

NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



March 21, 2016

The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for March was called to order at 7:03 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioners Dominic Barrera and Julie Hiatt present.

Also in attendance were:

Roger Anderson
Bob Lawson
Dawn Lawson
Matt Lemanu
Gill Loring

Mike Marrs
Vinh Pham
Bob Price
Pat Price
Charlotte Ryan

Brian Snure
Kevin Sykes
Scott Thorsteinson

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2016 Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Hearing Continuation

Chairman Giba suspended the regular meeting and recalled the 2016 Fire Benefit Charge Appeals Hearing to order at 7:04 PM.

Out of the initial 12 appeals received, there were seven remaining for the Board's review:

#	Parcel #	Reason	FBC	Requested Adjustment
1)	0795001615	Part-time worker (hardship)	174.80	10.00
2)	7694200670	Fixed Income Senior (receiving 75% discount)	52.17	10.00
3)	7973202295	Appeal form not returned	—227.96	
4)	0799000015	Uninhabitable bldg (fire damage)	137.53	0.00
5)	0123039205	Uninhabitable bldg (fire damage)	210.40	0.00
8)	3107400060	Commercial Sprinkler (waiting for sprinkler test report)	1,801.28	1,621.15
10)	0623049286	Aggressive Taxation	418.21	342.60

The Board deliberated each request. Although there was no appeal last year, #2 may have qualified for, but was not given, a senior citizen discount on their 2015 fire benefit charge. Appeal #3 was removed from consideration because they never returned their appeal form.

After completing the review process, Julie Hiatt moved to deny adjustments to the 2016 fire benefit charge for Appeals #1, #4, #5, #8, and #10. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Julie Hiatt moved to approve the requested \$10.00 adjustment for Appeal #2 provided there is confirmation that they received a senior citizen discount on their 2015 property taxes. Dominic Barrera seconded. The results of the vote were: Commissioner Barrera, aye; Commissioner Giba, aye; Commissioner Hiatt; nay. Motion carried (2-1).

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:26 PM.

Meeting Minutes

Julie Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2016 minutes as presented. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Accounts Payable

Julie Hiatt moved to approve Vouchers 1603101 through 1603238 totaling \$409,190.59. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

Correspondence

- **VFIS Risk Assessment Survey Results**

Chief Marrs explained that our insurance company conducts a risk assessment survey for their clients every few years. They visited North Highline Fire last week,

and their only recommendation is to improve how hoses and portable equipment are secured on our apparatus. A copy of their letter is on file with the minutes.

Public Comment

Gill Loring, a citizen of the District, had two comments. 1) He said he looked for North Highline Fire District's insurance rating, but couldn't find it. 2) He said he attended an open house on Seattle's Area "Y" annexation where they said that they are negotiating with the fire department. Chief Marrs replied that North Highline's insurance rating is a 4, and we will publish it on our website. He stated he was unclear what was meant by working with the fire department because our negotiations were with Area "Q."

Bob Lawson introduced himself to the Board as Vice President of IAFF Local #1461. He presented each Board member a letter inviting them to participate in the 2016 Fire OPS held May 5 – 6 in Richland, Washington. He explained that Fire OPS is a full day of hands-on participation for elected officials and the media to experience what it is like to work as a firefighter. A copy of the invitation is on file with the minutes.

Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Hiatt reported on a number of items:

- 1) She continues to attend "Melding Committee" meetings between the two fire districts (see minutes of 2/22/2016). They are looking into ways to save money by working together. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 30.
- 2) She attended the King County Fire Commissioners Association's general meeting last Wednesday in Woodinville. The State Fire Marshal spoke about the deterioration of the live-fire structure due to high use at the State Fire Academy and difficulty they are having to obtain funding through the State to replace it. She also reported that the Association is looking to fill some open positions, and suggested Commissioner Barrera would be a good candidate for the legislative representative position. The next general meeting will be held at new Station 28 in June.
- 3) We have not received a response from District 2 regarding the possibility of holding a joint Awards Banquet this December. Chief Marrs stated that a formal response to the North Highline Board is in the mail. He said that the response says they won't be able to participate in a joint ceremony this year because their banquet is already scheduled for May. As an alternative, they are inviting members of North Highline to their banquet (with the understanding that each attendee would be responsible for their own payment).
- 4) We also have a challenge finding the time to update the District's newsletter. She suggested an article highlighting the Puget Sound Skills Center's Fire Service Program for the next issue, and asked Commissioner Barrera if he were interested in interviewing the teachers and some students.

