

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for January 11, 2022
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on January 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Board: Commissioners Eileen Weyrauch and Teresa Phelps; Ben Kaiser participated remotely via GoToMeeting

Others Present: Chief Stan Cooke, Deputy Chief Kim Stanley, Maintenance Captain Jake Ambach, EMS Captain Josh Ambach, and Secretary Robin Harbin

OATH OF OFFICE:

a. Teresa Phelps – Commissioner Position No. 2

Commissioner Weyrauch administered the oath of office for Teresa Phelps, who was duly sworn in as Spokane County Fire District 13 Commissioner Position No. 2.

b. Ben Kaiser – Commissioner Position No. 3

Commissioner Weyrauch administered the oath of office for Ben Kaiser, who was duly sworn in as Spokane County Fire District 13 Commissioner Position No. 3.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Commissioner Weyrauch made a motion to elect Commissioner Phelps to serve as Chairperson and Commissioner Kaiser to serve as Vice Chairperson for the Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 13 this year of 2022; Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion; Commissioner Weyrauch called for the vote which passed unanimously.

LONG TERM CARE PAYROLL DEDUCTION:

Robin requested a decision from the board regarding the payroll deduction for Long Term Care which employers are required to begin as of January 1, 2022. Some employers are electing to postpone the deduction until after legislators have reviewed and approved the deduction. If we begin the deduction as required, we will be able to make reimbursements should Long Term Care be amended in legislation. Commissioner Weyrauch motioned to begin Long Term Care deductions as required in January 2022; Chair Phelps seconded; Chair Phelps called for the vote which passed unanimously.

SAFER GRANT 2022:

Chief Stan discussed the need for a SAFER Grant, presenting several options to the board. We are experiencing declining volunteerism. We should consider increasing shift and resident volunteers as well as an internship program to compensate for the projected decreases in community volunteers. However, our current staff and volunteers would be overburdened by the administration, training and oversight involved in bringing on a sufficient number of young recruits. Without adequate administration and training, this could lead to the danger of sending inexperienced rookies in to fight a fire without adequate experienced firefighters.

One objective is to hire an Administrative Captain who would be a daytime firefighter and would oversee Fire and EMS training, maintenance, and facilities, and other miscellaneous duties.
The Total Cost: \$88,197 (Wage=\$65,000; Insurance Benefits=\$8,400; Costs=\$14,797)

Stan presented the need for a levy lid lift to cover any or all of the following:

1. \$88K for an Administrative Captain
2. \$53K more for a full-time Deputy Chief in 2024/2025 (Current DC is part-time)
3. \$63-\$88K for a Volunteer Coordinator after the SAFER Grant period
4. \$35K for inflation of 5% per year for 5 years
5. \$53K to maintain 9 Shift Volunteers positions each year

The district needs to increase the levy by about \$0.50 per \$1000 valuation to get \$290K-\$310K/year.
 $\$0.50/\$1000 = \$50$ per year increase (\$300K home = \$150/year, \$600K home = \$300/year)
We are currently at \$1.02 per \$1000. The levy ceiling is \$1.50 per \$1000.

In 2009 we had a 4-year lid lift with an increase of \$0.41/\$1000 (from \$0.69 to \$1.10). The 2009 levy lid lift expired in 2013.

No decisions were made regarding the SAFER Grant or the levy lid lift. We will discuss options with further details at our next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.



Teresa Phelps, Chairperson

1-19-22
Date



District Secretary

1-19-2022
Date