



North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

Meeting Minutes

Via Telephone/Videoconference

9/8/2020

Present: Commissioners Kelley McIntosh, Brooke Quigley, Dan Kewish, Bob Miller; 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: Paul Severson

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting minutes from August 11 and August 18, 2020, were presented for approval.

Commissioner Kewish moved to approve the meeting minutes with minor corrections. Commissioner Quigley seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Financial vouchers were presented for review.

A motion was made by Commissioner Quigley to approve the expense and payroll vouchers under BIAS 200901001 to 200901081 in the amount of \$382,060.64. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Emergency Response: Call volume during the last two weeks has been record-setting, with multiple accidents, brush fires and airlifts. Chief Bakken proposed a letter of commendation from the Board to crews for their hard work and dedication; will have available for review at the next meeting.

COVID-19 – St. Michael Medical Center: St. Michael Medical Center had a recent COVID-19 outbreak amongst patients and staff. The hospital requested the Authority transfer non-life-threatening cases to Mason General, as multiple units within St. Michael were temporarily closed; order lifted at both Silverdale and Bremerton locations as of today, September 8.

Tahuya Apparatus Bay Grand Opening: Chief Bakken and Emergency Prevention Specialist Lacey Newman are working on a video for opening display of the building. Will identify a date for video viewing by the Board at the next meeting.

Wildland Fire Response: Although Mason County has had only minor wildland fire activity this summer, the county implemented a full burn ban at the end of August. There are currently multiple fires in Eastern Washington, including 150,000 acres near Omak and 75,000 acres near Yakima. As a result of the large fires, the Department of Natural Resources is strained, leaving a limited number of crews available for any local fires. The Authority deployed three crews last week to the Evans Canyon fire; crews were moved today from Evans Canyon to the Whitney Fire in Lincoln County. Chief Bakken anticipates the crews being deployed the maximum length of 14 days. Once those crews return, the Authority will reassess if any additional units will be deployed.

Blood Drive: The Authority is partnering with the HUB in Belfair in hosting a pop-up blood drive on September 25th 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and September 26th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AFG Grant Award Announcement: The Authority has received two AFG grants - \$140,000 for a county-wide behavioral health and wellness program and \$360,000 for a water tender. Chief Bakken explained that firefighter/EMT Anthony Rhead has continuously applied for the tender grant for the last 5 years (being denied each time); special thank you for his perseverance.

RCORP Grant Award Announcement: Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Mason County Public Health partnered with the Quick Response Team (QRT), Peninsula Community Health Services (PCHS), Mason General and additional local agencies. The \$1 million grant will provide funding for staffing for Mason County for the next two years.

IT Transition: Chief Bakken discussed the replacement of our outdated server; the Authority will be moving to the Microsoft Cloud, which provides more backup space, prevents server failure/downtime and is accessible from anywhere. Included in the transition, Microsoft also provides an upgrade to Office 365. The goal is to be completely transitioned before we move into the new headquarters station.

Strategic Planning Steering Committee: Kick-off meeting scheduled for September 10th 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Agenda to be sent tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS

Property Closing Status: Final check was drafted last week, and we are currently awaiting signatures from all parties.

Headquarters Station Update: No major design changes since the last meeting. The budget is currently tracking in the correct direction, as we are currently down to roughly \$400,000 over budget. Chief Bakken indicated he has explained the slow permitting process of Mason County with the design/general contractor Team. He is hoping for an update at the next design meeting, scheduled for tomorrow September 9.

NEW BUSINESS

County Fire Commissioners Meeting: Update on ProPhoenix provided by Commissioner McIntosh.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

CAC Meetings: Commissioner Quigley requested we discontinue the CAC meetings through the end of 2020. Also requested we include the CAC in any Tahuya grand opening event. We will revisit resuming meetings in 2021.

Labor Negotiations: Chief Bakken indicated we currently have three meetings scheduled in September to begin the process and will keep the Board informed.

Commissioner Miller would like to commend all Authority staff for their hard work. Chief Bakken advised he will pass his thanks on to the crews.

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