



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

**April 10, 2024
4:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER

The following attendees were present:

COMMISSIONERS

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

FIRE AUTHORITY STAFF

John Cermak, Fire Chief
Dave Kraski, Deputy Fire Chief
Kari Wheeler, Administrative Assistant/Comm. Secretary
Randy Krumm, Finance Director
Steve Goforth, Assistant Chief CRR / Fire Marshall Services

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 – *there were no public or employee comments*

IAFF LOCAL 3438 REPORT – *verbal update from BC Greg Koontz and Capt. Kirk Normand*

- BC Koontz stated the Union will continue to talk about the Unions' desire of a dedicated medic unit in the City of Arlington. He relayed the union feels they were lied to about staffing levels remaining the same.
- Capt. Kirk Normand echoed the message of dedicated staffing. He shared the Union is passionate about this and desires a meeting with stake holders - North County Commissioners, Administration, and City of Arlington Council Members, seeking collaboration and problem solving with the Union.

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA with the amendment to remove item b. ILA – Snohomish County Fire District 19 ALS Contract, from new business.

1st: Commissioner Oakes **2nd** Commissioner Johnson

Discussion: This item is anticipated to be brought before the Board at the April 24, 2024 meeting.

APPROVED: Unanimous



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

**April 10, 2024
4:00pm**

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

1st: Commissioner Oakes **2nd** Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

2024 Q1 CRR REPORT – *Presented by AC Goforth. Presentation only, no action.*

- See **Appendix A**,– 2024 Q1 CRR, report submitted by Chief Goforth.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No items on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AIR COMPRESSOR TRANSFER AGREEMENT AND ALLOW THE CHIEF TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT

1st: Commissioner Oakes **2nd** Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan

Discussion: No Discussion. See Exhibit 1 (Staff Report – Air Compressor Transfer Agreement) and Exhibit 2 (Air Compressor Transfer Agreement)

APPROVED: Unanimous

CHIEF'S REPORT – *presented by Chief Cermak. No action, no discussion.*

- **See Appendix B**

DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chief Kraski brought information about the pre-seminar for the WFCM Spring Chelan Conference and presented the option for Commissioners to attend, convene for their own Retreat/Work Session, or, make a longer day and plan to attend both. The board will make a decision at the April 24, 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Johnson made a statement in reference to the IAFF Local 3438 report earlier in the meeting. The Commissioner communicated this was his own viewpoint and he was not speaking for the collective Board. Commissioner Johnson indicated he is not inclined to listen and rather "turned off" when he hears someone call him (the Commission Board) a liar.



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

**April 10, 2024
4:00pm**

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Schrieber expressed thanks, on behalf of himself and Commissioner Sloan-Buchanan, to the line staff for their hospitality and help during their tour of the stations. They found their time to be helpful and informative for the new Commissioners.

MOTION TO ADJOURN 5:04pm

1st: Commissioner Oakes

2nd Commissioner Johnson

Discussion: None

APPROVED: Unanimous

DocuSigned by:

F122408747394E9...

**Marilyn Oertle
Commission Board Chair**

4/24/2024

Date Signed

DocuSigned by:

96BD432E6EE6466...

**Kari Wheeler
Commission Secretary**

4/24/2024

Date Signed

Appendix A



NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/4/2024

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FROM: STEVE GOFORTH, COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

SUBJECT: 1st Quarter Report 2024

The Community Risk Reduction Division at NCRFA is a system in which programs, actions, and services within the community are utilized to prevent injuries; loss of life; loss of property; and damage to the environment.

The benefits of a safer community are achieved through employing strategies for mitigation risks through the 5Es of emergency response, engineering, enforcement, and economic incentive. The following is the report for the 1st quarter of 2024, ending on March.

Arlington

Plan review and Construction inspections hours for the 1st quarter of 2024 were down. The first of the year is traditionally slow and as we enter the 2nd Quarter there are more General Information Meetings scheduled. I have been attending these on a regular basis and am able to give comments.

The interpretation of the contract seems to still be a point of contention and a definite stressor for me. Although I feel I have a good relationship with Kevin Olander and the staff at the Building Department, I am still only given overflow. In talks with Kevin and permitting staff I am given projects when Kevin is not available. An example being the end of March Kevin was at the WABO conference so I got a call.

My fear is that the contract notes NCRFA as the fire code official when actually I am a contract employee. Eventually there will be a large loss fire in the City. When that does happen, the questions will come as to who is the Fire Code Official and when was the occupancy last inspected. As a subcontractor I fear that NCRFA would have more liability because of the contract language does not match reality.

There was freezing weather in January which lead to many broken pipes to check on. This happens primarily due to lack of maintenance in the dry systems. You need to drain the drum drips because they fill with water from condensation in the pipe from temperature fluctuations. When that water freezes there is a break. When the weather warms up the Fire Alarm sprinkler flows start.

One occupancy this happened to was the Quality Inn on 172nd. This is a Motel property with longer stay people who are otherwise homeless. The pipes broke and flooded most of the building. Kevin Olander and I looked at the building and it was declared an unsafe structure. I stayed most of the day and bought lunch for the residents as VOA and APD looked for housing.

