



North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

Meeting Minutes

490 NE Old Belfair Hwy, Belfair WA

Telephone/Videoconference Option

6/14/2022

Present: Commissioners Severson, Miller, Kewish, Quigley and McIntosh; Assistant Chief Cooper; Chief Bakken

Absent: Executive Assistant Wassenaar

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting minutes from May 10 and 17, 2022, were presented for approval.

Commissioner McIntosh moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Quigley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Financial vouchers were presented for review. Commissioner McIntosh asked if there were any other outstanding costs for the new building or construction. Chief Bakken indicated there were some reimbursements for the Fire Authority before final reconciliation. He also stated that there would be an invoice for the local artist who recently completed the mural in the administrative/workroom area.

A motion was made by Commissioner McIntosh to approve the payroll and expense vouchers under BIAS 220601001 to 220601107 in the amount of \$409,065.35 and expense voucher 220602001 in the amount of \$1,166.10. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION

Safety Days 2022: Chief Bakken reported that Safety Days was very successful this year. It was a total of four days, with the event being held two days for each school. Of note, this was the 25th Annual Safety Days event. Many of the local community partners were present and able to participate, following COVID for the past two years. Chief Bakken indicated that approximately 1,000 kids participated; nearly 50% returned the homework to teachers for eligibility for raffle prizes. The grand prize winners were selected by individual school principals.

Commissioner Quigley asked if there are plans for school protection in the event of an active shooter, if children are outside the school, such as Safety Days, recess, etc. Chief Bakken stated that the schools have

a comprehensive plan for emergency events to include active shooter. There is a meeting set for this week to discuss ongoing planning. Planning partners include local law enforcement, fire, schools and the Department of Emergency Management. The meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Commissioner Miller asked about the use of tourniquet training to include student training.

Art Mural: Chief Bakken reported that the new station mural, designed by a local artist, has been completed. The theme is based upon the iconic view of the Hood Canal and Belfair looking out towards the Olympics. The rest of the art and décor is slowly being placed throughout the station. There are many new “move-in” tasks. The front office has the Commissioners’ mailboxes.

After Hours Chamber Event: The North Mason Chamber holds a monthly after-hours event to showcase local businesses. The Fire Authority will be showcased for the next month’s event, scheduled for July 14th. There will be refreshments and station tour. The fee for the event has been waived because of the Fire Authority’s public government status.

Grants: The Fire Authority was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant for a sign for the new fire station. Chief Bakken thanked Executive Assistant Wassenaar, Assistant Chief Cooper and the Firefighters Association for their work on the grant. The grant was awarded directly to the Firefighters Association based upon their non-profit status. The new sign will be internet capable and can be programmed to provide information.

Commissioner Severson stated that millions of dollars have been awarded in federal grants from the AFG, SAFER and Fire Protection and Safety Education grants. Statistics on grant awards were provided at the Chelan WFCA conference. Approximately 3,700 applicants were funded. Commissioner Severson also indicated there are six new wildland fire infrastructure grant opportunities. The total dollar amounts for those grants exceeds \$400 million.

Historically, the Fire Authority has done well in grant awards. Fire Authority members write their own grants and routinely submit applications regionally. The ability to partner with other local entities increases the likelihood of award success.

Station 81: Station 81 has the old generator connected for power to the new and old fire stations. PUD3 is in the process of setting up new transfer power stations for the north end of Mason County. Most of the construction occurring in the county is at the north end.

Handle with Care Program: Chief Bakken is meeting with local providers and partners to implement the Handle with Care Program. The program is designed to connect law enforcement, fire, schools and Kitsap Strong (non-profit) to help children with services and support after traumatic events (domestic violence, arrests in the family, law enforcement or fire related events).

Opioid Settlement: Chief Bakken reported that Mason County was not listed as part of the class action suit with other Washington Counties. However, there will be other settlement monies. Chief Bakken stated he will be meeting with Commissioner Shutty and Peninsula Community Health Services to discuss details regarding the needs with opioid response.

OLD BUSINESS

New Station Update: Assistant Chief Cooper reported that most of the work has been completed, with the exception of some internal doors and the apparatus bay doors. Two of the doors are ready for installation but all should be completed by the end of the week. There have also been door access code issues; the readers aren't always working but are being repaired. The previous issues with the alerting/lighting systems have now been resolved. The IAFF (copies provided) submitted a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Board and Administration for the new station. The plaque for the new station was completed and the Board was able to look at it before installation.

Chaplain Program: The Mason County Fire Chiefs are working on policies for the Mason County Chaplain Program. The program was recently able to obtain a vehicle (at no cost) from Department of Natural Resources: 2008 Silverado F350. The program training curriculum is designed for fire-based response and local needs. There are currently two new recruits from the Hamma Hamma area. Chief Bakken stated that on average, there are roughly three to four chaplain deployments per week.

Old Station 21: Mason County Manager Mark Neary, Commissioner Neatherlin and Kelly Frazier (Public Works) will be meeting with the Fire Authority on June 16th to discuss future planning for the use of Station 21 (old).

County Impact Fees: The County is looking at revisiting the option of Impact Fees with the recent and future growth, specifically in the north end. PUD3 and Water Districts have been receiving "hook up" fees and schools negotiate their fees. The UGA has rules/regulations surrounding impact and school fees. The Fire Chiefs Association recently submitted a letter to Mason County to initiate conversation(s) surrounding this issue.

NEW BUSINESS

ARPA/MIH Program: The American Rescue Plan Act provides funding for public health systems and other local needs. Monies are coming to the county for startup costs. The application was submitted on behalf of the Fire Authority. Still awaiting the status of the funding award. The use of funding is wide-ranging.

Public Comment: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Quigley stated that the memorial service for Mark Woytowich will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022, in Lilliwaup.

Chief Bakken announced the recent passing of Jim Verone, who served with Central Mason Fire & EMS as a paramedic and MACECOM as a dispatcher. He also announced the passing of Dave Salzer who served many years in the fire service with Shelton and also as a fire marshal for the city. No information on services/memorials was available.

Chief Bakken will be out of the office next week. Assistant Chief Cooper will be in the office for next week's meeting.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the letter of thanks from the IAFF.

A surplus list will be presented to the Board next month, following the recent move from the old to new Station 21.

The Mason County Fire Chiefs and Commissioners will be meeting in a combined meeting on July 7, 2022, at Station 11 Headquarters at Cherry Park, Shelton.

Commissioner McIntosh moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Authority Secretary Renee Wassenaar

Commissioner Paul Severson

Commissioner Bob Miller

Commissioner Kelley McIntosh

Commissioner Brooke Quigley

Commissioner Dan Kewish