

**SOUTH WHIDBEY
FIRE/EMS
REGULAR MEETING
5579 Bayview Road, Langley,
Washington
July 9th, 2020 – 5:30 PM**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/152478637>

Minutes

Attendance via GoTo Meeting: Chairman Mestemacher, Vice Chairman Noblet, Commissioner Metz, Chief Palmer.

In Audience: FF/EMT Rebekah Pomeroy, FF/EMT Robbie Husom, Sherrye Wyatt, 2 unknown callers.

- I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Mestemacher called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.
- II. **Approval of Agenda.** Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Metz seconded.
- III. **Public Input.** None.
- IV. **Consent Agenda** - All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of South Whidbey Fire/EMS's Board of Commissioners for reading and study. They are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting on June 11th, 2020
 - b. Finance Officer's Reports –
 - c. Monthly Vouchers— \$161,186.35

Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda; Commissioner Metz seconded.

- V. **Unfinished Business** –
 - a. **Levy Lid Lift Update.** Chief Palmer stated that we are continuing to do public outreach, and the local union and Citizens' group have been active in placing signs around the District.
 - b. **COVID-19 Update.** Chief Palmer notified the Board we have been very fortunate in not having any exposures thanks to the crews doing a great job at wearing PPE. The administrative staff will be arriving back into the office on Monday, and masks will continue to be required if social distancing isn't attainable. The stations are starting to perform in-person training in small groups. We are also looking into obtaining another three to six months of mask supplies.

Commissioner Noblet asked Chief Palmer when we may be able to resume in-person meetings; Chief Palmer stated that it may be as early as August, but our District Attorney believes it'll likely be closer to September.

VI. **New Business –**

- a. Resolution 2020-11 Levy Lid Lift for General Election. Chief Palmer stated to the Board that we have a lot of supporters and a few “no’s”, and feels that it’s prudent to discuss the possibility of placing the levy lid lift on the November general election ballot should it fail during Primary Election. We should have a “Plan B”, however, the question is how much should the next levy lid lift request be?

Commissioner Noblet stated that even if the thirty cent lid lift isn’t supported, he strongly feels that we should go back out for thirty cents again on the General Election ballot as that is the amount the District needs to provide a high level of service.

Chief Palmer agreed that the thirty cent lid lift is what the District needs. Chief Palmer recommended to the Board to place the lid lift of thirty cents on the General Election ballot, should the Primary Election lid lift request fail.

Commissioner Noblet stated that although asking the public for the levy lid lift was a difficult decision, he recognizes the current needs of the District, and how desperately these additional funds are needed.

Chief Palmer added that although he would have thought call volume would have gone down due to COVID-19, calls are actually higher than last year to date.

Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-11 Levy Lid Lift for General Election, with the requested amount being thirty cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation for property values, should the lid lift fail on the August Primary Election ballot. Commissioner Metz seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

VII. **Announcements:**

- Fire Fair Status. Chief Palmer notified the Board that while he had hoped to hold the fair this year, he will be cancelling due to not being feasible to accommodate the social distancing guidelines; we should be extra cautious at this time, and keep our members and the public safe.

Chief Palmer also stated that he and the Commissioners will be holding a virtual Q&A regarding the levy lid lift. Chief Palmer and Commissioner Noblet will be online at 7pm on July 15th, and he and Commissioner Metz will be online at 7pm on July 23rd. Marketing Consultant Sherrye Wyatt shared that we have posted this information on our website and as well as social media.

VIII. **Comments from Commissioners:** None.

IX. **Executive Session: RCW 42.30.110 Personnel Matters.**

- Chief Palmer stated that he, the Board and the District Secretary will be going into Executive Session at 5:55pm for 20 minutes to discuss two personnel matters. No decisions will be made. The Executive Session will end at 6:15pm.

X. **Action taken as result of Executive Session:** No action was taken during the Executive Session.

XI. **Conclude.** The Board came out of Executive Session at 6:15pm. Chairman Mestemacher concluded the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,
District Secretary