



North Mason Fire

NORTH MASON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY Regular Meeting Minutes: 8/12/2025

Present: Commissioners Paul Severson, Bob Miller, Kelley McIntosh, John Inch ^{via Zoom KM} Dan Kewish
Chief Bakken, Assistant Chief Cooper and Executive Assistant Musgrave

Guests: None

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

FINANCIALS

Financial vouchers were presented and reviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Kewish moved to approve Voucher Numbers 250801001 to 250801099 for \$592,414.30. Commissioner Inch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Bakken shared that the July and August Budget Summary will be sent out this week.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

National Night Out Recap: Chief Bakken reported that the August 5 National Night Out was held in partnership with NMRFA, South Mason Fire, and the Mason County Sheriff's Office. It was a true community gathering with a great turnout, even running out of hotdogs, and will now be planned as an annual event. Thank you, Abe Gardner for coordinating that event.

Station 81 Trespass: Chief Bakken reported that an individual who had resided in a home adjacent to Station 81 for several years and was recently evicted had parked a U-Haul in front of the station for several weeks; following the issuance of a trespass notice, the individual relocated down the road.

South Mason Fire and Rescue Commission Appointment: Chief Bakken was honored to announce that our own Emergency Prevention Specialist, Abe Gardner has been appointed as a Fire Commissioner for South Mason Fire & Rescue, describing this as a valuable opportunity for him to serve his home community.

Solar Panel Project Update: Chief Bakken reported that the solar panel project remains on budget and on schedule, with panels installed and crews currently working on electrical connections and battery setup in coordination with JH Kelly.

Wildfire Deployments: Chief Bakken reported that all crews have returned from wildfire deployments, noting that no NMRFA crews are currently assigned to the Bear Gulch Fire, and that the Hamma Hamma Fire is in mop-up operations.

VFIS Risk Assessment: Chief Bakken shared that VFIS will conduct a risk assessment on August 25 to review current policies and procedures and provide recommendations for reducing risk.

South MIHP Celebration: Chief Bakken shared that the South MIHP Celebration at the Shelton Yacht Club was a well-attended event with strong partner participation, and recognized Abe Gardner and Katie Musgrave for their coordination of the event.

NMRFA CRT Graduation: Chief Bakken reported that nine new members graduated last month from the CRT training program and will serve the Tahuya community, and he extended appreciation to COC Carl Bryant and Firefighter Ellie Lechner for their efforts in leading the training.

Temporary Staffing: Chief Bakken provided a staffing update, reporting that Firefighter Tuesday Palmer has been hired in a temporary position to provide coverage while staff are out on PFML leave.

Treat and Refer Ambulance Billing: Chief Bakken reported that the Fire Authority has applied for additional funding through Treat and Refer ambulance billing, with the goal of generating new revenue for patients referred to Mobile Integrated Health when not transported.

Hydrant Locks BWD: Chief Bakken shared that two hydrants in the district have been accessed illegally at night, and that the Authority will be working with the water district to install locks on the hydrants of concern and update CAD for safety.

PS Trax Contract Cancellation: Chief Bakken reported that the Authority will discontinue the use of the PS Tracks vehicle and maintenance tracking application after June 2026 due to rapidly increasing costs, and that alternative systems are being explored.

Annual Hose Testing: Chief Bakken shared that annual hose testing was conducted at Station 21-2, resulting in a significant amount of surplus hose due to grant-funded replacements, and noted that local districts have expressed interest in acquiring the surplus equipment.

Laptop/MDT Donation: Chief Bakken reported that Katie Musgrave secured a donation of eight laptops, which will be placed into service on units currently without tablets.

Cargo Trailers: Chief Bakken shared that the old trailer at Station 21-2 is still pending Mason County action regarding surplus and noted that a community member has donated a nearly new 20-foot enclosed trailer, which will be put to immediate use by Abe Gardner.

New Superintendent at NMSD: Chief Bakken reported that the North Mason School District has welcomed a new superintendent, Dr. Kristine Michael. He noted that Dr. Michael attended National Night Out with her husband. He further shared that Dr. Michael expressed interest in continuing safety partnerships with the Authority. Chief Bakken also reported that he and Katie Musgrave have joined the Levy Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:


OLD BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner McIntosh requested that Chief Bakken's command vehicle be returned. She noted that no citations or Department of Licensing actions have been issued. Commissioner Severson requested verification of Chief Bakken's license through a driver's abstract. The Board agreed that with a valid driver's license, Chief Bakken will retain access to his command vehicle. Commissioner Severson further requested that a communication be drafted to update all Fire Authority members regarding this matter.

Commissioner McIntosh moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Inch seconded the motion. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm.



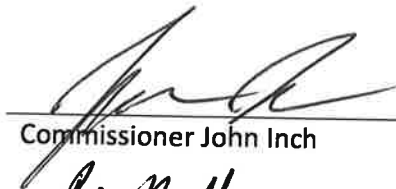
Commissioner Paul Severson



Commissioner Kelley McIntosh



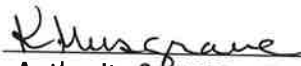
Commissioner Dan Kewish



Commissioner John Inch



Commissioner Bob Miller



Authority Secretary Katie Musgrave

