



**NORTH MASON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting Minutes: 1/13/2026**

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

Zoom: Brooke Quigley

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

Meeting minutes from December 2025 were presented and reviewed. **Commissioner Inch moved to approve meeting minutes; Commissioner McIntosh seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

FINANCIALS

Financial vouchers were presented and reviewed by the Board.

Commissioner Miller moved to approve Voucher Numbers 260101001 to 260101092 for \$639,892.86. Commissioner McIntosh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

MIHP Update:

Chief Bakken reported a reduction in overall call volume from 2024 to 2025, citing a significant positive impact from the Mobile Integrated Health Program (MIHP). South Mason Fire is experiencing a similar reduction, reinforcing the program's regional effectiveness.

MIHP continues to engage high-utilizing callers, with call volume doubling in the fourth quarter. Chief Bakken recognized Mindy Bishop for her strong leadership as the program's new provider.

Chief Bakken noted the separation of the South End MIHP medical provider. Aaron Meyers has assumed the role of South End peer support specialist and is off to a strong start. The City of Shelton is hiring a coordinator to support the South MIHP team.

Ellie Lechner Return: Chief Bakken shared that Ellie Lechner will be returning to work on February 1st. He noted that she will complete a re-onboarding process prior to resuming her full scope of duties and expressed that the department looks forward to having her back.

Community Newsletter Distribution: Chief Bakken shared about the community newsletter, noting the final draft went to print today. He highlighted a new format with expanded content compared to previous years and thanked Abe Gardner and Katie Musgrave for their work on the project.

Brad Byerly Update: Chief Bakken shared that he recently visited Brad and Tammy and was encouraged by Brad's continued improvement, increased movement, and positive progress.

2026 EMT Class: Chief Bakken shared that 17 students are registered for the upcoming EMT class, which will be taught by Robert Collamore. Classes will be held at Station 21 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays through the month of April.

Policy Review Update: Chief Bakken shared that the policy review remains a work in progress. Union President Ryan Cleveland is taking the lead as efforts move forward.

2026 Fire Chaplain Academy: Chief Bakken shared that the January Fire Chaplain Academy information meeting was well attended and that the application process is currently underway. He noted that all areas of Mason County are represented among participants. The training calendar is being developed and will be shared once available.

Fire Inspector Class/Certification: Chief Bakken shared that a fire inspector class is scheduled for early 2026 and that MRFRA will be sending two to three participants.

New Ambulance Arrival:

Chief Cooper shared that the new ambulance is ready for pickup tomorrow. He noted that he and Captain Rhead will complete the inspection and bring it to Station 21 to be outfitted and logoed.

Central Mason Fire & EMS Leadership: Chief Bakken noted that Central Mason Fire is in the process of selecting interim chiefs following the retirement of current leadership. He also shared that Central Mason Fire will be running a fire levy in April.

Survey and Rating Bureau: Chief Bakken also noted that a visit from the Serving and Rating Bureau is anticipated in 2026, though an exact date has not yet been scheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

WA State Auditor Exit Conference: Chief Bakken shared that the Washington State Auditor Exit Conference is scheduled for January 29th. He noted that two board members are needed to participate and that follow-up will occur later in the week to confirm attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Elections:

Commissioner Kewish motioned to nominate Commissioner Severson for Board Chair. Commissioner Inch motioned to nominate Commissioner McIntosh for Board Chair. Commissioner McIntosh motioned to nominate Commissioner Kewish for Vice Chair.

Following a unanimous board vote, Commissioner McIntosh was elected Board Chair, and Commissioner Kewish was elected Vice Chair.

EMS Levy Workshop: Chief Bakken requested that the Board participate in an EMS levy workshop. The Board agreed on March 21st at 9:00 a.m. The workshop will provide commissioners time to work through details of the MMRFA EMS levy.

Local 3876 Labor Negotiations: Chief Bakken requested two Board members to participate in labor negotiations. Commissioners Severson and McIntosh agreed to serve in that role.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

GOOD OF THE ORDER: None

Commissioner McIntosh shared an update on the Mason County Fire Commissioners meeting, noting poor attendance. She also shared that Mason County will host the Region 9 workshop on April 21st in Grapeview. The Spring conference is scheduled for May 2nd at Clearwater, and the Fall Conference will be held in Spokane.

Commissioner Severson moved to adjourn the meeting. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.



Commissioner Paul Severson



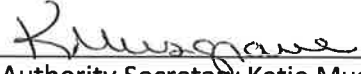
Commissioner Kelley McIntosh



Commissioner John Inch

Commissioner Bob Miller


Commissioner Dan Kewish


Authority Secretary Katie Musgrave