



SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES SNOHOMISH REGIONAL FIRE & RESCUE

SRFR Station 31 Training Room/ Via BlueJeans
163 Village Court, Monroe, WA 98272
May 30, 2023, 1730 hours

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Elmore called to order the meeting at 1730 hours. In attendance were Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Fay, Commissioner Gagnon, Commissioner Schaub, and Commissioner Steinruck. In attendance via video, Commissioner Waugh.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NA

UNION COMMENT: NA

CHIEF'S REPORT: As presented. Chief O'Brien announced the retirement of Battalion Chief Hyatt on May 30, 2023. Congratulations and thank you to BC Hyatt following his career of 31 years with SRFR. Chief O'Brien noted the new recruits have received their station assignments.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Finance Committee: Commissioner Elmore reported on the recent meeting, highlights included invoicing review, 1st quarter financial review, Board of Volunteer claim, post-retirement medical claim and Fire Levy update.

Capital Facilities: Commissioner Schaub gave an overview on the Station Design Conference attended by Commissioner Schaub, Commissioner Edwards, Chief O'Brien, Assistant Chief Guptill, Deputy Chief Rasmussen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Vouchers

Benefit Vouchers: 23-01221 to 23-01230; (\$676,821.72)

AP Vouchers: 23-01231 to 23-01346; (\$474,335.89)

Approval of Payroll

May 15, 2023 (\$1,138,379.40)

Approval of Minutes

Approve Regular Board Meeting Minutes – May 11, 2023

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted.

Motion by Commissioner Steinruck and 2nd by Commissioner Schaub.

On Vote, Motion carried 7/0

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion

Resolution 2023-6 Fire Levy Lid Lift: Chief O'Brien overviewed the Levy Lift resolution to be submitted for general election in November. Please see letter attached from Chief O'Brien to the Board of Commissioners (page 3).



Action

Administrative Building: lower floor renovation

Motion to authorize the Chief to execute the agreement with Westrock Construction.

Motion by Commissioner Gagnon and 2nd by Commissioner Schaub.

On Vote, Motion carried 7/0

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion

Action

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Congratulations to Deputy Chief McConnell on his appointment to the Board of Washington Fire Chiefs.

ATTENDANCE CHECK: Board Members noted availability for the Regular Commissioner Meeting June 8, 2023, at 1730-Station 31 Training Room/Blue Jeans.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Elmore called for Executive Session at 1742 hours per RWC 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public. The expected return to the regular BOC meeting is 1747 hours, with no decision to follow.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Elmore adjourned the meeting at 1747 hours.



May 26, 2023

Dear Commissioners,

Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue is committed to our mission of saving lives, protecting property, safeguarding the environment, and taking care of people. Whether attending to the needs of a cardiac patient, responding to a vehicle accident, extinguishing a house fire, or helping a citizen with smoke detectors; our team of dedicated professionals is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of the communities we serve.

Because of strong community support, Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue has built the highest level of emergency response in Snohomish County with highly trained personnel and progressive rescue programs. Our personnel continue to respond when the community needs us most. We appreciate the consistent personal and financial support which maintains quick response times, ongoing training for our firefighters, and the equipment we need to serve you.

We also are committed to being responsible stewards of the citizens' hard earned tax dollars. We make sure that every dollar spent is directly connected to our mission. Through our comprehensive budgeting process, we evaluate, plan, execute, and monitor every expenditure. Each year, our financial and business practices are independently audited by the State of Washington. As a result, we have a successful track record of clean audits, which is proof of our financial accountability to taxpayers.

With the support of our community, daily operations at Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue are funded primarily by two voter-approved levies paid through property taxes for fire and emergency medical services. Because we are limited by statute to one percent increases in the tax levy each year, these levy rates fall over time as property values rise. This limits the fire district's ability to keep up with rising operational costs.

In response to rising costs and given the need to maintain our levels of service to our Communities, the SRFR Staff and Finance Committee recommends that we ask the voters to restore the Fire Levy to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed property value. The current Fire Levy is \$1.14 per thousand assessed property value. We recommend placing the proposition on the November 2023 election ballot. If approved by voters, the restored levy will provide sufficient revenue to address rising costs related to staffing, equipment, facilities, and ensure SRFR emergency responders are well trained, equipped, and ready to respond to any alarm.

With the potential approval of this proposal by our Board, we look forward to engaging our public to share more about Snohomish Regional Fire and Rescue and the opportunities and challenges that lie before us.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Kevin K. O'Brien, Fire Chief



Snohomish Regional Fire & Rescue

Commissioner Rick Edwards

Chairman Troy Elmore

Vice Chairman Randy Fay

DocuSigned by:

6A74BCD50C7F475... Commissioner Paul Gagnon

Commissioner Jeff Schaub

Commissioner Jim Steinruck

Commissioner Roy Waugh