

**NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE**  
**Spokane County Fire District No. 13**  
Minutes for March 21, 2024  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on March 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

**ROLL CALL**

Board: Commissioners Eileen Weyrauch, Teresa Phelps, and Ben Kaiser  
Others Present: Chief Daron Bement, Captain Josh Ambach, Secretary Robin Harbin, Fire Auxiliary Representative Faye LeGrand, Dave Pfeiffer, and Nevia Small. Captain Jake Ambach participated remotely via Microsoft Teams

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for February 15, March 1, and March 6, 2024; Financial Reports; Approval of March 2024 Warrants #11997 - #12036 in the amount of \$44,906.34 (note that warrant 11997, in the amount of \$5,600.00, was previously approved at a special meeting held March 1, 2024, leaving a remainder to be processed of \$39,306.34); Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$5,222.51; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$2,805.44. Commissioner Kaiser motioned to accept the consent agenda; Commissioner Phelps seconded; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

**AUXILIARY REPORT**

Faye Le Grand reported the Fire Auxiliary balance is \$8,578.00. Wish list items purchased for the fire department include two tech rescue rope bags and three new American flags for the flagpole in front of Station 1.

**CORRESPONDENCE - None**

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT by Chief Daron Bement**

**General Message:** The Chief and Captain attended the NW Leadership Seminar March 6-8, along with the Commissioners. There were many excellent speakers this year. The Community Meeting held March 18 was successful. The resolution on today's agenda was written according to feedback received from community meetings. The annual community clean-up, organized by the Newman Lake Property Owners Association, will be hosted by the department at Station 1 on Saturday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m.

**Calls/Training/Staffing/Apparatus/Facilities:** We had 10 incident responses in the month of February 2024. We have lost three volunteers: Tanner Cassell and Jon Umble have been hired by Spokane Valley Fire Department; Alex Mickschl has accepted a full-time job elsewhere. We have four interested and potential volunteers going through the volunteer vetting process.

**Facilities:** McKinstry Fire Sprinkler systems has agreed to complete the work that was required as part of the original plans for the Station 1 fire sprinkler system on March 27, 2024 at no cost to the district. This is an approximate \$6000.00 savings.

**CAPTAIN’S REPORT by Captain Josh Ambach**

**Apparatus:** Tender 4’s seatbelt/seat-weight sensor has been repaired. Dobb’s Peterbilt is attempting to get the repair covered under warranty. Command 3, the 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe, has been stripped, cleaned, and listed for sale. Command 4, the 2015 Ford Explorer is now in service and just needs our logo applied to the doors.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Levy Lid Lift – Review of 3/18/2024 Community Meeting:** Chief Bement stated that twenty people attended. A draft ballot proposition for August 6, 2024 was discussed with attendees selecting a levy rate of \$1.10 per \$1000 of assessed property value with a limit factor of 3% rather than the statutory maximum limit factor of 6%, run for only four years rather than the usual six years. The commissioners attending agreed with the opinion of the community members that the ballot proposition should be clear and simple. The question now is how to reach the public with information regarding the importance of a levy lid lift. Several of the attendees at the meeting have formed a public action committee. Commissioner Phelps pointed out that voters need to know that potential increases in property insurance far exceed the increase in taxes at \$1.10 per \$1000AV as illustrated by Vashon Fire’s chart showing an increase in insurance of an additional \$1,315 for a \$500,000 home vs an increase in taxes of \$186 per year. She suggested contacting Vashon Fire as well as Spokane Valley Fire for resources to obtain specific information regarding insurance increases in our district. Chief Bement will be meeting with Julie Happy at Spokane Valley Fire in the next few weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2024-3 Levy Lid Lift for August 6, 2024 Primary Election:** Robin stated the levy lid lift resolution proposes to restore the levy to the 2009 rate of \$1.10 per \$1000 assessed value; will be limited to four years rather than six; and will have a limit factor of 3% rather than 6%. The 3% limited increase each year is based on the amount of taxes the fire department collected the year before, not on the assessed value of property. After the four years, the limit factor goes back to the 1% lid, meaning the fire department can only ask for a 1% increase in the taxes they collect from one year to the next. After review, Commissioner Kaiser motioned to approve Resolution 2024-3 as written; Commissioner Phelps seconded; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

**Lexipol Policy 217 – Capital Assets Policy:** The fixed capital asset value was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000, (except for assets regulated by Federal Grant guidelines of \$5,000), by motion and vote at the March 17, 2021 Commissioner Meeting. However, it was not put into Lexipol. Commissioner Phelps motioned to approve the Capital Assets Policy as entered in Lexipol; Commissioner Kaiser seconded; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – None**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

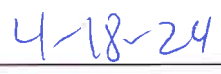
Chair Weyrauch brought items from the NW Leadership Seminar including The Generational Decoder Card designed to increase communication and understanding between Baby Boomers, Generation X, Millennials, and Generation Z. She also brought a Vehicle Accident kit put together by Enduris. Enduris would like to give an informational presentation to our members and provide a kit for each of our apparatus. Robin will coordinate with the Captains and contact Enduris to set this up.

Robin reviewed a few legal points picked up at the Spring Snure Seminar Series she attended in Spokane on March 2. To avoid accidental public meetings, commissioners should never “reply all” to emails sent out to more than one of them. They may also not present a topic of discussion regarding the department to a department member with a request that the member act as a go between to effectually create a department discussion amongst the commissioners. This is considered a prohibited “serial” meeting. Drafts of minutes are considered public records and may be requested, although not approved. They must be marked clearly as a draft.

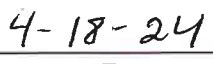
**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

  
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Eileen Weyrauch, Chairperson

  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin Harbin, District Secretary

  
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Date