



North Mason Regional Fire Authority (NMRFA)

Meeting Minutes

490 NE Old Belfair Hwy, Belfair WA

Telephone/Videoconference Option

9/20/2022

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

Absent: None

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FINANCIALS

Chief Bakken presented the September Budget Summary. He stated that revenues continue to be received steadily, with ambulance billing already surpassing what was budgeted. He indicated that we are also seeing an increase in expenditures, primarily with medical supplies and fuel costs. Chief Bakken stated that he wrote an ARPA grant through Mason County for federal funds received. He explained that funding will be used for the initial outfitting of the PA program. The Fire Authority was awarded the full request of \$330,000 – see Administration Report for additional discussions on the PA Program. He stated that the \$670,000 grant received for COVID relief will continue to be used for capital projects.

ADMINISTRATION

RAP Program Update: Emergency Prevention Specialist Abe Gardner provided an update on the Fire Authority's RAP Program. He stated that the program has received 46 referrals, with half currently active. In addition to his direct work with program participants, there have been six RAP Team member deployments and 37 referrals to external support agencies. Abe explained that in 2021, the referred individuals accounted for 200+ responses to their residences; since the program has been in effect, the Fire Authority has only responded 81 times. Chief Bakken stated that the WFCA's 3rd Quarter Fireline Newsletter included a feature article on the RAP Program.

Abe explained that he is working with multiple program participants on falls prevention, and recently received a grant from the Department of Health for 80 grab bars. He indicated that the Fire Authority will be partnering with the HUB Senior Center and RAP team members to install the bars. He also indicated that DOH expressed interest in our program while reviewing the grant request and highlighted it in a recent newsletter.

Overdose Awareness Day(s): EPS Gardner stated that the Fire Authority partnered with Mason County Public Health for two Overdose Awareness Day events on August 31 and September 1 in Belfair and Shelton. He explained there were roughly 20 participating agencies and there was great public turnout. Abe also thanked Commissioner Quigley for attending/participating in the event.

Resource Fair: EPS Gardner explained that he has been working with multiple resource groups to address the lack of access to resources in the rural communities throughout Mason County. To address the issue, the group has developed a traveling resource fair. The North Mason Regional Fire Authority will host the first fair at the Collins Lake fire station on September 28th and will include 30+ participating agencies. In the following months, the fair will be held at additional locations across the county. Commissioner Kewish asked how the event has been advertised; Abe confirmed that there has been advertising through social media, word of mouth and flyers.

Physician Assistant Program: Chief Bakken stated the new PA will start November 1, and the Fire Authority will begin marketing the program in October. Captain Ehresman has been working with St. Michael's Hospital, who will regularly send discharge patient lists to the Fire Authority. Chief Bakken explained that Fire Authority attorney Brian Snure drafted an Interlocal Agreement with the MCPHD#2, which is currently in review with Superintendent Sandy [Robertson], prior to Board consideration. Commissioner Quigley asked when the NMRFA Board will be meeting with the MCPHD2 Board. Chief Bakken stated that there will be a joint meeting in October to ceremoniously sign the ILA.

Chief Bakken indicated that he and Captain Ehresman have discussed the potential for the Fire Authority to transport patients to the local urgent care clinic with hospital executives. While the discussion was positive, no final decisions have been made yet. Chief Bakken stated that the group will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks. He clarified that this would only apply to minor cases that the urgent care can handle; true emergencies will continue to be transported to the hospital.

Chaplain Program: Chief Bakken stated that there was an Information Night for the Chaplain Program on September 15. He explained that 11 people attended the event, and we have also received four applications from individuals who did not participate. Chief Bakken indicated the academy begins on September 26th and will be held at Fire Authority Station 21 and in Kamilche. He also indicated that the sessions will be recorded for those who are unable to attend every evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Mason County Regional Delivery Fire Academy: Assistant Chief Cooper indicated there is a Regional Delivery Fire Academy currently offered in Mason County. The 240-hour IFSAC accredited academy is held three days per week on evenings and weekends, providing the same level of training that is offered at the four day per week fire academy held in North Bend. The cost of this program is covered in-full by the Washington State Fire Marshal's office.

CRT Training: Assistant Chief Cooper stated that Captain Cloud is currently creating a schedule for CRT training and will be advertising shortly. He is hoping to hold an academy in October. Chief Bakken stated that the Fire Authority reached out to all individuals who submitted applications, to notify them that there will be a CRT academy coming up. He explained that there are different options once they are through training, such as RAP or tender operations.

2023 Budget Draft: Chief Bakken stated that he will have a 2023 budget draft available for the Board in October.

NEW BUSINESS

Citizen’s Advisory Committee (CAC): Commissioner Quigley stated that she would like to step down as the CAC chair, following the October 10th meeting. She explained that the CAC was created in 2008 when the Collins Lake community wanted fulltime staffing of that fire station. Over time, participation has dwindled, and it is often the same people in attendance. Commissioner Quigley explained that there are currently many more avenues for providing information to interested CAC members, such as the Friday updates and social media. Commissioner Severson stated that he would like to continue the CAC and have participation of all Board members. Commissioner McIntosh recommended rotating the chair annually. She offered to be the chair for 2023/2024; Commissioner Severson will be the chair the following year. The Board reviewed the CAC mission statement and made no updates or corrections. Commissioner McIntosh advised that she will also attend the October 10th meeting.

Public Comment: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Severson stated that he would like to hold a Retention Meeting and potentially send out the retention survey. The Retention Meeting was scheduled for November 17 at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner McIntosh advised that she will reach out to Fire Authority staff for feedback.

Commissioner McIntosh asked if there were any updates on the Trails End fire station. Chief Bakken asked to table the discussion until the Retention Meeting.

Commissioner Quigley indicated that she had heard 9-8-8 has been successfully used since its launch, and asked if there was an impact within the Fire Authority.

Commissioner Quigley moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Authority Interim Secretary Beau Bakken

Commissioner Paul Severson

Commissioner Bob Miller

Commissioner Kelley McIntosh

Commissioner Brooke Quigley

Commissioner Dan Kewish