

NEWMAN LAKE FIRE & RESCUE
Spokane County Fire District No. 13
Minutes for April 20, 2023
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 13 met on April 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at Station No. 1, 9324 N Starr Rd., Newman Lake, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Board: Chair Ben Kaiser, Commissioner Eileen Weyrauch, and Commissioner Teresa Phelps
Others Present: Chief Stan Cooke, Josh Ambach, Jake Ambach, Robin Harbin, Toni Halloran, Jerry Le Grand and Faye Le Grand

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda consisted of the meeting minutes for March 1-3, 2023, March 16, 2023, March 23, 2023, and March 24, 2023; Financial Reports; and Approval of Warrants #11499 - #11544 in the amount of \$56,580.01, Payroll Taxes in the amount of \$7,655.82 and DRS Pension in the amount of \$2,150.52. Commissioner Phelps moved to accept the consent agenda; Commissioner Weyrauch seconded; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

AUXILIARY REPORT

Faye Le Grand reported the current Fire Auxiliary fund balance is \$4,241. Auxiliary member Bob McCauley has offered to take over providing meals for the firefighters as needed at trainings. Faye confirmed the date of the Newman Lake Fire & Rescue Open House is June 10th, not June 17th.

CORRESPONDENCE

Robin presented a letter from Avista informing us that our comfort level billing for Station 1 has increased from \$912 per month to \$1,572 per month as of March 2023. Part of the increase is due to the addition of the Annex, which must be kept at a minimum temperature in the winter to protect the apparatus. The Annex will be insulated as the budget allows.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Hail Damage Repairs - Roofing:

Numerous roofing companies have been contacted to obtain quotes for repair/replacement of the roofing on Station 1, the Annex, and the Pavilion. Only four companies agreed to come out and only two provided estimates. Disaster Response submitted an estimate of \$131,901.84 before tax. Precision Maintenance submitted an estimate of \$89,842.50 including tax. Robin sent both estimates to Enduris Claims Analyst Karen Easterday and Adjuster Steve McDonald.

ERS to ESO Transition Progress and Changes:

Captain Josh Ambach gave an update on our transition to ESO. We have dropped two modules we do not need – Activities and EMS Inventory. We have added a necessary module – Assets. We are set to go live with ESO starting May 15.

MINUTES 04/20/2023

Page 1 of 3

Levy Lid Lift:

Robin submitted the Levy Lid Lift Resolution 2023-5, the Spokane County Ballot Issue Explanatory Statement, and the Spokane County Resolution Cover Sheet to the elections department on April 5th, to be placed on the August 1, 2023 ballot. Chief Stan put out an announcement to the community, via the Newman Lake Property Owners Association, asking for interested “for” and “against” committee members. Robin will submit the For and Against Committee Appointment Form to the elections department prior to May 12, 2023.

Recruit Academy:

Captain Jake Ambach announced that the Recruit Academy will begin May 1st and will run through the first Saturday of June. Twelve members are expected to attend – 9 Recruits and 3 Members. The Academy will run on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00-4:00 p.m. The training content will bring participants up to a Firefighter 1 equivalent according to NFPA 1000 standards.

NEW BUSINESS**Volunteer Agreements**

Chief Stan Cooke has revised the Shift Volunteer Agreement and has written a Community Volunteer Agreement after participating in a webinar put on by Attorney Brian Snure. All volunteers will sign the agreements, which have been approved by Brian Snure.

Selection of New Chief

EXECUTIVE SESSION: RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

Commissioner Weyrauch called for an Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of the three final candidates for the position of Fire Chief. The Commissioners and Chief Cooke went into Executive Session for 10 minutes from 1:15 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. No decisions were made.

Chair Kaiser stated that after reviewing the interview and assessment results of the three final chief candidates, he recommended selecting the candidate with the highest score, Daron Bement. Commissioner Weyrauch motioned to hire Daron Bement as the department’s new chief; Commissioner Phelps seconded the motion; Chair Kaiser called for the vote, which passed unanimously.

Salary & Benefits Package for New Chief

Chief Stan shared that Daron Bement is currently the fire chief at Tillamook, Oregon. Tillamook is similar in size and budget to Newman Lake Fire & Rescue. Daron has been their chief for three years. Stan will draft a job description, benefits package, and agreement to present at a special meeting. Chair Kaiser asked if Chief Bement would be willing to start at \$100,000 per year rather than \$110,000.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Le Grand asked if the new chief will relocate to the district. Chief Stan replied yes, that Chief Bement has been exploring housing in the area. Jerry also inquired about the Levy Lid Lift Resolution. Robin replied that it is the same as last year except that instead of asking \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed value, the district has lowered the request to \$1.40 per \$1000 of assessed value.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Stan shared that a local couple came in to express their appreciation for our emergency services during their medical crisis. They donated \$100 to the department.

ADJOURNMENT

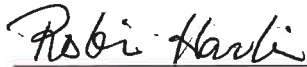
As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m.



Ben Kaiser, Chairperson

5/18/23

Date



Robin Harbin, District Secretary

5/18/2023

Date

