

**NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE**  
**Spokane County Fire District No. 13**  
**Minutes for April 13, 2021**  
**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 April 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

**ROLL CALL**

Board: Chair Eileen Weyrauch and Commissioner Teresa Phelps.

Others Present: Chief Stan Cooke, Secretary Robin Harbin, Craig Warzon, and Ben Kaiser

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The board was introduced to Craig Warzon and Ben Kaiser. The third candidate, Bob Roberts, had withdrawn his name from consideration for interim Fire Commissioner.

**INTERVIEWS FOR INTERIM COMMISSIONER POSITION**

**Overview of interview process:** Chair Weyrauch explained that according to law, the interviews for interim commissioner must take place in a public meeting and gave an overview of the process: Commissioners will alternate asking questions and candidates will alternate order of response to ensure fairness and equity. Chair Weyrauch asked if there were any questions before proceeding with the following interview questions:

1. Briefly tell us about yourself – education, work experience, hobbies, etc.
2. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Commissioners for Newman Lake Fire & Rescue?
3. What experience have you had in dealing with budgets, policy, and personnel issues?
4. What experience have you had in a leadership role working with employees, union, non-union, and/or volunteer firefighters?
5. What do you know about the Newman Lake Fire Department and the responsibilities of its board of commissioners?
6. If you have ever been part of a service club, non-profit, or community organization, what was your role and what were your accomplishments?
7. Do you have any specific goals or objectives for Newman Lake Fire & Rescue that you would pursue if you were appointed as a fire commissioner?
8. What obligations do you have that might interfere with the regular and/or special board of commissioner meetings?
9. Where do you see yourself in five years?
10. Do you have any questions for us?

**Summary of Candidate Interview Responses:**

**Ben Kaiser** moved to Newman Lake from Idaho last year with his wife and two children. He has been a full-time firefighter in Coeur d'Alene for four years and is currently in the paramedic program. Ben was a middle school teacher in Alaska prior to moving to Idaho. It was there that he began his firefighter career as a volunteer, advancing to become a firefighter and EMT instructor for the

University of Alaska Fairbanks. Ben's previous leadership experience includes ski patrol, eagle scout, and running a Boy Scout summer camp in Missouri. He is excited about the goals and trajectory of NLFR and looks forward to making a positive contribution to the community.

**Craig Warzon** has been a member of the Newman Lake community since 1992. He too has a background in Ski Patrol and Boy Scout leadership. Craig has extensive experience as a firefighter. He was a volunteer with NLFR for several years, has led the Safety Santa program in area schools for many years, and has been a full-time firefighter with SVFD for the past 24 years. As a Safety and Training officer, he has become familiar with associated Washington State codes and regulations as well as the tax levy and fire department budgeting processes. Craig likes the excitement Chief Stan has brought to NLFR and expressed a desire to make sure the crews are fully trained, supported, and appreciated.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office. However, any interview of such candidate and final action appointing a candidate to elective office shall be in a meeting open to the public.

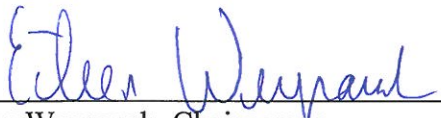
At 6:53 p.m. the Board went into executive session for 15 minutes.

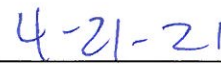
#### **SELECTION OF INTERIM COMMISSIONER**

Chair Weyrauch said it was an honor to be able to select candidates with a fire service background to interview for the interim commissioner position and stated that both Ben and Craig did an awesome job. Commissioner Phelps motioned to select Ben Kaiser as interim commissioner; Chair Weyrauch seconded; Chair Weyrauch called for the vote which passed unanimously.

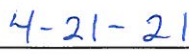
#### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

  
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Eileen Weyrauch, Chairperson

  
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Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date