

**SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**5579 Bayview Road, Langley, Washington**  
**July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 5:30 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/464679829>

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

**In Audience:** Deputy Chief Jon Beck, FF Blake Benenati, Lt. Leah Kalahiki, Lt. Alex McMahon, FF/EMT Robert Husom, FF/EMT Brian Boyd, Gregory Hustead, Richard Ullman, Abigail Payne, Sherrye Wyatt. Suzie Prentiss joined at 5:35, Rebekah Pomeroy joined at 5:42, FF/EMT Chris Turner joined at 5:49.

- I. Call to Order. Chairman Metz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Approval of Agenda. Commissioner Noblet made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Commissioner Mestemacher seconded.
- III. Public Input. None
- IV. Consent Agenda – Consent agenda tabled until next meeting.
- V. Unfinished Business – None.
- VI. New Business –
  - a. **Bid Approval, Executive Search Proposal.** Chief Palmer stated that the District went out to bid nationally for the search. The District received three bids:
    - Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) - \$20,000.00
    - Prothman - \$20,500.00
    - Powelson Consulting – did not meet minimum bid requirements.

Chief Palmer stated that he reviewed both bids from the bidders that met the bidding requirements, and both are sound and very close in cost. Commissioner Metz stated that he was concerned with the very different timeframes that the two companies wanted to start; Chief Palmer said he believes even starting at the very beginning of 2022 would be enough time.

Commissioner Noblet asked Chief Palmer if he has any experience with either of the two companies; Chief Palmer stated he does have experience in both companies' hire processes, but not relating to the District when he was hired. Commissioner Noblet stated he would be more comfortable starting the headhunting process sooner rather than later.

Commissioner Noblet asked Chief Palmer which company he would recommend. Chief Palmer stated he has more experience with ESCI, but he feels both companies had a good headhunting process.

After some discussion, Commissioner Noblet made a motion to have Chief Palmer move forward with a contract with Emergency Services Consulting International; Commissioner Mestemacher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Collective Bargaining Agreement Approval with IAFF Local 5212 for Full-Time Firefighters.** – Chief Palmer stated to the Board that the District is preparing to move into full-time crews as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. The District had good bones with the first union contract and built on it. The IAFF has signed it and the Local has ratified. The contract will be valid from August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, to August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The District's labor attorney has reviewed the contract and made a few minor recommended changes, which the Local agreed to.

Commissioner Mestemacher made a motion to approve the union contract as presented; Commissioner Noblet seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Noblet commended both the union leadership and Chief Palmer for putting the contract together.

VII. Announcements: Chief Palmer notified the Board that although we typically do the Mid-Year Budget adjustment this month, we must hold off until August due to the Union Contract needing to be approved first.

VIII. Comments from Commissioners:

Commissioner Mestemacher stated that there will potentially be a new commissioner joining the Board as his replacement. Chief Palmer explained that the County will open a three day window prior to when the August primary would have been held. If no one files for the position, Commissioner Mestemacher would retain that position until he chooses to walk away. Then the Board would have to appoint a replacement.

Commissioner Noblet asked Chief Palmer how the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend went for the District. Chief Palmer stated that we had 38 calls over the three day weekend.

IX. Executive Session: None

X. Action taken as result of Executive Session: None

XI. Conclude. Chairman Metz concluded the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Sarah Pedersen,  
District Secretary