

# NORTH HIGHLINE FIRE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING



**May 16, 2016**

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The regular North Highline Fire District Fire Commissioners' Meeting for April was called to order at 7:00 PM by Commissioner Liz Giba with Commissioners Dominic Barrera and Julie Hiatt present. Also in attendance were:

Barb Dobkin  
Charley Dow  
Chris Elwell  
Karen Freeman  
Jay Hagen  
Bob Lawson  
Dawn Lawson

Gill Loring  
Mike Marrs  
Jeff Miller  
Kenny Pittman  
Vinh Pham  
Bob Price  
Pat Price

Tracy Record  
Charlotte Ryan  
Brian Snure  
Scott Thorsteinson  
Tim Woodland  
and other members  
of the public

Chief Marrs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Good of the Order

Chairman Giba turned the floor over to Captain Thorsteinson who gave a report on the results of the March 6, 2016 Firefighter Stair Climb (69 flights of stairs up the Columbia Tower in full gear).

Captain Thorsteinson stated that this is the 14th year that the North Highline/Burien Team has participated in the event, which raises funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. This year's team raised over \$51,000 – the 4th highest amount (behind Seattle, Richland, and Boise). We received a VIP Team Award (for our years of participation) and a \$100,000 Legacy Award (for raising over \$100,000 during those years).

Members of the team who raised over \$1,000 were:

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- Tim Woodland \$22,728 (2nd highest amount out of 1,794 participants)
  - Scott Thorsteinson \$10,280
  - Colin Murphy \$ 5,328
  - Chris Reed \$ 1,810
  - Jon Crump \$ 1,400
  - Dylan Peterson \$ 1,105
  - Troy Harris \$ 1,050
  - Jim Reed \$ 1,000

A copy of Captain Thorsteinson's report is on file with the minutes.

### Special Guests

Kenny Pittman (Seattle's Senior Policy Advisor) said that he has received a list of questions from the Board regarding Seattle's proposed annexation, and he hoped that some of them would be answered this evening. He thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak, and he then introduced Jay Hagen (Assistant Chief of Operations) from the Seattle Fire Department.

Chief Hagen discussed some of the differences between the Seattle and North Highline fire departments:

- Number of calls
- Response times
- Ladder coverage
- Staffing and schedules
- Medic responses
- Depth of services (technical rescue teams)

Mr. Pittman handed out a spreadsheet comparing property taxes if the area annexes or remains unincorporated. He stated that under Seattle annexation, property taxes in North Highline would decrease slightly because of the elimination of special taxing districts (library and fire). He also discussed the sales tax incentive approved by the State Legislature, which provides \$7.75 million for six years to help supplement the initial cost of annexing the area. A copy of the spreadsheet is on file with the minutes.

When asked about the annexation time line, Mr. Pittman said that the measure could potentially be on the November 2017 ballot (for an effective date of January 2019), or on the November 2018 ballot (for an effective date of January 2020). Because North Highline Fire District must submit a brief to the Boundary Review Board by May 30 and the annexation will not be on the ballot until at least November 2017, Mr. Snure (the fire district's attorney) asked why the BRB hearing is set for June and not at a later date so there's time to answer all the Board's questions? Mr. Pittman replied that the BRB doesn't want any more stalling on this matter.

Some additional issues were discussed if Seattle annexes the area and included:

- Retaining North Highline Fire District employees and rank
- Immediate and future plans for Station 18
- The effect of losing local Medic One service
- Possible solutions to alleviate longer Medic One response times
- Effect of losing the contract for emergency services to the northern part of Burien
- Possible solutions for service to the northern part of Burien

Commissioner Giba asked Karen Freeman (King County's Senior Policy Analyst) if King County will be securing a parcel of land for a District 2 fire station per the negotiated 5-way Agreement. Ms. Freeman stated that King County will not be obtaining District 2 a parcel of land because the Agreement expired in 2012.

The Board thanked Chief Hagen, Mr. Pittman and Ms. Freeman for their presentation and excused them from the rest of the meeting.

#### Meeting Minutes

Julie Hiatt moved to accept the minutes of the April 18 and May 9, 2016 minutes as presented. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

#### Accounts Payable

Julie Hiatt moved to approve Vouchers 1605101 through 1605351 totaling \$370,443.45. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried (3-0).

#### Correspondence

- **King County Town Hall/Open House Invitation**  
Residents are invited to hear Councilmember Joe McDermott, Chief of Operations Rhonda Berry, and Sheriff John Urquhart speak on Tuesday, May 24, 7:00 PM at Seola Garden's Providence Building. A copy of the invitation is on file with the minutes.
- **Notice of Public Hearing (Boundary Review Board)**  
Position statements regarding the proposed City of Seattle annexation of North Highline Area Y must be received by the BRB no later than May 30, 2016. A public hearing on the matter will take place at 7:00 PM on June 13 and 14 at the Technology Access Foundation (TAF). A copy of the notice is on file with the minutes.

Public Comment

None.

Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Hiatt reported on the following:

- She participated in this year's FIRE OPS held in Richland, Washington on May 5 and 6. It was a great experience living a day in the life of a firefighter. She crawled through smoke-filled rooms, cut holes in a roof, put out a dumpster fire, and climbed the aerial ladder. She said it was exhausting, but it was a great experience and she highly recommends that the other Board members take the chance to participate next year.
- The King County Fire Commissioners meeting will be held this Wednesday at Burien's new Station 28, and she encouraged them to attend.
- She is beginning to work with the Elks Club for the December Awards Banquet.

Commissioner Giba reported that the new White Center Library will be having its opening celebration on Saturday, May 21.

A discussion was held regarding the status of this year's White Center Jubilee Days event.

Financial Reports

The Board was given copies of the April 2016 Treasurer's and Cash Flow Reports, and Chief Marrs reported that everything is going as well and as expected so far this year. 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 still calling in sick on a shift-by-shift basis. However, there is a possibility that he will be retiring in June.

Attorney's Report

None.

Unfinished Business

Both items listed under Unfinished Business (2017 Union Negotiations and the City of Seattle Annexation) will be addressed in Executive Session.

New Business

Commissioner Barrera suggested the Board hold a special meeting prior to submitting their position statement to the BRB, which is due by May 30. A tentative meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 26 at 6:00 PM. The Secretary will notify the newspapers.

Executive Session

An executive session was called until 9:30 PM to discuss union negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) and matters relating to litigation or potential litigation when public knowledge regarding the discussion could result in adverse legal or financial consequences per RCW 42.30.140(1)(i).

The session was extended an additional 45 minutes at 9:30 PM.

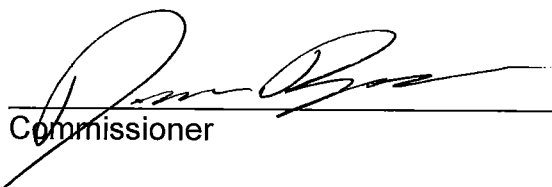
The meeting reconvened at 10:15 PM.

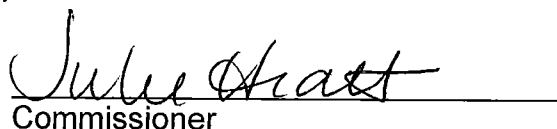
As there was no further business, Julie Hiatt moved to adjourn. Dominic Barrera seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Secretary of the Board

  
Chairman, Commissioner

  
Commissioner

  
Commissioner