

**NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE  
Spokane County Fire District No. 13**

Minutes for March 25, 2025  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING  
COMMUNITY MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on March 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

**ROLL CALL**

Board: Commissioners Teresa Phelps, Ben Kaiser, and Eileen Weyrauch

Department Members: Chief Daron Bement, Captain Josh Ambach, Lieutenant Carleen VanDerostyne, and Secretary Robin Harbin

Community Members: Lynn Iaquinta, Karen and Jerel Rowe, Justin StormoGipson, Carrie Foshee, Sue Gleckler, Cindy and Hal Ebel, Betsy Frazier, Pat Brown, Gayle Furness, and Marianne and Bob Roberts.

**COMMUNITY MEETING OPENING & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Phelps opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance, welcomed attendees, and introduced the meeting. Beginning with the board, all in attendance introduced themselves.

**UPDATES ON DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS:**

Chief Bement thanked the community for supporting the department and our funding proposal at \$1.10/\$1K assessed property value. He gave a report on the following positive achievements:

- **Residents** - We have four Resident Firefighters living at Station 1, ready to respond on calls nights and weekends.
- **Fire Academy 2025** - Twelve new recruits are two weeks into their 16-week Firefighter Academy. The quality training provided through the academy will qualify graduates to take the National Firefighter 1 test after academy.
- **Shift Volunteer Program** - The Shift Volunteer program is going strong, providing coverage at the station during daytime hours. Shift Volunteers live outside the district and provide a minimum of 24 hours of shift coverage per month.
- **Community Volunteers** - Community Volunteers, living inside the district, are currently at 17, up from only 11 active volunteers in prior years.

**NEW APPARATUS – Command 1301, Command 1302, and Brush 13-3:**

- **TOTAL Cost** – Less than \$60K for all three vehicles.

- **2 for 1** – The two Command Vehicles, a 2015 and a 2012 Chevy Tahoe were both obtained for less than \$50K as the 2012 was donated to the department. Just one new Chevy Tahoe Command Vehicle would cost over \$80,000.
- **Brush Truck 13-3** – The district applied for a DNR Grant to obtain a surplus brush truck. We were disqualified due to the total assessed property value of the Newman Lake district. Realizing our need, DNR arranged to deliver a green, 2011 extended cab brush truck from the Federal Government. We have free use of the vehicle for an indefinite time period. DNR will reimburse up to \$20K in expenses necessary to repair, equip, and put the truck into service.

**FULL-TIME TRAINING OFFICER:**

Lieutenant Carleen VanDerostyne began her Training Officer position in January. She works a rotating shift, providing valuable training and Duty Officer coverage. Carleen is coordinating proper and timely training to improve retention and ensure safety of all. The additional full-time firefighter provides more coverage at the station, allowing for more outside training opportunities and mobilizations on state wildland fires while providing adequate coverage in district. The district received nearly \$30,000 in 2024 for the use of our apparatus on wildland mobes, another advantage of receiving the 2011 Brush 13-3.

**CDA FIRE DONATION OF 5 GENTLY USED 4-GAS MONITORS:**

The department had only one 4-gas monitor prior to receiving the donation from CDA Fire. A new 4-gas monitor costs approximately \$2500.

**FOWLER FIREFIGHTER TRAINING:**

Our district will be the Fowler Firefighter Training location for eastern Washington. Hosting the trainings will allow us to have up to 5 participants per session at a savings of \$2,150 per person, for a total value of \$10,750. The next testing will happen in August, allowing there are enough outside participants.

**THANK YOU TO THE NEWMAN LAKE FIRE AUXILIARY:**

The Fire Auxiliary was acknowledged and commended for their hard work and dedication in supporting the department with the annual hot dog/t-shirt sale, breakfast with Santa, providing meals to volunteers on training nights, and purchasing jackets as well as other needed items for the department.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE STATISTICS:**

Captain Josh Ambach reported we had 224 emergency responses in 2024 - 147 were EMS calls; 12 were brush fires. As of today, March 25, 2025, we have had 49 calls, a 28% increase over this date last year. At this rate, we will likely hit nearly 300 calls in 2025. The average time of day for calls is 1:37 p.m. Our out-the-door time average is 1 minute, 51 seconds. Our average time to arrive on scene is 6 minutes, 25 seconds. It takes AMR an average of 21 minutes to arrive on scene in our district.

**EMS LEVY RENEWAL COMING UP ON AUGUST BALLOT:**

Community members were presented with a draft of a possible voter pamphlet explanatory statement regarding the renewal of the 6-year EMS Levy, which will be renewed at the same rate approved in 2019. The EMS Levy has been approved by the Newman Lake community since 1988 and makes up approximately 25% of our annual budget.

**COMMUNITY QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION:**

Questions and comments included the following –

**How many EMTs and Medics are on the Department?**

We currently have: 3 Medics, 3 Advanced/IV EMTs, and 22 Basic EMTs

**How many Volunteers have an AED?**

Five Volunteers carry an AED in their vehicle and a LifePak 15 with AED is on each Medical Squad.

**How much does it cost per Volunteer Firefighter?**

Secretary Harbin stated there are many factors involved in the cost per Volunteer, such as whether or not we have gear/uniforms to fit them. The detailed requested data will be emailed to those requesting it.

**What items are on the Department's wish list?**

- New bunker gear to replace outdated. Although we have applied for grants several times to replace gear, we have not yet been awarded a grant.
- In approximately five years, we will need to look at replacing at least one of our two engines, which are 2001 models. At 30 years of age, the WSRB no longer counts them as engines. A new engine currently costs upwards of \$750,000. A new engine is not necessary, but we are looking at options to upgrade in the coming years and need to plan ahead and start setting aside capital funds.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

  
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 Teresa Phelps, Chairperson

4-17-25  
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 Date

  
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 Robin Harbin, District Secretary

4-17-2025  
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 Date

