

North County Regional Fire Authority COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

via ZOOM June 10, 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

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm

EMPLOYEE and PUBLIC COMMENTS - N/A

Commissioner Oakes asked for a moment of silence for Firefighter Marcus Carroll who passed away due to a tragic accident while hiking.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1st: Commissioner Iverson

2nd Commissioner Cade

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1st: Commissioner Longley

DISCUSSION:

APPROVED: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the May 27, 2020 Meeting Minutes

1st: Commissioner Cade

2nd Commissioner Longley

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Cermak provided a Staff Report detailing the proposal for a Fire Apparatus Technician.

Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Longley agreed that hiring someone to take care of NCRFA apparatus is a good idea and any work being performed for other agencies will offset the cost of this position.

Commissioner Oakes questioned whether or not one person would be enough to handle the workload, Chief Cermak stated that one person would work for now however this could be reevaluated at a later date as workload increases.

Commissioner Iverson asked if there were any potential "cons" to hiring our own mechanic versus hiring it out by contract. No cons were discussed, however Commissioner Oakes stated that when District 7 and Monroe started their inhouse mechanic program it was an outstanding service to the South County units.

Commissioner Williams stated she feels it is important to provide the firefighters the tools (apparatus) necessary to do their job and meet their obligations.

Commissioner Iverson would like to see the advertisement for the position be focused on what we need rather than casting a large net to see what range of qualified individuals apply.



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Motion to direct the Fire Chief to recruit, test and hire for the position of fire apparatus technician and purchase mobile equipment for the position not to exceed \$100k from the capital reserve account.

1st: Commissioner Johnson

2nd Commissioner Longley

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Iverson would like the advertisement for this position to be clearly posted as a Fire Apparatus Technician

APPROVED: Approved – yes votes include Commissioners Johnson, Longley, Cade, Iverson, and Oakes. No vote from Commissioner Williams who would prefer to hire someone with Manager responsibilities.

CHIEF'S REPORT

There have been multiple RFA Annexation planning meetings with Arlington. The process is positive and moving forward as targeted with weekly meetings and staff to-do lists.

Chief Kraski and Chief Cermak continue to work together to address current issues relating to COVID and the new norm, as well as preparation for the annexation committee meetings.

We lost one of our PTE Firefighters, Marcus Carroll. We are working through the grief process with our chaplains now.

Chief Cermak met with District 21 Fire Chief Schmidt regarding current issues. He may be hired as their permanent full time Fire Chief.

Katie Casey and Chief Cermak developed the DRAFT Emergency vehicle technician Policy and wage scale.

Chief Cermak met with Stanwood Camano News and provided a news brief that was published in Skagit Herald and Stanwood News.

Work was completed on the Snohomish County EMS. We were able to set it off by 30 days to develop a 90 day temporary contract with NCRFA. We will have that at the next meeting. A focus group will be created to address SCEMS moving forward to fix the concerns of the growing system.

Chief Dickison and Chief Cermak worked together to address SCEMS issues with neighboring agency concerns. Chief Simmons wanted to completely shut down the EMS Council completely. This would not be healthy for our customers and transfer duplicated efforts to each agency rather than central regionalized SCEMS Program.

AC Bartlett and Chief Cermak have been working with the named architect, Mackenzie, to start the development of the training center. This will be moving very rapidly and require a lot of work to make the time frames to meet the Bond requirements.

Commissioner Cade stated this was the first he had heard of law enforcement being invited to use the new training center and has concerns because of issues that arose when law enforcement was allowed to use the training center in the past. Chief Cermak noted that they would be allowed to use the training center on a contract basis and this will help offset the cost of the training center and helps to build partnerships with the local law enforcement agencies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The RFA Annexation Committee continues to meet and everything so far has been going smooth. The City of Arlington City Council met for an RFA Retreat and overall the City Council was supportive of continuing RFA talks. The City Council noted that there will be a \$90/yr increase for City of Arlington residents if the RFA passes however it will be a process that is voter approved and not council imposed.

Commissioner Cade noted that the JATC class has occurred and they are working on getting current employee's forms submitted.



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Chief Makela has been speaking with PA Grant Coordinator. It does not appear that employee salaries are covered. Overtime for those backfilling for COVID related issues will be covered. He is also looking into whether or not the Fire Academy costs will be covered.

CORRESPONDENCE

We received flowers and a condolence card from the Assistance League of Everett in Marcus Carroll's memory. We also received a very nice condolence card from Systems Design.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Bartlett stated that our new apparatus is currently at the paint shop in Tacoma and should be here within the next two weeks.

The EOC was activated at level 3 last week due to a potential protestor issue in downtown Stanwood. Thankfully it was a peaceful protest. Another protest is scheduled for Friday June 12th.

Firefighter Ken Larsen's wife passed away from cancer this week. Our thoughts are with him and his family during this very difficult time. Ian Phipps is acting as ombudsman for the family.

Community Resource Paramedic Darin Reid secured a grant for approximately \$6k from ACH

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn at 5:05pm

1st: Commissioner Iverson

APPROVED! Unanimous

2nd Commissioner Cade

Discussion:

Greg Oakes

Chair

Katie Casey

Board Secretar