Because it is a motel there was not a mandate for the owners to find placement and the owners were not sympathetic to the situation in my opinion.

The City of Arlington has actually hired a third party for looking at the building. There is a big mold problem in the place and the owners actually have the workers staying in the hotel.

Matt Kuntz and Peter Haushagen helped in the replacing of over 20 smoke alarms in the Norwood Glen Condominiums. Most of the residents are elderly. The smoke alarms were installed when the Condos were built in 2007 and were over their 10-year replacement date. The residents bought the alarms and we put them in. The smoke alarms that NCRFA has are not hardwired, just battery. Matt Kuntz has a general contractor license so we were able to connect the hardwire smoke alarms without any liability for doing quasi electrical work.

Willy Harper contacted me about the need for bicycle helmets for some at risk youth at Pioneer Elementary. Acting Captain Harper's wife is a teacher there. I contacted their school counselor Jen Daly. They had 4 children who had come to school with scratches and bumps from bicycle accidents and no helmet.

I contacted Shawneri Guzman from South County Fire and of Safe Kids and set them up with free helmets. The helmets stay with the school and they distribute as needed. I can get more as needed. Once Jen has the process down for Pioneer we are going to make them available to the rest of the Arlington elementary schools.

Stanwood

Plan review was down in the first quarter of 2024 which as I mentioned is par for the course for the first of the year. The 2021 International Fire Code was adopted on March 15th with the exception of the WUI code.

A big project that Scott Black and I have been wrangling with is the TI on the large Twin City Foods cold storage. No Meat is a company that creates plant-based burger patties. They are Canadian company that is reaching out into Washington. They are ramping up one line of their cooking product for the Burger King Corporation which would sustain their business moving forward employing as many as 80 local people.

Since they are a Canadian Company their regular certifications do not necessarily work in the US. The building was rebuilt after a big fire in 1996. The building is on pilings and on the river. They have had many of the original build team leave the project. Scott Black and I have weekly meetings to keep them moving forward. In addition, the west side of the building is occupied by Bellingham Cold Storage. They had a freeze break in the beginning of January to compound their issues.

Another Code Enforcement Case was the late-night dismantling of the interior of the Conway Boxcar Pub. Most of the interior was taken from the wall and dumped in the street. NCRFA units were requested to shut off the gas. I contacted the health department and have been treating like a new business. The hood system was tested with many violations to fix. Tenants in the downtown were very concerned. The downtown is old Type V wood that is 100 years old. A fire in this area would be tough to recover from. Any new construction has to be raised 6 feet to be above the floods.

I have had some great light duty help with Jordan Jackson-Brewer and Matt Urtz. They have completed over 90 inspections in Stanwood that the on-duty crew is responsible for. Jordan was

able to identify the duplicate inspections in the system that will help bring the total down. The inspection tablets are aging out and there is a new update in Streamline that will include the Compliance engine reporting in one swoop. Bryan Terry was able to get me an iPad for use. The program works smoother with Apple products so I am very happy that we will have the iPad soon with Cellular capability to move the inspection software over to.

The count in Arlington is much lower this year due to the fact that the City is going to use self-inspections for the Business and Mercantile occupancies.

First Due Pre-planning software

We are on target to purchase the IPADs and mounts for First Due Pre-Planning. Christian Davis is my final reviewer of the pre-plans. Matt Urtz was very helpful in deep diving on some of the Geo location issues. I am working on getting the response icons up and running. I am also activating the Community Connect Platform that will enable Commercial and Residential customers to enter vital information on their place as well as request burn permits and Knox box keys.

I am working to place an icon for our CARES patients so that responders will be aware that they are in our system

Committees and Grants

I am currently representing NCRFA on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan Committee with Snohomish County DEM. This will identify areas for grant opportunities. I am hoping to receive a grant from FEMA for a Wood Chipper program to reduce the fuels in the area and offer an alternative to burning. We have a new policy for illegal burns and now know we have over 200 residential burn permits. I have been entering these into the First Due software so that the crews can be aware. I have also entered the contact information and distances to the road in our rural area such as when there is a house on the bluff that is 1000 feet from the road. That measurement can help in the opening minutes of a fire to know how much supply hose we may need.

I am attending an Ad-Hoc Committee for the ICC for Battery Storage. My interest is for the safety of FFs, but also because there is large ESS system in Arlington being built. I have not been officially given any plans or info from Arlington. I have been in contact with SnoPUD and Abesco who are going to run the plant. SnoPUD has assured me that they will not move forward without approval from NCRFA.

Respectfully,



Steve Goforth
Assistant Chief/Community Risk Reduction
North County Regional Fire Authority

Exhibit 1



NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

DATE: April 10, 2024
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: John Cermak, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: EQUIPMENT TRANSFER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

Purpose:

To transfer an asset from the City of Everett to the North County Regional Fire Authority. In kind service in the amount of \$1750 for general maintenance of the Everett Fire Apparatus or other billable at the training center for the procurement of an additional air filling station for the training center.

Background:

The Everett Fire Department received a grant for a new air filling station and part of their asset transfer process, cannot gift funds of items that maintain value. The training cadre, when conducting live fire drills, need multiple air filling stations to keep up with demand during use, often leading to additional rental costs. This unit still has a usable life and would enhance the logistical needs during peak academy use.

Everett provides one of the engines for the recruit training experience at the training center. It needs regular maintenance that could be traded for this value by our EVT personnel to equal that value. This would reduce the out of service time for their vehicle and staff time to do basic maintenance in the short term.

Fiscal Impact:

\$1750 in kind trade for service or rental and ongoing maintenance of the SCBA filling station regularly that is costed out through the use of the facility.

DISCUSSION/MOTION:

Motion to approve the attached agreement and allow the Fire Chief to execute the contract.

Exhibit 2

EQUIPMENT TRANSFER, RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

This Agreement is dated for reference purposes of transferring ownership of equipment and is between the CITY OF EVERETT (the "**City**") and North County Regional Fire Authority (the "**New Owner**"). City and New Owner agree as follows:

A. The City hereby transfers to the New Owner all of the City's right, title and interest in the following equipment (the "**Equipment**"): [Asset Tag #OT00167, Bauer Breathing Air Compressor UNII25-H, BAC-5 and Asset tag #BC11255, Bauer Filling Station, BAC-5].

B. In exchange for the Equipment, the New Owner is crediting \$1750.00 in service credit, which will be deducted from future invoices for service.

C. The City transfers the Equipment to the New Owner AS IS, WHERE IS, and WITH ALL FAULTS.

D. The City expressly disclaims and makes NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES, NO IMPLIED WARRANTIES and NO GUARANTEES of any kind whatsoever regarding the Equipment.

E. The City makes no representations whatsoever that the Equipment is safe or that the Equipment functions properly or that the Equipment is in any particular condition. The New Owner is 100% RESPONSIBLE for determining the condition of the Equipment and for determining whether the Equipment is safe and suitable for any use by the New Owner.

F. The New Owner WAIVES AND RELEASES City from any and all claims, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen, that the New Owner now has or that may subsequently accrue to the New Owner, arising out of or relating to the Equipment, including without limitation all claims relating to personal injuries caused by the Equipment, Equipment condition, past or future Equipment accidents, Equipment mechanical failure or Equipment need for repair.

G. The New Owner shall INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS the City from and against any and all claims arising from or relating to the use of Equipment by New Owner or New Owner's employees, agents, contractors or volunteers, including without limitation all claims relating to personal injuries caused by the Equipment, Equipment condition, past or future Equipment accidents, Equipment mechanical failure or Equipment need for repair.

H. This Agreement is the complete agreement of the parties regarding the Equipment and supersedes all other agreements, oral and written. No amendment of this Agreement is effective unless in writing and signed by the Mayor of the City of Everett and an authorized representative of New Owner. Exclusive venue for any lawsuit arising from or relating to this Agreement is Snohomish County Superior Court.

NEW OWNER:

_____.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

CITY OF EVERETT,

a Washington municipal corporation

By: _____

Name: Cassie Franklin

Its: Mayor

City Clerk

City Attorney

Attest:

Approved as to Form:



NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

APPENDIX B

DATE: April 10, 2024
TO: Fire Commissioners
FROM: John C. Cermak, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: **MARCH 27- APRIL 10, 2024: COMMISSION UPDATE**

- I continued with Station visits at Station 46.
- I attended a meeting with NCRFA attorneys, Doug Ten Hoopen regarding the continuing progress with Hainline and the MacKenzie issue.
- Chief Kraski and I attended the Snohomish County Chiefs Association meeting. Following that meeting, I attended a JATC meeting. It occurred to me, and I thought I would share that our administrative chiefs are all involved in extracurricular activities to support the whole FIRE EMS system. Chief Goforth is incoming Rotary President for the Stanwood/Camano Rotary and an officer on the county Fire Prevention committee, Chief Dickison serves on the Northwest Trauma Council, Chief Ten Hoopen representing DEM for City of Stanwood, Chief Kraski, President of Snohomish Chiefs Association, and I sit on the State Committee for Joint Apprenticeship. All of these responsibilities help the system work.
- Randy and I attended a Consortium meeting for the final true-up of academy students last class. He will send out the invoices by week's end.
- I attended the Arlington and Stanwood City Council meetings. Chief Kraski attended an Arlington Workshop meeting.
- I attended the Sno-Isle Commissioners meeting via Zoom where Scott Dorsey presented on the SCEMS revamp process. Next month will be at the Sultan Fire Station with a dinner served and guest speaker Susanna Johnson, Snohomish Sheriff.
- The Negotiations team prepped for upcoming negotiations exchange requirements April 10.
- We conducted Chief's Interviews for Brendon Hale as a firefighter to replace Capt. Stuart as well as, the top three captain's list candidates for the captain's position he retired from March 31, 2024.