

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



**February 13, 2017**

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The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for February was called to order at 7:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioners Dominic Barrera and Julie Hiatt present. Also in attendance were Ken Deman, Mike Marrs, Jim Reed, Bob Price, Pat Price, Charlotte Ryan, and Brian Snure.

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

## 2017 Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Hearing

Commissioner Giba suspended the regular meeting and opened the Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Hearing at 7:01 PM.

Chief Marrs handed out a spreadsheet to the Board listing the 24 appeal requests we received. He explained that all but one of them are for sprinkler discounts, and proof of the system and/or test reports have been received. The other appeal was from a senior citizen (Paras-Gillespie) who is claiming extreme hardship and has asked that her 2017 benefit charge be reduced to \$20.

After some discussion, Julie Hiatt moved to amend the fire benefit charge of Paras-Gillespie to \$20 for the year 2017. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Julie Hiatt moved to grant an administrative sprinkler discount of 10% to those properties who have provided proof of their system. Dominic Barrera seconded. Commissioner Barrera asked if we will keep a record of those properties with sprinkler systems on file for next year. The Chief replied that we will. A vote was taken and the motion carried (3-0). A copy of the Appeals spreadsheet is on file with the minutes.

Hearing no more appeals, Commissioner Giba closed the Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Hearing.

### Regular Meeting (Continued)

Commissioner Giba reopened the regular meeting at 7:07 PM.

### Meeting Minutes

*Julie Hiatt moved* to accept the minutes of the January 23, 2017 regular and the January 30, 2017 special meetings as presented. *Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried* (3-0).

### Accounts Payable

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

- 1702101 to 1702132 in the amount of \$58,961.55 (mid-month)
- 1702201 to 1702213 in the amount of \$64,196.65 (month-end)
- 1702301 to 1702337 in the amount of \$220,735.87 (February payroll)

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

### Correspondence

None.

### Public Comment

None.

### Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Barrera reported that a revised version of HB 1467 was released today, although he didn't see that there were any changes to Section 5. The bill has moved on from the Local Government Committee to the Finance Committee. We will discuss this further in Unfinished Business.

He also reported that HB 1800 (regarding the Voting Rights Act) is in Legislative Committee. The Washington Fire Commissioners opposes the inclusion of fire districts in this bill.

Commissioner Hiatt reminded the other Board members that the next King County Fire Commissioners Association's general meeting is this Wednesday at Shoreline Fire.

She then invited everyone to a work party at her shop on Saturday February 25. She explained that they will be preparing a pallet of donated items for sale on EBay to benefit the Burien/North Highline Christmas Outreach Program.

Commissioner Giba thanked Chief Marrs for his presentation at the North Highline Unincorporated Area Council (NHUAC) meeting on February 2nd.

#### IAFF Local #1461

None.

#### Financial Reports

The Board received copies of the January 2017 Treasurers and Cash Flow Reports. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

#### Chief's Report

Chief Marrs reported on the following items:

- **Body Armor:** Our new ballistic vests have arrived and will be put in service as soon as training on them is complete. He thanked the Board for approving them and Captain Boutwell for overseeing the project.
- **Assistant Chief Position:** We received approximately 36 applications for the shared Burien/North Highline position. We are currently in the process of narrowing the field to 10-12 applicants, and hope to bring three of them for interviews.
- **Firefighter injuries:** The captain who was injured on the job last month will be returning to duty soon.
- **HB 1467:** He has been spending a lot of his time on this bill and will talk more about it under Unfinished Business.

Attorney's Report

None.

Unfinished Business

Chief Marrs gave a recap of the impacts HB 1467/SB 5364 would have on the citizens of North Highline Fire District and reported that he and Commissioner Hiatt testified in Olympia against the bill as it is written. Commissioner Hiatt stated that after researching data from the King County Assessor's Office, we would lose approximately \$86,000 fire benefit charge (FBC) money from non-profit housing in our district, creating a significant increase to our other tax payers. She said that it is virtually impossible to get a firm number of the impact to our other citizens the way the bill is written.

Commissioner Hiatt said they also met with representatives from the King County Housing Authority. She handed out a number of documents (maps, graphs, spreadsheets) the Housing Authority gave her and Chief Marrs, and she went over each document with the Board. They were told that because the Housing Authority is selling off property to developers, North Highline Fire will have more tax money coming in, which would offset the loss of FBC money. However, as Chief Marrs pointed out, that does not include the extra cost to provide service to the additional citizens. The Housing Authority has also offered to partner with us to obtain a HUD grant if we withdraw our objection to the bill.

Commissioner Giba handed out a summary comparing the number of low-income bedroom units in North Highline and Bellevue. She stated that the document verifies the high concentration of poverty in the North Highline area.

Further discussion was held regarding our approach to this issue. Commissioner Barrera recommended we focus on the philosophical effects of the bill rather than the math. Mr. Snure (department attorney) suggested the legislation be amended to reflect that a fire district comprised of less than 5 square miles be exempt.

It was agreed that we will continue with a "two-pronged approach" to this issue. We will continue our opposition to the bill in Olympia, and we will also continue to meet with the King County Housing Authority. Copies of the above-referenced documents are on file with the minutes.

Commissioner Hiatt asked Commissioner Giba to write an article regarding HB 1467 for the department's newsletter. Commissioner Giba replied that she'd rather wait until we have more information before writing such an article.

New Business

We replaced the furniture in the day rooms at both stations, and Chief Marrs asked that the Board surplus the old Lazy Boy furniture. Julie Hiatt moved to declare the six Lazy Boy chairs and one couch as surplus to be disposed of at the Chief's discretion. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Good of the Order

Chief Marrs received a letter from White Center Jubilee Days Committee thanking him for his support at this year's charity auction (held December 9, 2016). A copy of the letter is on file with the minutes.

Executive Session

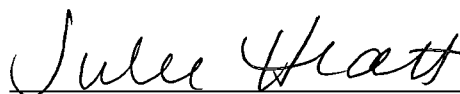
None.


As there was no further business, Dominic Barrera moved to adjourn. Liz Giba seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary of the Board

  
Chairman, Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner