

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for July 18, 2024
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on July 18, 2024, 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; Commissioner Ben Kaiser participated remotely via Microsoft Teams

Others Present: Chief Daron Bement, Captain Josh Ambach, Secretary Robin Harbin, and community members Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

PUBLIC HEARING – Strong Road Annexation, Parcel Numbers 56154.9054, 56154.9055, 56154.9056, 56154.9057, 56154.9058, and 56154.9059

Real estate representative Riley Price submitted a final petition to be annexed into the district on June 19, 2024. The petition for annexation into Spokane County Fire District No. 13 was signed by all property owners of the above-listed parcels. In accordance with RCW 52.04.031-051, the board of fire commissioners reviewed the boundaries of the properties to be annexed and accepted the annexation petition at their public meeting held June 20, 2024. July 18, 2024 was set as the date for public hearing. a hearing notice was published in the Spokane Valley News Herald; and three notices of public hearing were posted in the proposed annexation area. Opportunity was given for public testimony. No public was present, nor public testimony given, at this public hearing held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 18, 2024. Chief Bement affirmed that annexing the entirety of Parcel Numbers 56154.9054, 56154.9055, 56154.9056, 56154.9057, 56154.9058, and 56154.9059, located at the end of Strong Road, into Spokane County Fire District No. 13 as a good decision. Secretary Harbin reported that according to Levy Specialist Jim Hawvermale of the Spokane County Assessor's Office, property annexations approved by the County Board of Commissioners after July 31st will not be assessed for fire district taxation until the following year. As the board was in agreement, and there were none in opposition, Chair Weyrauch closed the public hearing at 1:05 p.m. with the Annexation Resolution to be voted upon later in the regular commissioner meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for June 20 and July 11, 2024; Financial Reports; Approval of June 2024 Warrants #12153 - #12196 in the amount of \$96,128.73; Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$5,410.80; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$2,988.33. Commissioner Phelps motioned to accept the consent agenda; Chair Weyrauch seconded; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Fire Auxiliary representative Josh Ambach reported the Fire Auxiliary balance is \$14,000, per Auxiliary President, Kelli Lemley. The balance will be approximately \$10,000 after paying for the T-shirts purchased for the annual sale. This is the highest amount brought in from the T-shirt and

Hot Dog sale. The Fire Auxiliary is planning to sell mugs, magnets, and previous years' t-shirts at the ice cream social scheduled August 21st from 5-7PM at the fire station.

CORRESPONDENCE

Secretary Harbin presented an email from Eric Swaggerty of Enduris Insurance, comparing our current coverage to that obtained from Nicholson and Associates. The coverage proposed by Nicholson and Associates was inferior to that of Enduris in numerous areas. Although a quote for equal coverage was requested from Nicholson and Associates, they did not provide such a quote before the deadline passed to switch carriers. Therefore, we will continue to be covered by Enduris for the 2025 policy year. We will reach out to Nicholson and Associates again next year to see if they can provide equal coverage at a lower cost.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Daron Bement

Calls/Training/Staffing/Apparatus/Facilities:

Both the 4th of July parade and the T-shirt Hot Dog sale were successful community events this month. Many positive comments were heard in support of the fire department. We had a total of 23 emergency incidents in June; a 60% increase over the 9 calls in June of 2023. As of July 18th, we have had 122 emergency calls this year – an increase of 81 calls – 33% over this time last year.

Several people have expressed an interest in volunteering with the department; two live in district. They have not yet attended a Thursday night training; we are hopeful they will join us soon.

The HVAC repair/replacement is complete.

Tender 13-4 had a small leak in the low-pressure pump hose that was repaired by House of Hose for less than \$50. Brush 13-1 had an exhaust failure that was repaired at Discount Muffler for \$35.

June training has included Apparatus Maintenance, Vehicle Fire, Hose Deployment, and EMS Trauma Review.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT by Captain Josh Ambach

Security Cameras:

New security cameras have been installed for monitoring the perimeter of Station 1. Signs are posted in accordance with legal requirements for recording. Recordings are saved by 180 days. Walk arounds will continue to be conducted with in-depth review of security camera footage when warranted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

HVAC – Andrews Mechanical Final Invoice; Proof of Loss to Enduris:

Final invoices from Andrews Mechanical included \$2,478.30 for electrical work and \$540.50 for a condensate pump. Total invoices for Andrews Mechanical on the HVAC repair/replacement were \$78,405.58. The total received from Enduris was \$78,405.58. Only the initial inspection and evaluation of the system at prevailing wage, a cost of \$824.26, was not covered by Enduris.

Levy Lid Lift – Review of July 16th Community Meeting

Chief Bement expressed his appreciation of all the positive support and good community engagement at the July 16th meeting. Although there were a few derogatory statements made against the commissioners, the overall contributions to the meeting were toward sustaining the services

provided by the fire department and funding the ability to reinstate programs toward 24-hour coverage at the station. Captain Josh Ambach received three requests from participants for DNR Neighbor Ready Wildfire Prevention surveys. Although Secretary Harbin was not able to interject loan data during the community meeting, she stated the commissioners were very wise in taking out the \$300,000 low 1.75% interest loan in January of 2021. This not only kept funds in the capital construction reserve fund for unforeseen facilities expenses, but it was also invested in the Spokane County Investment Pool. Since 2021, the capital construction reserve fund has earned nearly \$20,000 in interest; the interest paid on the \$300,000 loan is less than \$12,000. That means the invested capital construction reserves have earned approximately \$8000 more in interest than what has been paid on the low interest loan.

Chief Bement received a phone call from Spokesman Review reporter Nina Culver this morning regarding an article to be printed in the Valley Free Press after receiving a letter from community member Bill Jackman. Some community members have received an email from Bill Jackman. Chief Bement will address the statements put forth by Mr. Jackman. For example, we should not be compared to District 5 as they do not have a manned station, have fewer calls, and cannot run all their own calls, according to Captain Josh Ambach.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2024-6 A Resolution to Annex Parcels 56154.9054, 56154.9055, 56154.9056, 56154.9057, 56154.9058, and 56154.9059 Into the District:

After review of Resolution 2024-6 with Addendums A-D, Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the resolution as written; Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2024-7 A Resolution Providing for the Submission of a Levy, General Levy - Provisional:

Chief Bement stated this is provisional as it must be submitted to the County Elections Department by August 6, prior to knowing the results of the August 6th election. The Resolution will be pulled if the August 6th ballot measure is approved by a majority of the voters. Commissioner Kaiser questioned keeping the 3% increase in the second, third, and final year of the levy lid lift. However, the statutory lid is 1% without the need for a levy lid lift, so to better keep up with inflation, he agreed that rerunning the ballot exactly the same as the August 6th measure will be appropriate. After review of Resolution 2024-7 Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the resolution as written; Commissioner Kaiser seconded the motion; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Pfeiffer shared that their homeowners' insurance premiums have increased substantially. The Pfeiffers have been with the same insurance carrier for years. Their agent stated this is happening across the country, with some homeowners having their coverage cancelled. The agent also stated this is not a good time to switch carriers as a longtime good standing with your insurance carrier will help toward keeping your coverage.

Dave Pfeiffer asked if Commissioner Ben Kaiser lives in Newman Lake. Chair Weyrauch replied yes, that he and his family have lived in Newman Lake for four years. He works for Coeur d'Alene Fire Department. Chair Weyrauch shared that she and her husband, Scott, live in temporary housing provided for ALS patients. Although the ALS patient housing is in Coeur d'Alene, Chair

Weyrauch's permanent address is still in Newman Lake. The department's attorney has confirmed Chair Weyrauch's ability to fulfill the term of her office.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- We will only be covering the Lincoln Road neighborhood this evening as the weather is extremely hot.
- Secretary Harbin has reserved a hotel room for Chair Weyrauch at the Annual WFCAs conference in downtown Spokane to take place October 23-26, 2024. Conference registration opens up August 1st. Total estimated cost for all three commissioners is approximately \$2,700.
- The yellow community meeting signs on Idaho Road need to be removed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RCW 42.30.110 (f)(g) to receive and evaluate complaints brought against a public employee; review the performance of public employees.

Chair Weyrauch called for a twenty-five (25) minute executive session at 1:53 p.m. The public meeting resumed at 2:18 p.m. No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.



Eileen Weyrauch, Chairperson

8-15-24
Date



Robin Harbin, District Secretary

8-15-24
Date