



# North Mason Fire

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## NORTH MASON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY Regular Meeting Minutes: 11/19/2024

**Present:** Commissioners Paul Severson, Kelley McIntosh, John Inch, Dan Kewish, and Bob Miller. Chief Bakken, Assistant Chief Cooper and Executive Assistant Musgrave.

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** None

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

Chief Bakken presented the 2025 NMRFA Draft Budget, highlighting the challenges of obtaining certified assessed values from Mason County this year. He noted that the new construction value is the highest he has ever seen. Key points from the PowerPoint presentation included revenue from the fire levy, an increase in ambulance fees, and the starting balance, which will be brought down to \$230,000 as in previous years. Chief Bakken also mentioned that MIHP funding contracts will be outlined on a separate line for both revenues and expenses. Regarding 2025 expenses, labor costs are at an all-time high, with benefits also increasing, along with the addition of more line staff. Insurance premiums have risen with the addition of the new Station 21, and there are additional increases in the MACECOM rate, the replacement of expiring turnout gear, training, and upgrades to fire equipment on engines. The proposed 2025 Operating Budget is \$6,842,671.

Chief Bakken presented two resolutions for consideration to the Board of Commissioners: Resolution 24-3, for the adoption of the 2025 Operating Budget, and Resolution 24-4, which outlines a 1% increase in the EMS levy amount in 2025.

**Commissioner McIntosh moved to approve both resolutions as presented by Chief Bakken. Commissioner Inch seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Chief Bakken presented the November Budget Summary, noting that the annual budgeted revenues have been surpassed. He expects tax revenues to reach 100%, with DNR Timber

revenues projected to come in at \$50,000. The GEMT settlement funds are also included in the summary. Ambulance billing is performing well, and annual expenses are on track. Chief Bakken stated that the Authority can expect to carry over \$300,000+ into 2025.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**South County MIHP** - Chief Bakken announced the expansion of the Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program to South/Central Mason County. The plan includes hiring two providers, conducting onboarding, and building out the program in Quarter 1-2025.

**NW CIT Conference** - The MIHP team attended the NW CIT Conference in Boise, ID, where they presented the Beyond 911 film and participated in a panel discussion. The event was well attended.

**County Fire Marshal Services** - Chief Bakken shared that the County Fire Marshal is halfway through his contract and has expressed a desire not to renew. We are exploring contract-for-services opportunities with in-house staff at local districts, with more details to come in 2025.

**Community Outreach Coordinator (COC) Assessment Process** - Chief Bakken shared that the Assessment Center for the COC is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd. Seven applicants will participate out of the 17 applications received. Commissioners Kewish and McIntosh will be participating in the interviews.

**NMSD/Chamber of Commerce MIHP Presentations:** Chief Bakken noted that the MIHP team has been presenting the program locally, with recent presentations at the North Mason School District and the North Mason Chamber of Commerce.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Solar Bid Acceptance:** Chief Bakken presented the two bids that were accepted at the November 12th meeting and recommended that the award be made to the lowest responsive and accepted bid, J H Kelly, LLC.

**Commissioner McIntosh moved to accept and award J H Kelly, LLC for the Station 21 Solar Project as presented by Chief Bakken. Commissioner Inch seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

## **Public Comment:**

None

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

Chief Bakken shared the sad news of Chaplain Shirbish's passing. He was a wonderful person who touched the hearts of many and will be deeply missed. His family plans to hold a celebration of life at the beginning of the year.

**With no further business, Commissioner McIntosh moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kewish seconded the motion. With no further business, Commissioner Severson adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm.**

**Board of Volunteer Firefighters**

Meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm

**Present: Commissioner McIntosh, Assistant Chief Cooper, Executive Assistant Musgrave, and Volunteer Firefighter Palmer.**

**One invoice was presented for review and approval: Volunteer firefighter physical therapy due to injury totaling \$505.00.**

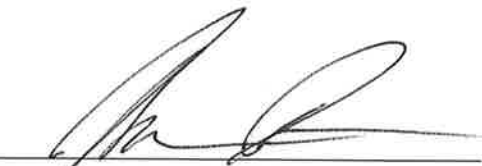
**Assistant Chief Cooper moved to approve and pay the invoice. Volunteer Firefighter Palmer seconded the motion. Motion carried.**


**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.**

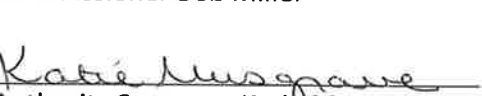
  
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Commissioner Kelley McIntosh

  
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Authority Secretary Katie Musgrave