

Whatcom County Fire Distr

2030 Benson Road, Suite A
Point Roberts, Washington, 98281

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

August 26th, 2013

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Meursing.

In Attendance: Commissioner William Meursing
 Commissioner Stanley Riffle
 Commissioner Jeffery Wilmot
 Chief Christopher Carleton
 Recording Secretary Michelle Starrs

Absent: Financial Manager SuzAnne Kinsey

Guests: John Shields Sr.
 Jollena Tylor
 Mike Hendon
 Judy Ross
 Mary Carleton
 Richard Carleton
 Jeanette Meursing
 Monica Zeilenger
 Ginni Messervey
 Pat Grubb – All Point Bulletin
 Carol Fuegi
 Rob Dean

B. REMUNERATION FOR CHIEF CARLETON

These items were requested by Commissioner Riffle as per our legal counsel's handbook – Section One, pages 8 and 9.

Chairman Meursing started the meeting by explaining that this meeting was a continuance of the last Regular Meeting's final item, the fire chief's proposed pay raise. He pointed out that the bonus mentioned in the Regular Meeting was off the table as we cannot bonus employees with public monies.

Commissioner Riffle started off by proposing the chief's salary be increased 30% to \$53,000.00 per year, stating the chief had done a spectacular job over the past year and it was time to bring his salary up to his excellent performance. Commissioner Riffle explained that the chief's contract when written was just a guess of what we would need and the chief's performance, including all his volunteer hours, has proven otherwise. Commissioner Wilmot responded, upset that he did not have comparable fire chiefs salaries for Whatcom County. The salary range was given by the Chief. Commissioner Wilmot praised the chiefs work but wondered why we should unilaterally open up the chiefs contract to change. Commissioner Meursing pointed out that his contract was written allowing salary increases without changing the context of the contract. Commissioner Wilmot finally proposed raising the chief's salary to \$75,000.00 per year. Some minor audience interruption occurred wondering why we just didn't increase the required minimum hours upward. Commissioner Riffle explained that we wanted to keep the chiefs contract as structured to be a model contract should we ever have to hire a new chief. We are a volunteer organization and keeping the chief's hours at 80 was important to keep the part time volunteer aspect intact.

Chief Carleton interjected to thank the board for their high vote of confidence however, he could not accept an increase to exceed \$50,000.00 per year. The chief cited others in his organization deserved increases as well, and that we must keep within the approved annual budget. A final offer by Commissioner Meursing to increase his salary to \$53,000 per year was made and the Chief declined.

MOTION: Commissioner Riffle moved to increase the annual salary of Chief Carleton to \$50,000.00 per year effective September 1, 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilmot. **Motion passed 3 – 0.**

C. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Commissioner Meursing adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be September 11th, 2013.

Commissioner William Meursing

Commissioner Stanley Riffle

Commissioner Jeffery Wilmot

Dated _____

Attest: _____
Recording Secretary Michelle Starrs