



## North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

### Meeting Minutes

14880 NE North Shore Rd, Tahuya

6/16/2015

**Present:** Commissioners Kewish, McIntosh, Quigley, Voss-Petredis, Wampold; Fire Chief Bakken, Assistant Chief Cooper and Authority Secretary Patti

**Guests:** Merrill Wallace

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Exhaust System Bid Review:** A request for bids for an air exchange system was advertised for Station 81. We received one bid from the company Air Exchange, Inc. in the amount of \$39,000. Chief Bakken asked for a recommendation from the Board to accept the bid from Air Exchange.

Merrill Wallace had a few general questions regarding the bid that were addressed by Chief Bakken.

Commissioner Quigley inquired about the insurance coverage provided by Air Exchange, specifically, if any accidents occurred, would their insurance cover costs. Chief Bakken confirmed that their insurance would cover costs.

**Commissioner Voss-Petredis made a motion to accept the bid from Air Exchange Inc. as received and presented; Commissioner Wampold seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**Forest Land Response Agreement and Federal Grant Agreement (No. 15-267):** Chief Bakken presented the agreement and requested that the Board make a motion to renew the agreement as presented. This agreement outlines how DNR operates on wildfires, enables us to easily receive reimbursement for wildland time and makes us eligible for grants.

Merrill Wallace had a question about the fee scheduled with DNR.

**Commissioner Kewish made a motion to renew the agreement as presented; Commissioner Voss-Petredis seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

**CRT Informational Session:** There is a CRT Informational Session occurring tonight at 6:30pm.

**Firefighter Job Opening:** We have provided application packets to local agencies and on our website and Facebook page. Chief encouraged the Commissioners to share the application packet with anyone who may be interested in working as a firefighter with us. The position will remain open from June 24<sup>th</sup> – July 24<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCIAL:** Chief Bakken provided an overview of the financials. We are at our halfway point in the year and are doing great. He remarked timber tax is at 400%. This is amazing. He also reviewed the revenue and expenditures year to date.

Commissioners McIntosh asked about the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) legislation that Chief McKern of Central Mason keeps referencing for their campaign and would this impact us as

well. Chief Bakken has heard very little about this legislation at any level. More information would be needed to determine if this will impact the Fire Authority.

Commissioner Quigley shared a story about an individual who was having a heart issue and needed to be transported but could not afford to pay the ambulance bill. This led to discussion on process of ambulance bill collections and the financial assistance that is available. Our primary concern is ensuring the patient is taken care of.

Commissioner McIntosh asked if it would be beneficial to conduct some sort of public education forums that address ambulance billing specifically concerns and questions. Chief Bakken reported we have begun doing just that with members of our Guatemalan community. PM/FF Jess Fulkerson was a guest speaker at a meeting held by members of that community last evening where ambulance billing was the main topic. We hope this will be the first of many conversations with that group. We also plan to put on several first aid and CPR classes for the Guatemalan Community.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Tahuya Store:** Chief Bakken believes we need to take some sort of action with the store property. When we met as a Board over a year ago to share ideas, discussions had to be placed on hold due to the exploratory process of the RFA with Central Mason. We would like to get the public involved in this decision as the store has sentimental meaning to many local citizens. Chief Bakken is preparing a presentation and a need analysis for presentation at a community meeting on Tuesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

**Timber Tax Question:** Commissioner Voss-Petredis asked about the timber tax. How does the whole system work? Chief Bakken detailed the process of how we receive money from DNR lands. Usually when private land is logged as well as the land must sit with stumps until a period of many years.

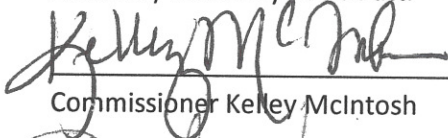
**Public Comment:** None

**Good of the Order:** None

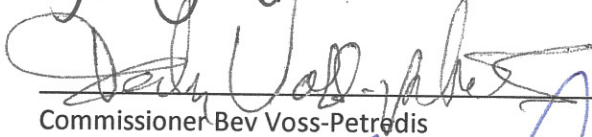
**Commissioner Wampold moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner McIntosh seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.**



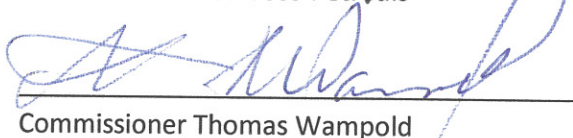
Authority Secretary Katie Patti



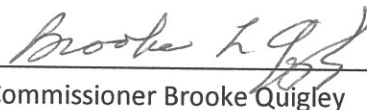
Commissioner Kelley McIntosh



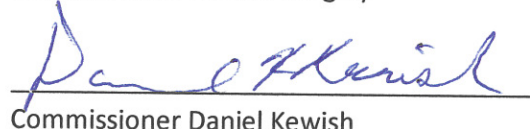
Commissioner Bev Voss-Petredis



Commissioner Thomas Wampold



Commissioner Brooke Quigley



Commissioner Daniel Kewish