1701301 to 1701337 in the amount of \$229,739.59 (January payroll)

Liz Giba seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Public Comment

None.

Correspondence

- **WFCA 2017 Saturday Seminars:**  
Seminars are offered in Spokane (February 11), Ocean Shores (March 25) and Chelan (June 3) and cover various topics. Chief Marrs asked that anyone wishing to attend contact the Secretary who will register him/her.
- **2016 Fire Investigation Report:**  
The annual report from the King County Fire Investigation Unit outlines the fires they investigated in our District in 2016. The Chief said to contact him if the Board had specific questions on a fire.

Copies of the correspondence are on file with the minutes.

Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Giba reported on the following items:

- There will be a second community meeting regarding Mary's Place, the proposed family homeless shelter at the old Public Health building, tomorrow at 6:30 PM at Seola Gardens.
- Camp 2nd Chance has been sanctioned for a year with a possible one-year extension. While it is located just outside our boundary, we may need to provide assistance to residents if they come into our area.

Commissioner Barrera reported on three proposed bills that could affect the fire service. This topic will be discussed under Unfinished Business.

Commissioner Hiatt suggested that the Board meet at 7:30 Thursday morning and carpool to Olympia for Legislative Day. After a discussion, it was decided that the Board would focus on HB 1467 because of its impact on those districts with a fire benefit charge and a high number of public housing projects (like North Highline).

She also stated that she was hoping to have a draft winter newsletter to present to the Board at this evening's meeting, but it wasn't ready. She will bring it to the next meeting.

IAFF Local #1461

None.

### Financial Reports

The December 2016 (year-end) Treasurers and Cash Flow Reports were presented to the Board for review. We came in slightly under budget for 2016. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

### Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following items:

- **Bunker gear washers and dryers:** Station 18 is complete. Station 19 is still in progress
- **New firefighter:** Chief Marrs introduced Joe Walker to the Board
- **Volunteer recruits:** Written test will be held January 25 at Station 18
- **Ballistic vests:** Should be arriving this next week
- **Pickup truck:** On order – waiting for a delivery date
- **Assistant Chief position:** District 2 is hiring for this shared position (AC Luedeman is retiring the end of February)
- **Union negotiations:** Mediation must be rescheduled – no date set as of today
- **Firefighter injuries:** A captain was injured on the job and will miss some shifts

### Attorney's Report

None.

### Unfinished Business

The Secretary presented Resolution No. 483, which would move our next regularly scheduled meeting from February 20 to February 13 due to the President's Day holiday. Dominic Barrera moved to adopt Resolution No. 483 as presented. Liz Giba seconded. Motion carried (3-0). A copy is on file with the minutes.

House Bill 1467/Senate Bill 5364 were discussed next. Chief Marrs explained that Fire Benefit Charge (FBC) legislation is not consistent between fire districts and regional fire authorities (RFAs). While a 60% majority vote is required to pass a FBC for both types of entities, fire districts need a 50% majority to reauthorize, while regional fire authorities need a 60% vote to reauthorize the FBC. Housing Authorities in the state are lending their support to change the law; but in return, they are asking to be exempt from the FBC.

A discussion was held regarding the effect this legislation would have on the citizens of North Highline if Housing Authorities and other low-income housing providers become exempt from the FBC. Some items of discussion included the high concentration of poverty, the large number of subsidized housing units, and the additional burden on NHFD's taxpayers if they had to subsidize the Housing Authority's share.

The Board asked our attorney, Brian Snure, to draft a one-page position statement outlining the issues that could be delivered to our representatives on Legislative Day (January 26).

Commissioners Barrera and Hiatt then discussed the feasibility of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA's) proposal to change the State Constitution to remove fire districts and RFAs from the \$10 property tax cap.

Commissioner Giba asked if Chief Marrs, or his designee, would talk about HB1467/SB5364 at the next North Highline Unincorporated Area Council (NHUAC) meeting on Thursday, February 2. He agreed to attend.

#### New Business

Chief Marrs handed out revised Policy #2755 regarding the awards banquet. He asked the Board to review the document for future adoption.

#### Good of the Order

Commissioner Hiatt received a letter from King County Fire District 2 thanking her for her help with this year's Christmas Outreach program. A copy of the letter is on file with the minutes.

#### Executive Session

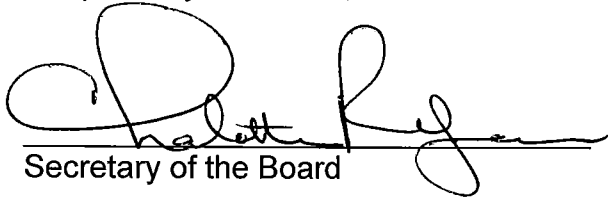
A 20-minute executive session was called at 8:10 PM to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b).

The executive session was extended an additional 20 minutes at 8:30 PM.

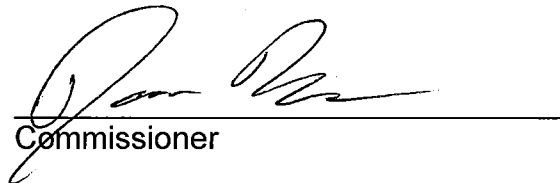
The meeting reconvened at 8:50 PM.

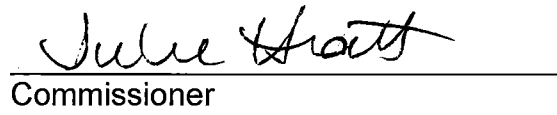
As there was no further business, Dominic Barrera moved to adjourn. Liz Giba seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary of the Board

  
Chairman, Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner