



North County Regional Fire Authority
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
via ZOOM
March 25, 2020
4:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

The following attendees were present:

COMMISSIONERS

Greg Oakes, Chair
Jan Iverson
Judy Williams
Ric Cade
Larry Longley, Vice-Chair
Rob Johnson

FIRE AUTHORITY STAFF

John Cermak, Fire Chief
~~Don Bartlett, Assistant Fire Chief~~
~~Mike Makela, Assistant Fire Chief~~
Katie Casey, Board Secretary
~~Randy Krumm, Finance Manager~~
~~Kayley Mizell, Administrative Assistant~~

Rich Davis was also present via ZOOM

Meeting called to order at 4:03 pm

FLAG SALUTE

MOTION TO WITHHOLD THE FLAG SALUTE DURING ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

1st: Commissioner Williams 2nd Commissioner Johnson

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

EMPLOYEE and PUBLIC COMMENTS – N/A

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO INCLUDE CBA DISCUSSIONS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

1st: Commissioner Longley 2nd Commissioner Williams

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED

1st: Commissioner Iverson 2nd Commissioner Johnson

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1st: Commissioner Cade 2nd Commissioner Longley

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes

1st: Commissioner Williams 2nd Commissioner Cade

OLD BUSINESS

N/A.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION

Motion to approve Resolution 03252020-01

1st: Commissioner Iverson 2nd Commissioner Williams

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous



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APPROVAL OF POLICY 67

1st: Commissioner Johnson

2nd Commissioner Iverson

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION

Motion to approve Resolution 03252020-02

1st: Commissioner Williams

2nd Commissioner Iverson

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

NCRFA and Local 4033 have gone back and forth regarding the language in the most current MOU which addresses how to handle shift vacancies during this pandemic period. Local 4033 wants the vacancies to be filled by Island County personnel prior to asking for coverage by any other agency. NCRFA would like the choice of who to call so as to not limit ourselves in a volatile situation and to ensure prompt action. This MOU has been reissued to Local President Mike Rooks and Chief Cermak has not heard back from him yet. Attorney Rich Davis noted that he spoke with Greg Markley today and Greg stated he would be speaking with Local 4033. He expressed optimism that having flexibility would be okay with Local 4033.

CHIEF'S REPORT

We are the proud owners of 33 acres of land for the future development of the North County Regional Fire Authority Training Center and future Fire Station site for Station 96. It closed on Wednesday, last week. In the meantime, Chief Cermak notified, through the chain, that it was available for the use as a temporary military hospital site if this COVID event continues to develop.

Chief Cermak thanked Commissioner Williams for participating in our Standard and Poor's rating interview. The team did a great job of illustrating how responsible we are with taxpayer funds. We will hold off on the presentation to the bond investors for a couple of weeks, as the interest rates have been very volatile during this period.

Key personnel are meeting daily (Monday through Sunday) as County Chiefs to work through the process from 10:00 to 12:00. NCRFA and AFD Staff meeting following the meeting to maximize efficiencies and share the load. It has been a great team synergy. It appears that we will transition to an Area Command to prepare for the potential worst to come with interested Fire organizations. It is better to be over prepared than under. Our staff has partnered with Arlington staff to optimize our administrations to reduce duplication. We have asked Darin Reid and Joel Smith to work 10 hours weekly OT to assist North County and begin to contribute to the Joint Operations Center that will be enacted shortly. We developed codes for tracking COVID related expenses in payroll and equipment purchasing to help track the funds for future reimbursement expectations.

Two Assistance to Firefighters Grants were applied for before the deadline. One was a Regional Grant for training props with Arlington in the amount of \$850k and an individual grant for the replacement of 2 sets of "Jaws" battery operated tools for outdated units purchase in 2005, in the amount of \$90k, for the two new engines.

AC Makela has applied for the FEMA Public Assistance grant for reimbursement of the costs accrued for the COVID response. Chief Andrews shared that the FMAG was approved and there is a high likelihood that reimbursement for costs related to this disaster will be reimbursed to a minimum of 75% federal. We are doing research to confirm.

A lot of work has been done by the key county fire agencies to develop procedures for crew safety rapidly. NCRFA has instituted six directives to keep our workforce safe with more to come. Both BC Smith and CRP Reid have transitioned duties directly related to the disaster. Darin Reid is being trained to test for COVID for our emergency responders and a more rapid assessment and outcome to confirm or deny a positive ruling. Supplies are running low and we've all been forced to be creative in finding solutions for when they run out. We are expecting a large order to come in on Monday to be distributed through the DEM to agencies.



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NCRFA and Arlington staff met with Karen Reed via Skype to prepare for the next RFA Committee meeting on Monday. Work was completed to keep this ball rolling.

NCRFA signed an emergency ILA for purchasing. Snohomish County will group purchase equipment through the DEM ESF4 Fire position and the costs distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

RFA Annexation Committee meetings are occurring regularly. Last meeting was 3/23 and spend the majority of that meeting reviewing the assets, expenses, and revenues of both agencies. There are a lot of similarities. The Committee also reviewed standard of cover maps and how it will look when/if Arlington is annexed into the RFA. With the COVID-19 Stay at Home order it will be a challenge to educate the public but we will work together to get proper messages out to the public. The Arlington City Council retreat, where they had planned to discuss RFA Annexation at length was cancelled until further notice. In the meantime the efforts between NCRFA and City of Arlington Fire working together during this pandemic show a strong need to maximize and not duplicate efforts.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tiger Den Leader Alicia Stadler sent a thank you note commending C-Shift for their welcoming and educational night they spent with the Scouts who are working on the Emergency Preparedness Awards.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The new fire engines are progressing well. We were supposed to go to the plant one last time, however due to COVID-19 the engines will be shipped here instead.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 4:53 to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(g) and to discuss issues related to the negotiation of the Collective Bargaining Agreement per RCW 42.30.140 and expects it to last 36 minutes. At 5:30 it was announced that another 15 minutes would be necessary.

The regular meeting reconvened at 5:47pm

Because Local 4033 representative Aaron Bredeson joined the meeting late, Board Chair Oakes asked Aaron if he had any comments he'd like the Board to hear. Aaron stated he did not have any comments at this time.

Motion to approve pay raises as recommended by the Fire Chief

1st: Commissioner Williams 2nd Commissioner Cade

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn at 5:49pm

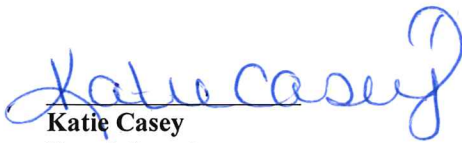
1st: Commissioner Iverson 2nd Commissioner Williams

Discussion:

APPROVED: Unanimous



Greg Oakes
Chair



Katie Casey
Board Secretary