Commissioner Giba reported that she was one of many that attended the City of Seattle's annexation information meeting held last Thursday, March 17. It was hosted by Kenny Pittman (Seattle's Senior Policy Advisor). Karen Freeman (King County's Senior Policy Analyst) also attended. Commissioner Giba said that not much information was presented. After discussing the event further, the Board instructed Chief Marrs to invite both Kenny Pittman and Karen Freeman to an upcoming North Highline Board meeting.

Financial Reports

The February 2016 Treasurers and Cash Flow Reports were presented to the Board. Chief Marrs stated that everything is tracking as expected so far. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

Chiefs' Report

- **Personnel**

A firefighter is still recovering from an off-duty injury and is calling in sick on a shift-by-shift basis.

Another firefighter was hospitalized and missed three shifts, but he will return to duty for tomorrow's shift.

Graduation for our new hire will be held Friday, April 8 at the Kent Fire RFA.

We have accepted four new volunteer recruits who will begin their academy soon.

We received a letter from Local #1461 requesting to begin bargaining for the 2017 contract. A copy of the letter is on file with the minutes.

- **Other**

Chief Marrs reported on House Bill 2321. He explained that it allows RFA's to renew their fire benefit charge with 50% of the vote instead of the current requirement of 60%, as long as housing authorities are exempt from the charge. While the bill currently appears dead, it should be monitored as it may return to committee in the future.

Significant incidents included a robbery and shooting at a 7-11 Store (reported in the media), a residential fire at the 10400 block of 3rd Ave, and an arrest in the Cascade Middle School arson (also reported in the media).

Chief Marrs presented the Board with a quote to replace the department's pick-up truck off the Washington State Bid. He explained that the vehicle is presently undrivable, and we will have to have it towed in to get fixed so we can surplus and sell it. He asked that the Commissioners look over the proposed bid, and we will bring it

back for discussion and possible approval at the next regular meeting. A copy of the quote is on file with the minutes.

Attorney's Report

No report.

Unfinished Business

Chief Marrs brought up the possibility of refinancing the department's Unlimited GO Bond (see minutes of 2/22/2016). He said that he contacted Mr. Face (Martin Nelson Company representative) and asked him to provide figures if we paid off the bonds early instead of refinancing them; however, those figures have not yet been provided to us. As soon as we receive them, we can weigh the options and come up with a decision.

New Business

The Secretary presented the Board with an invoice voucher requesting reimbursement for pre-employment physicals from the Board of Volunteer Firefighters. After reviewing the document and its supporting attachments, Julie Hiatt moved to authorize the Chair to sign the invoice voucher. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0). A copy of the document is on file with the minutes.

Good of the Order

None.

Executive Session

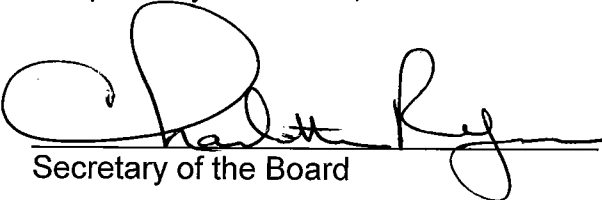
A 30-minute executive session was called at 8:30 PM to discuss union negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4).

The session was extended for 15 minutes at 9:00 PM, and for an additional 15 minutes at 9:15 PM.

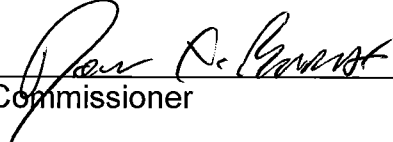
The meeting reconvened at 9:30 PM.


As there was no further business, Julie Hiatt moved to adjourn. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary of the Board


Chairman, Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner