

SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS
REGULAR MEETING
5579 Bayview Road, Langley, Washington
August 12th, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/655413325>

Attendance via GoTo Meeting: Chairman Metz, Vice Chairman Noblet, Commissioner Mestemacher, Chief Palmer.

In Audience: Deputy Chief Jon Beck, Deputy Chief Terry Ney, Deputy Chief Wendy Moffatt, FF Blake Benenati, Lt. Leah Kalahiki, Lt. Alex McMahon, FF/EMT Robert Husom, FF/EMT Brian Boyd, FF/EMT Sean McDougald, FF Jim Towers, FF Barry Pomeroy, FF Tom Gideon, FF Rebekah Pomeroy, FF/EMT Karley Diffie, FF Dennis Batey, FF/EMT Chris Turner, Savannah Erickson, Kelly McDonald, Suzi Prentiss, Sherrye Wyatt, two unknown callers. Third unknown caller joined at 5:48pm. FF/EMT Billy Piepenbrink joined at 5:53pm.

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Metz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda. Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Mestemacher seconded.
- III. Public Input. Barry Pomeroy, a local resident of the community and has served 29 years as a firefighter, provided public comment. Mr. Pomeroy thanked the Board member for the services that they provide, as well as the Fire Chief for his efforts. Mr. Pomeroy has separated from the District on July 31st. Mr. Pomeroy suggested that an anonymous survey go out to all members.

No other public input.
- 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 to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meetings on June 10th and July 8th, 2021.
 - b. Finance Officer’s Reports –
 - c. Monthly Vouchers— \$366,639.79

Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented; Commissioner Mestemacher seconded.

- V. Unfinished Business – None.
- VI. New Business –
 - a. **Resolution 2021-10 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment.** – Chief Palmer stated to the Board that within the budget requests are adjustments that reflect the increased salaries and benefits for full-time firefighters, a request for a 5.5% COLA increase for non-represented staff for recent increased cost of living, and a requested \$2 per point increase for volunteers, which we wouldn’t have to adjust the volunteer pay expense account for. Chief Palmer also reviewed budget lines that are over or considered ‘at risk’. After discussion between the Board and Chief Palmer, Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the presented budget adjustment requests; motion seconded by Commissioner Mestemacher. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Resolution 2021-11 Surplus Equipment.** Chief Beck provided a list of 51 pagers that are obsolete. Commissioner Mestemacher made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-11 as presented; Commissioner Noblet seconded.
- c. Interlocal Agreement Approval – IT System Support with Central Whidbey Island Fire and Rescue.** Chief Palmer stated that he and Chief Hartin have been discussing utilizing the same IT person as our network systems are similar. The two Fire Chiefs created a draft agreement for CWIFR to utilize our IT person Michael Hastings for 8 hours per week. CWIFR will pay the District \$55.90 per hour, \$65.44 for OT hours. Chief Palmer is requesting permission to sign the draft contract. Commissioner Noblet asked Chief Palmer if this would have any negative impact on the District; Chief Palmer could not formulate any potential negative issues.

Commissioner Mestemacher made a motion to approve the draft contract and allow Chief Palmer to sign; Commissioner Noblet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- d. Executive Search Consulting Agreement Approval – Emergency Services Consulting International.** Chief Palmer notified the Board that a contract has been agreed upon by ESCI and reviewed by the District's attorney, and is ready for the Board to sign.
- e. Assigning Board Member to Budget Committee.** Chief Palmer announced that the staff will be starting budget meetings on August 18th. Budget meetings consist of all staff, one union member and one board member. After some discussion, Commissioner Noblet volunteered to be the Board member present.

VII. Announcements: Chief Palmer stated that we have received some proclamations regarding healthcare workers and that all first responders must be vaccinated by October 15th. All career staff have been vaccinated with the exception of one who is applying for religious exemption. All volunteers must be vaccinated as well – Chief Palmer is working on gathering proof from all members. After proclamation is use of face coverings indoors again. The District's attorney suggested that we continue to hold meetings virtually at this time.

VIII. Comments from Commissioners:

All members of the Board stated that they appreciate those who joined the meeting tonight.

Commissioner Metz announced that he is moving out of Island County next month, but will continue to be an active Board member until his pending move September 11th, 2021. Chief Palmer stated that the Board will need to appoint Commissioner Metz's replacement.

Commissioner Nobler expressed concern regarding having many resignations from volunteers in the recent weeks. Chief Palmer stated that in the past month, the District has lost 12 volunteers, two of which converted to career staff. Of the remaining ten resignations:

- 2 were required to resign due to their local union rules.
- 1 took a career position in Kent, WA.
- 1 is now a special agent for the DOJ and was told he could no longer be a volunteer.
- 1 got married and moved out of state.
- 3 retired with 20+ years of dedication to the District.
- 1 moved the Eastern WA.

IX. Executive Session: Not needed; will not go into Executive Session this evening.

X. Action taken as result of Executive Session: None.

XI. Conclude. Chairman Metz concluded the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,
District Secretary