

**NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE**  
**Spokane County Fire District No. 13**  
Minutes for July 17, 2025  
**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on July 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

**ROLL CALL**

Board: Commissioners Teresa Phelps and Eileen Weyrauch, Commissioner Ben Kaiser participated via Microsoft Teams

Others Present: Chief Daron Bement, Lieutenant Carleen VanDerostyne, Secretary Robin Harbin, and Community Members Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for June 19, and June 23, 2025; Financial Reports; Approval of Warrants #12658 - #12703 in the amount of \$59,204.81; Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$6,991.17; and DRS Pension in the amount of \$3,784.74. Commissioner Kaiser motioned to accept the consent agenda; Chair Phelps seconded; Chair Phelps called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

Robin pointed out a warrant number typo on the June 19, 2025 Agenda. Commissioner Kaiser motioned to correct the typo to accurately match the warrant numbers on the approved and signed Voucher Approval 06-2025; Chair Phelps seconded; Chair Phelps called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

**AUXILIARY REPORT**

As Fire Auxiliary member Josh Ambach is away on a wildland fire mobilization, Chief Bement relayed the information provided. After expenses, the Fire Auxiliary made an estimated \$10,000 from the 2025 T-Shirt Hot Dog sale but no official numbers are available. The NLPOA Ice Cream Social will be held at the Fire Station from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 25. Ice cream, hot dogs, and bread sticks will be served.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- A donation of \$75.00 in memory of community member Spencer Davis was received from Alan and Carol Davis on June 23, 2025.
- The Enduris invoice was received for Policy Year 2026. The total is \$48,868, an increase of approximately 4.8% over last year. Whereas the percentage increase in total premiums from Policy Year 2024 to 2025 was over 18%.

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

**General Message:**

- A small 2-acre fire was stopped by crews and mutual aid partners on W Newman Lake Drive and E Foothills Drive.

- Crews have been out on several fires this past month and continue to assist with mutual aid and state mobilization fires. We have sent two trucks for state mobilizations to the Hope Fire in Kettle Falls. They were extended to 21 days this week.
- We assisted SCFD 3 on a couple of fires this year. One was a single-day state mobilization for two trucks.
- Crews are prepared to send at least one more truck out if needed to support efforts across the state and still have coverage available locally.

#### **Calls, Staffing, Facilities, Training:**

- We had 18 emergency calls in June 2025, as compared to 23 calls in June 2024.
- 2025 year-to-date calls is at 110 as of June 30, on par with this date last year.
- The propane heater for Station 2 had to be reordered as the shipper returned all items.
- Training has included – EMS Scenarios - Active shooter/Active Threat; Forcible Entry Techniques; EMS OTEP - MVC/MCI With Extrication; and Fire Ground Search and Rescue Techniques.

#### **CAPTAIN'S REPORT by Captain Josh Ambach**

Lieutenant Carleen VanDerostyne gave a report in the absence of Captain Josh Ambach who is deployed on a wildland fire mobilization. Lt. Carleen has applied for a \$15,000-\$25,000 grant for new turnout gear from Firehouse Subs. She is utilizing ChatGPT to assist in researching available grants as well as assist in writing/editing grant application narratives.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **Cordico App Follow-up:**

The department applied for a grant from Community Foundation to fund a year of the Cordico Wellness App, a resource focused on mental, emotional, and physical well-being. Unfortunately, the grant was denied. Furthermore, polling our members reflected little interest in the Cordico App.

##### **EMS Levy Renewal:**

- Journalist Troy Slack authored an article published June 30, 2025 in the Spokesman-Review conveying key facts about the EMS levy renewal. The EMS levy renews by vote every six years and is on the August 5<sup>th</sup> ballot.
- Community and department volunteers will be delivering EMS levy information to households in the district who do not receive our mailers. Participants will meet at the fire station this evening, July 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Add New Business to the Meeting Agenda:**

Commissioner Weyrauch motioned to add Resolution 2025-9 to the agenda; Chair Phelps seconded; Chair Phelps called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

##### **RESOLUTION 2025-9 to Submit a Six Year EMS Levy General Election - Provisional:**

Resolution 2025-9 was presented to submit a six-year EMS levy on the November 4, 2025 General Election ballot should the EMS Levy Renewal not pass at the August 5, 2025 Primary Election. After review, Commissioner Weyrauch motioned to approve Resolution 2025-9; Commissioner Kaiser seconded; Chair Phelps called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dave Pfeiffer inquired about the procedure for write-in candidates. Robin offered that she can provide Washington state rules and procedures; further information should be obtained through the Spokane County Elections Department.

### GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Chief Bement has scheduled the Coeur d'Alene Fire Pipes and Drums to play bagpipes at Firefighter Scott Weyrauch's memorial Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. SVFD Fire Commissioner Patrick Burch has offered to help plan Scott's memorial. The memorial will also be for Scott's best friend Leonard who passed a week after Scott. Rob Reavis will officiate as Scott would call him, the "Master of Ceremonies."
- Chief Bement stated our district, as well as other fire districts in the county with medics, are applying to operate under an ALS license rather than a BLS license. This action is after Fire District 9 has announced they are withdrawing from AMR by next year and will provide their own ALS transport. This action is also in response to how the new Attorney General interprets laws, stating the Department of Health will not support complaints against medics operating under a BLS license. Attorney Brian Snure, however, has stated the opposite – a medic may be held liable for not providing ALS level care even under a BLS license. An ALS license requires 24/7 medic coverage. We currently have medic coverage on 85% of calls; 94% of calls are covered by an advanced EMT or higher. Commissioner Weyrauch wants to ensure our ALS level responders are protected against any lawsuit. Chief Bement stated our attorney's statement as well as our insurance covers our medics from liability.

### ADJOURNMENT

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

  
Teresa Phelps, Chairperson

8-21-25  
Date

  
Robin Harbin, District Secretary

8-21-2025  
Date

