



North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

Meeting Minutes

460 NE Old Belfair Hwy

5/12/2015

Present: Commissioners Kewish, McIntosh, Voss-Petredis, Wampold; Fire Chief Bakken, Executive Assistant Patti

Excused: Assistant Chief Cooper, Commissioner Quigley

Guests: Merrill Wallace, Herb Gearhardt, Stephanie Criess, Jess Fulkerson, Andrew Douglas

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting minutes from April 14th and April 21st were presented for approval.

Commissioner Voss-Petredis moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented; Commissioner Wampold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vouchers: Vouchers #1505001 to #1505094 in the amount of \$254,680.24 for the month of May were presented for approval.

Commissioner McIntosh asked if there were any questions on Vouchers and there were none.

Commissioner Wampold moved to approve the vouchers as presented; Commissioner Kewish seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Budget Summary:

Commissioner Voss-Petredis inquired on the total Tax revenue year to date. Chief Bakken explained that we have only received revenues through March. An April report should be available at the next meeting. She also inquired on the amount of ambulance revenues left to be collected.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

FF/PM Ryan Cloud: A commendation letter was prepared from the Board of Fire Commissioners to FF/PM Cloud for his actions on several critical patients.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT:

Tahuya Day: We are preparing for the annual event that will occur on July 4th. We are again looking forward to a great day and lots of attendees. The Volunteer FF Association will be selling burgers again this year.

Burn Ban Info: Commissioner McIntosh asked if Chief had heard anything about an early burn ban. He reported he has not received any information on this but will keep the public apprised if a burn ban is put in to effect.

Volunteer Graduation: Four of our volunteers have graduated from an eleven week fire academy. Commissioner McIntosh, Chief's Bakken and Cooper and Volunteer Coordinator Tina Miller attended the ceremony. Most of the graduates are now studying Wildland Firefighting.

PM/FF Hiring Update:

Paramedic: Chief Bakken noted we have had a huge uptick in applications for the paramedic positions. In years past we have had less than ten individuals apply. We have restructured the assessment process due to the large amount of candidates. We want to ensure we hire the right person for the job to ensure we don't have a great candidate slip through the cracks. As such, we will conduct a group assessment at the Theler Center on May 20th. The top individuals will be identified and will move on to a second assessment with a skills test and oral boards. Finally, the top candidates from the second assessment will move on to a chief's interview and ride-a-long. We hope to have a job offer to someone at the end of the month with the expectation that the individual would need to also put in two weeks' notice.

Firefighter Position: We have two viable candidates in mind. Chief Bakken will not select an individual yet until the paramedic position is filled.

Election Period: Merrill Wallace who is present at tonight's meeting has filed for Commissioner Position 5 and Tom Wampold has re-filed for Position 4.

CRT Training: Please send anyone interested in CRT training to Chief Bakken. It is Tahuya centric but anyone can attend. We are targeting the South Shore and Tahuya area. Thank you to FF/PM Andrew Douglas and Cpt. Carl Ehresman for their hard work.

Andrew Douglas Update: Chief Bakken provided an update on FF/PM Douglas. Initially the injury was perceived as very bad however, they are considering a non-surgical route and will advise us what the recommended course of treatment is. We are working through L&I on this injury.

Stephanie Criess: Our Admin Assistant and Volunteer firefighter Stephanie Criess got into paramedic school today! This is a lifelong passion for her and we couldn't be prouder. Class will start in September and she will graduate next June. This is a huge accomplishment. Stephanie thanked the Commissioners and Chiefs for helping her achieve this goal.

OLD BUSINESS:

CMFE/NMRFA Merger Update:

Chief Bakken reported on the merger process. We are slowing down almost to a halt so CMFE can focus on their EMS Levy. The financial picture is still pretty dismal at CMFE. Due to the debt load they will need to borrow to make payroll. There was a brief discussion on the borrowing process- there is only

one statutory cap on how much they can borrow – 1 quarter of 1 percent of our assessed valuation. You cannot default on any outstanding debt. With that, Chief believes there is a false sense of security with this EMS Levy and that if it passes things will be fine. In addition to the EMS levy there are some other things coming down the pike including the survey and ratings bureau audit. He remarked that two years ago they passed their fire levy with 52% of the vote, but now with the debt load he believes passing the levy with 60% will be challenging to say the least. If they do not pass the levy, six positions will be eliminated – of which most are medics as they are the junior positions at the department.

They are campaigning for equipment purchasing however based on the evaluation of their finances there is no money for them to buy equipment. The money is barely there to break even. Commissioner McIntosh expressed her concern with the lack of campaigning that has been accomplished. There was discussion on what could be done to turn the peoples support around. They will be going through a tremendous uphill battle.

Commissioner Voss-Petredis inquired if any of CMFE's Board positions for re-election? Yes, Tom Taylor's position is up for re-election and Tom has put his name in to re-run.

Public Comment:

Herb Gerhardt: Can CMFE continue to take out loans with their outstanding debt. Chief explained unfortunately, they can continue to borrow and use that to pay off existing debt and the cycle can go on indefinitely.

Jess Fulkerson: Is there any indication that if they pass the levy will they walk away from the process? While Chief has not heard anything in particular, there is an assumption that they will feel they are out of the woods and will cease merger talks.

Exhaust System for Tahuya: Chief Bakken reported we put in for a grant for an exhaust system but because individuals do not stay the night at the station, we were not awarded the grant. As a result we have added the exhaust system into the budget as an expense for this year. From a health and safety standpoint this is a key component. The cost of the system is approximately \$35k. Chief Bakken requested approval from the Board to go out to bid on a system.

Commissioner Kewish moved that we go out to bid on an exhaust system for Station 81 as presented; Commissioner Voss-Petredis seconded the motion. Motion approved.

New Medic Unit Purchase: We wish to replace the 2003 medic unit that is beyond its serviceable life for the Fire Authority and purchase a brand new medic unit. There is a 200 day build process. We expect the new unit to cost approximately \$150k. This expense has also been built into the budget. Chief Bakken requested approval from the Board to go out to bid for a new medic unit which would get us on the build schedule with a delivery date at the beginning of next year.

Commissioner Voss-Petredis asked if the repairs we made on the other rigs have been beneficial and have added life to the units. Yes, it reset the clock but it did not replace what is our first out unit.

Commissioner Voss-Petredis moved that we go out to bid on a new Medic Unit as presented; Commissioner Kewish seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Staffing Grievance Update: A letter was prepared on behalf of the Board of Commissioners regarding the Minimum Staffing Grievance brought forth. The Board decided it would be beneficial for both parties to meet and review the issues. Chief Bakken will report back on the meeting with Labor Management.

Public Comment:

Herb Gerhardt: Commented how great it was to see District 8 Commissioners at the table.

Good of the Order: None

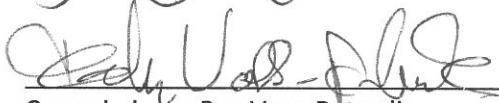
Commissioner Wampold moved to adjourn; Commissioner Kewish seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11pm.



Authority Secretary Katie Patti




Commissioner Kelley McIntosh



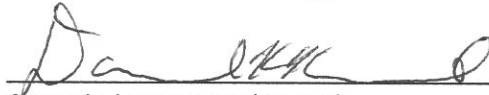
Commissioner Bev Voss-Petredis



Commissioner Thomas Wampold



Commissioner Brooke Quigley



Commissioner Daniel Kewish