



North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

Meeting Minutes

Via Telephone/Videoconference

4/21/2020

Present: Commissioners Kelley McIntosh, Brooke Quigley, Dan Kewish, Bob Miller, Paul Severson; Executive Assistant Wassenaar; Chief Bakken; Assistant Chief Cooper

Meeting held via telephone/videoconference in accordance with Governor Jay Inslee's proclamation 20-28 issued on March 24, 2020

Absent: None

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Prevention Specialist: Final interviews have taken place and Lacey Newman has been selected for the position. Due to the pandemic and stay at home order, she does not have an anticipated start date at this time; however, she has verbally accepted and an offer letter will be sent shortly.

Firefighter Testing: Online testing took place over the weekend and we have received scores for all applicants. Overall, the applicants did very well, with the nearly all scoring over 85. Panel interviews with NMRFA members scheduled for this coming Thursday (via telephone/videoconference).

Student Firefighters: We have received 10 applications for the Student Firefighter Program. Captain Reese is currently reviewing the applications and will be setting up interviews (to be held via telephone/videoconference).

COVID-19 Update: There are currently 22 positive cases in Mason County as of last Friday; no new cases reported since. Discussed the pressure of re-opening businesses in comparison to what is medically suitable. Chief Bakken indicated as of Friday he will no longer be the liaison for Area Command, as Lieutenant Fulkerson will be taking over (anticipating for the next three weeks).

Cancellations:

CAC Meeting has been postponed until further notice

Tahuya Days/Salmon Bake – Commissioner Quigley received an email from Tahuya Community Club cancelling both events. Chief Bakken had not received any notification but will look into it

Retention Committee – Commissioner Severson advised meeting has been cancelled. Also wanted to address the recent resignation of three NMRFA staff members; no indication this is related to any happenings within the Authority, rather appear to be based on personal reasons.

Safety Days: Chief Bakken provided an update; Team has been developed to plan Safety Days – anticipate moving to an electronic platform. New Emergency Prevention Specialist Lacey Newman will be a part of that project.

Emergency Management Campus RFQ: Executive Assistant Wassenaar provided an update on the RFQ – confirmed electronic/telephonic instructions were built into the RFQ for any potential site walk through and interviewing processes. Also confirmed that she spoke with Chuck from Hill International, who contacted ConstructConnect to correct the project scope/budget of \$60,000. Additionally, indicated scope/budget was not included in the RFQ or any formal advertisement issued by the Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 20-05: Provide for the submission to qualified electors of the North Mason Regional Fire Authority at an election to be held on August 4, 2020, Proposition authorizing the continuation of an Emergency Medical Services property tax levy not to exceed \$.50 per \$1,000.00 of true and assessed valuation, in addition to its regular property tax levy, for a period of six consecutive years beginning in 2020 and ending in 2025 and to be collected in each succeeding year (2021-2026) to provide funds required by the Fire Authority to enable the Fire Authority to provide Emergency Medical Services.

Chief Bakken provided multiple options for ballot language as requested for Board review. Following lengthy discussion, the Board agreed upon 4A:

Will North Mason Regional Fire Authority be authorized to continue to fund emergency medical services for its citizens by continuing to impose a regular property tax levy of \$.41 or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation (subject to the existing voter approved maximum of \$.50) for a period of six consecutive years to be collected beginning in 2021?

Motion made by Commissioner Severson to approve Resolution 20-05. Commissioner Quigley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/GENERAL DISCUSSION

House Fire off Highway 106 – Suspected that fire started in the garage and quickly spread. Multiple departments responded with over 30 firefighters on-site for over 6 hours. DNR also responded with water dropping helicopter, as fire caused multiple brush fires. No major injuries reported; one bystander that was knocking on doors transported for smoke inhalation. Captain Ehresman injured his thumb but was unable to get evaluated until today due to limited medical services being available at this time – they will know more after he has an MRI.

Brush Fires – Multiple fires throughout Mason County, with many starting as burn piles that got out of hand. Because of the recent dry weather, have already begun discussions with Department of Community Development concerning increasing burn restrictions. Plan to re-evaluate on May 1.

Private Bridges – Coulter Creek Fire result of unpermitted fire that got away from the homeowner. Access was limited to a personal/private bridge which homeowner indicated would support a fire engine. When Authority personnel drove over the bridge, it partially gave way. Fire Engine was freed after nearly four hours and was able to drive back to the station – currently assessing damage. Authority will be working with EF Recovery to bill the homeowner for the response as well as any damage to the engine.

Chief indicated there are roughly 35 private/personal bridges within the response area (identified on GIS map); need to create a Policy to address how we will evaluate these bridges, determine if we will cross them (and what to do if not), responsibilities of the homeowners etc. We have previously attempted to have a third party evaluate local bridges but have been unable to reach the evaluator since. Jeromy Hicks had also evaluated bridges and identified multiple that NMRFA vehicles are not to cross, however that was five or more years ago.

Group discussed Central Kitsap’s policy requiring homeowners to obtain engineering certification (which can be incredibly expensive); if not approved CK will not respond over bridge – multiple concerns with implementing a policy that extreme due to the impact on the homeowner. Further discussion required.

Public Comment: None

With no further business Commissioner McIntosh adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Authority Secretary Renee Wassenaar

Commissioner Kelley McIntosh

Commissioner Brooke Quigley

Commissioner Bob Miller

Commissioner Daniel Kewish

Commissioner Paul Severson