



**North County Regional Fire Authority  
COMMISSIONER’S MEETING**

**February 14, 2024  
4:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The following attendees were present:

**COMMISSIONERS**

Ric Cade  
~~Rob Johnson~~, excused  
Leonard Kelley  
~~Greg Oakes~~, excused  
Marilyn Oertle  
Secretary  
Al Schreiber  
Holly Sloan-Buchanan

**FIRE AUTHORITY STAFF**

John Cermak, Fire Chief  
Dave Kraski, Deputy Fire Chief  
Doug ten Hoopen, Assistant Chief Support Services  
~~Randy Krumm~~, Finance Director  
Kari Wheeler, Administrative Assistant/Commission

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Commissioner Chair Oertle.

Commissioner Chair Oertle led the room in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC AND EMPLOYEE COMMENTS**

- Public Comment – Chief Chad Schmidt, FD21, was present. He expressed thanks to Commissioner Cade for his work on the contract negotiation process. He shared that following his last attendance at the NCRFA January 10, 2024 meeting and public address to Commissioners, he received several texts and phone calls reporting that one North County Commissioner made disparaging remarks of a personal nature about Chief Schmidt after his departure. Chief Schmidt indicated he takes pride in conducting himself in a professional and respectful manner, and with integrity, even in disagreements. He found these personal remarks to be both unprofessional and unfair to be made after he left, and without an opportunity to address them at the time.

*\*amended 2/28 to include that Commissioner Johnson states his comments were not of a personal nature.*

**IAFF LOCAL 3438 REPORT** – verbal update from BC Koontz – no action

- BC Greg Koontz praised the recent work of our medic units. 2 (separate) recent cardiac incidents - both patients survived and are recovering. BC Koontz noted the vital role dedicated medic units played in both of these incidents. He maintains the Local’s desire to see dedicated medic units vs cross-staffing. Also – HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY!

**MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Commissioner Schreiber **2<sup>nd</sup>** Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan

**Discussion:** none

**APPROVED:** Unanimous



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**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Commissioner Cade                      **2<sup>nd</sup>** Commissioner Kelley

**Discussion:** none

**APPROVED:** Unanimous

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Next Steps – FD 21 ALS Contract Negotiations**

**Discussion:** Commissioners spoke in favor of 1 final meeting with FD 21. Plan for parties to meet next week.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION TO APPROVE MEDICALWAIVER REQUESTS (2 – “JOHN DOE”, “JANE DOE”) AS PRESENTED.**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Commissioner Schreiber   **2<sup>nd</sup>** Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan

**Discussion:** both patients unable to pay

**APPROVED:** Unanimous

**INNOVATION PRESENTATION**

Approximately a year ago to address the needs of the organization to move to a cloud platform for many of our administrative processes, and the line staffs' desire and request to improve organization-wide communication, collaboration, and help developing efficient and accurate means to replace difficult-to-use and hard to find paper reporting systems, a group representing both the administrative and line staff branches of the organization began to meet regularly.

This group, led by FF Will King, included BC Nyblod, FF/PM Steve Daggett, IT Consultant Bryan Terry, EA Theresa Ramey, and AA Kari Wheeler came to be known as our "Innovation Team".

As a culmination of the collaborative groundwork done by our Innovation Team, Firefighter Will King has spent the last Kelly Day cycle (24 days) working day shift to meet with line staff on every shift and every station to train and empower them on the use of MS Teams. He gave a presentation on the progress of the organization's shift to a mobile-accessible platform (cloud-based) to execute many of the line staff's administrative reporting responsibilities. He shared how implementing the MS Teams platform as a resource has automated many reporting functions for line staff. This has greatly reduced the amount of inconsistent and inaccurate "hard copy" reports that were difficult to find, took a long time to complete, and then be sure the information in the report is directed to the appropriate personnel or organization, or, uploaded to another system. With the use of MS Forms and QR Codes, line staff is easily able to scan, open and fill out a report quickly and accurately within



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a matter of minutes. Through automation processes, the report is pushed to the end user who needs the report in the format they desire (via email, a spreadsheet, a PDF, etc.). This has greatly reduced administrative overload (paperwork stress) for line staff and replaced it with efficient and accurate systems that support the development of our MBO (Management by Objective) program.

**CHIEF'S REPORT – presented by Deputy Chief Cermak – no action**

Chief thanked Commissioners for the vacation time. He had the opportunity to learn from University of Hawaii Economics Professor Byron Ganges. He provided Chief with predictions for the past ten years that have been helpful for his assessment and positions for NCRFA. He now believes that a "soft landing" in the economy has been achieved by the government and a recession is unlikely, barring some major events like government shutdown, war, terrorist events, etc.

Chief was asked to serve on a committee for the WA State JATC representing the WA State Fire Chief's Association. The time commitment is quarterly meetings in South King County and preparation and already part of our vision for creating ISA (Instructional Services Agreement) depth for professional development throughout the county. It was approved by the WFCA and JATC executive board.

The Advisory Board for EvCC met and discussed future needs. There is strong movement now that the ILA is signed to begin developing pathways to other professional development degrees and college courses to support Driver/Operator courses and Company Officer Development courses in conjunction with Snohomish County Fire Chief's Consortium.

AC Dickison has been monitoring the Nurse Navigator process and launch of the new service. As any new program, there are hurdles and challenges to overcome, but it has launched and oversight is occurring at multiple levels.

The Snohomish County Training Consortium admin chiefs met for their monthly meeting. NCRFA is finalizing the first academy reconciliation and true-up. The next academy is starting next week.

Continued work has been completed on contracts for FD25 and FD19. A tentative agreement had been made with FD 25 for the Contract the Board approved at the last meeting, however, FD 25 Commissioners have requested changes. We will return to the process to hopefully finalize. Both FD19 and FD25 desire a one-year contract and FD19 doesn't want to increase the contract by the 4.6% COLA. The Chief will bring updates back as negotiations continue.



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Chief has reached out to the Consortium Chiefs to see if they are interested in trying to secure a Regional Grant for a newer technology turnout cleaning process to house at our new storage building at the training center.

**DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commissioner Cade suggested that the Board consider an apparel order noting it's been a few years since the commission has ordered and there are new commissioners as well. Kari will reach out to our apparel vendor for recommendations.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Chief Kraski commended local area businesses that regularly show support for the fire authority. Cuz Concrete recently used their crane truck to move a generator from Station 97 to its new permanent home at Station 48 at no charge to the authority. Superior Powder Coating has powder-coated several items for the authority in the last few years at no charge to the authority. We recognize these local businesses with thanks and appreciation.

The C-shift crew from Station 99 will be honored for their efforts at a recent cardiac arrest call at Lenz in Stanwood. The efforts of co-workers who initiated CPR and deployed the use of an AED until the crew arrived, allowed the patient to walk away from the hospital with no complications. We will honor the crew and co-workers with the patient at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commission meeting in March.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN 4:44pm**

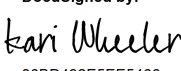
**1<sup>st</sup>:** Commissioner Cad

**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan

**Discussion:** None

**APPROVED:** Unanimous

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**Marilyn Oertle**  
**Commission Board Chair**

DocuSigned by:  
  
06BB432E5EE5460...  
**Kari Wheeler**  
**Commission Secretary**