



# **SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE / EMS**

5579 Bayview Road • Langley, WA 98260  
(360)321-1533 • Fax (360)321-9385 • www.swfe.org

## **BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING March 14, 2024 – 5:30 p.m. Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Towers, Chief Walsh and Nicole Hagen

**Audience:** Deputy Chief Ney, Division Chief Dilley, Lt. Kalahiki, Lt. Wilkie, FF/EMT Diffie, FF/EMT Lund, Mary Kaye Johansen, Jeanie McElwain, Paul Ben McElwain, Melanie Bacon, David Freed, Anne Tearse and Rhonda Salern

**Zoom:** Commissioner Noblet, FF/EMT Husom, FF/EMT Turner, FF/EMT Benenati and Alex Magallon

### **I. Call to Order**

Commissioner Erickson called the meeting to order at 5:34pm

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Towers motioned to approve the agenda; Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### **III. Public Input**

None

### **IV. Consent Agenda** All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of South Whidbey Fire/EMS's Board of Commissioners for reading and study. They are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If a separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Regular Meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>

#### **Finance Reports**

Budget Position Report

Check Register

Treasurer's Report

#### **Monthly Vouchers**

*Dated on 2/2/2024 for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$40,900.65*

*Dated on 2/8/24 for Payroll EFT in the amount of \$55,910.61*

*Dated on 2/9/24 for Payroll EFT in the amount of \$5,583.58*

*Dated on 2/9/24 for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$9,927.82*

*Dated on 2/16/24 for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$28,499.07*

*Dated on 2/22/24 for Payroll EFT in the amount of \$52,115.61*

*Dated on 2/23/24 for Accounts Payable in the amount of \$33,380.81*

*Dated on 2/8 – 2/22/24 for Payroll Liabilities EFT in the amount of \$270,605.81*

*Total Warrants: \$496,923.96*

Commissioner Towers motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Erickson seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **V. Member Update**

Chief Walsh explained that we have moved to onboarding volunteers in batches, with the next batch happening in April.

## **VI. Unfinished Business**

Policy 1002 Volunteer Services Membership – Second Reading

Chief Walsh explained that the main changes were the 24 hours of standby time per month and creating the Legacy Volunteers.

Commissioner Erickson asked if this update had been shared with the entire department.

Chief Walsh stated that it had and the only concern brought up was in regards to it impacting BVFF, which it will not.

Commissioner Noblet motioned to approve Policy 1002; Commissioner Towers seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Administrative assistant position – increase to 30 hours and step increase

Chief Walsh explained the reason for the ask to increase hours and pay was due to the additional role of Board Secretary.

Commissioner Noblet motioned to approve; Commissioner Towers seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VII. New Business**

### **Chiefs Report**

Chief Walsh explained the call volume and staffing reports as well as the uptick in volunteer participation.

Resolution 2024-06 Warrant Cancellation

Commissioner Noblet motioned to approve; Commissioner Towers seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution 2024-07 Levy Lid Lift

Chief Walsh presented his PowerPoint on the Levy Lid Lift. Chief Walsh explained what the resolution covers and that it will supersede the final year of the existing levy. \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value is the max and South Whidbey Fire/EMS is asking for \$1.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Commissioner Noblet mentioned that he and the committee have worked hard on the Strategic Plan as well as the Budget for a long time. The committee was very diligent with finances and will be extremely judicious with funds from the public.

Commissioner Noblet motioned to approve Resolution 2024-07; Commissioner Towers seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

## **VIII. Public Input**

Jeanie from the Maxwelton/Midvale area – Asked if the PowerPoint presentation will be widely accessible to the public.

Chief Walsh explained that he has been touring around giving the presentation to local groups.

David from the Clinton area – Gave his support for this levy. Stated that he has lived here for 25 years and has always been in support of. He just asked that South Whidbey Fire/EMS be reasonable in how money is spent.

Anne from the Freeland area – Stated that the population is expected to increase significantly in Island County and that we can expect our call volumes to increase.

Commissioner Noblet mentioned that he was concerned about wildland fire and that South Whidbey Fire/EMS needs to have the equipment and personnel to handle calls and that we need to prepare now for the future.

Commissioner Towers thanked the public. He also mentioned how hard the Board and the Department have worked on this with lots of careful consideration.

Deputy Chief Ney talked about the Standards of Cover and how we have seen an increase in overlapping calls.

**IX. Announcements**

Chief Walsh mentioned that we had several participants in the Stair Climb this past weekend and that the team as a whole have raised close to \$10,000.

**X. Comments from Commissioners**

Commissioner Noblet stated that he wished he could have been in person for the meeting and thanked the public.

Commissioner Towers thanked the public for their support.

Commissioner Erickson thanked the public.

**XI. Executive Session**

No executive session.

**XII. Action take as a result of the Executive Session**

None

**XIII. Conclude**

Commissioner Noblet motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Towers seconded the motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Erickson adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners at 6:39pm

Nicole Hagen,  
Board Secretary