

**SOUTH WHIDBEY
FIRE/EMS
REGULAR MEETING
5579 Bayview Road, Langley,
Washington
February 11th, 2021 – 5:30 PM**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/968051373>

Minutes

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

In Audience: Deputy Chief Terry Ney, Lt. Leah Kalahiki, FF/EMT Chris Turner.

- I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Metz 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.**
 - a. Sherrye Wyatt thanked the 17 first responders that took the time to get trained to vaccinate the community on Sunday at the Trinity Lutheran Church, which vaccinated 400 people.
- 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 January 19th, 2021
 - b. Finance Officer's Reports –
 - c. Monthly Vouchers— \$261,113.49

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

- V. **Unfinished Business** –
 - a. **Amendment to Policy 103: Financial Management, offered for second reading.** Commissioner Mestemacher moved to approve the policy amendment as presented at the first reading; Commissioner Noblet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. **New Business** –
 - a. **Resolution 2021-03 Warrant Cancellation.** Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve

Resolution 2021-03 for a warrant cancellation for the reason listed; Commissioner Mestemacher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Safer Grant Discussion.** Chief Palmer stated that FEMA offers a SAFER Grant to Fire Districts that is meant for staffing, and would like to know if the Board would like the District to apply for this 3 year grant. Our levy lid lift would definitely allow us to hire staff as planned, but, if awarded, the SAFER Grant would help defray much of the short term costs to cover hiring full-time firefighters.

Commissioner Noblet asked if there are any downsides to applying for or being awarded these federal grants. Chief Palmer stated that the District has already received 5 federal grants in the past, and there are no financial downsides to applying for or being approved. This particular grant phases out the award amount over three years, to which point the districts receiving the grant should be able to support the cost of the new hires on their own. Chief Palmer stated that SWFE would definitely be financially stable enough in three years to support our new full-time firefighters.

- c. Vaccine Clinic discussion.** Chief Palmer stated that the next pop-up vaccine clinic is scheduled for March 7th, but Chief Ney is looking into doing a drive thru clinic instead in partnership with WhidbeyHealth. There is no timeframe yet from the hospital on when this could happen.
- d. District EMS Contingency Plan discussion.** Chief Palmer wanted to inform the Board that he and other Fire Chiefs in the region have started a discussion regarding a “what if” scenario if WhidbeyHealth would no longer being able to provide EMS services. Chief Palmer stated that all Fire Districts are starting to discuss forming a contingency plan if the island needed more ambulances available, and it shall be a long discussion formulating a long-term plan on what this looks like.

Chief Palmer stated that his goal is to continue to provide the best possible services to our citizens should the hospital’s stance on ambulance staffing ever change in the future.

VII. **Announcements:**

- a.** Chief Palmer notified the Board that he will be out of town following the holiday on February 15th, from the 16th - 19th.

VIII. **Comments from Commissioners:**

- a.** The Commissioners thanked those involved in the successful vaccine clinic.

IX. **Executive Session:** None.

X. **Action taken as result of Executive Session:** None.

XI. **Conclude.** Chairman Mestemacher concluded the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,
District Secretary

