

**SOUTH WHIDBEY
FIRE/EMS
REGULAR MEETING
5579 Bayview Road, Langley,
Washington
April 8th, 2021 – 5:30 PM**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/986756333>

Minutes

Attendance via GoTo Meeting: Chairman Metz, Vice Chairman Noblet, Chief Palmer. Commissioner Mestemacher joined the meeting at 5:43pm due to technical difficulties.

In Audience: Deputy Chief Jon Beck, Lt. Leah Kalahiki, FF/EMT Chris Turner, FF/EMT Robbie Husom, FF/EMT Sean McDougald, Sherrye Wyatt.

- I. **Call to Order.** Chairman Metz called the meeting to order at 5:31p.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 March 11th, 2021
 - b. Finance Officer's Reports –
 - c. Monthly Vouchers— \$172,097.17

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

- V. **Unfinished Business** –
 - a. **Vaccine Clinic update.** Chief Palmer stated that the District is in the exact same position as we were in last month regarding partnering for a vaccination clinic. He has yet to see the County's agreement that they are working on as it is still in the planning process. However, the County is currently about 30% vaccinated.
 - b. **Grants Update.** Chief Palmer notified the Board that we are currently involved in applying for three grants - a COVID 19 supply grant, a staffing grant, and an assistance to firefighters grant. Chief Beck provided the Board with a brief description of what the COVID grant entailed, and Chief Palmer provided an explanation of that the staffing and assistance to firefighters grant.

- c. **COVID19 Meeting Requirements.** Chief Palmer stated that GoTo meetings seem to be the easiest route for now as COVID meeting requirements for in-person meetings are stringent. The District's attorney recommended keeping things this way if they are working for us.

VI. **New Business –**

- a. **CBA Negotiations.** Chief Palmer intends to open negotiations for full-time Firefighters on May 18th at 1pm. He has spoken with the current union representative and the members will need to go into a different union once they are full-time. There is still some uncertainty as to when the full-time positions will go into effect as the state is currently considering a delayed collection of property taxes, which the District uses to pay wages and benefits.
- b. **Officer Testing.** Chief Palmer notified the Board that the District will be hiring another Lieutenant position, which is a relatively big process. This position will become the Lieutenant for the third rotating shift of the full-time firefighters. The testing date is April 24th, Lt. Kalahiki stated.
- c. **Firefighter Testing.** Chief Palmer stated that we are currently accepting applications for the future full-time firefighting positions and will have a testing date of May 22nd. He stated that we have a number of volunteers interested in testing. Commissioner Noblet had some questions regarding the testing process.
- d. **Commissioner Election Process.** Chief Palmer notified the Board that the District has made a press release regarding the Commissioner position opening on January 1st, as Commissioner Mestemacher does not intend on re-running. We will continue to advertise to try to find as many interested candidates as possible. Sherrye Wyatt stated that the Whidbey Weekly ran the article on page 5.

VII. **Announcements:**

- a. Commissioner Metz stated that he was running for re-election and he looked forward to continuing serving the interests of the District's residents and businesses as commissioner.

VIII. **Comments from Commissioners:**

- a. Commissioner Noblet thanked all involved in a member's recent personal life event and thanked all involved. He also thanked Chief Ney for reiterating in his email that full-time staff will not replacing volunteers.

IX. **Executive Session:** None.

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

XI. **Conclude.** Chairman Metz concluded the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,
District Secretary