

Whatcom County Fire District #5
Point Roberts Fire Department

2030 Benson Road, Suite A

Point Roberts, Washington, 98281

Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

April 14th, 2021

MINUTES

In Attendance via Zoom platform: Commissioner Virginia Lester
Commissioner Pat Harper
Commissioner Raye Newmen
Chief Christopher Carleton
Financial Manager Patty Markel

Also attending on Zoom: District Secretary Linda Hughes
Assistant Chief John Shields

Guests: several guests via online Zoom platform

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Commissioner Lester.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public at this time.

C. BOARD ACTION

C1. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 10th, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Newmen moved to approve the Minutes of the March 10th meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper. **Motion passed 3-0**

D. FINANCIAL MANAGER'S REPORT

D.1 Financial Report

Financial Manager Markel presented the financial report as submitted.

D.2 Approval of Fire District Vouchers

MOTION: Commissioner Newmen moved to approve the Vouchers in the amount of \$36,883.73 for payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper. **Motion passed 3-0**

D.3 Approval of Fire District Payroll

MOTION: Commissioner Newmen moved that payroll in the amount of \$14,618.33 be approved for payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper. **Motion passed 3-0**

D.4 Budget Update

Financial Manager Markel reported that 81.12% of the budget remained at the end of March compared with the March 2020 amount remaining of 76.85%.

Financial Manager Markel reported that a correction is necessary for the total amount approved in March for payroll, from the reported amount of \$14,325.33 to \$14,825.33 due to a \$500.00 warrant that had not been included at the time of reporting.

MOTION: Commissioner Harper moved that payroll amount reported for March of 2021 be amended from the \$14,325.33 reported to the amount of \$14,825.33. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newmen. **Motion passed 3-0**

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Carleton reported that the District had received many emails of support and thanks for the vaccination program in its collaboration with the Clinic.

Chief reported that he had received telephone calls from individuals who owned homes in Point Roberts, inquiring about the potential for Americans living in Canada to be eligible to receive a Covid vaccine. He noted that they were eligible to receive the vaccine.

Chief reported that the District would be pausing the administration of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines in accordance with guidance from the CDC.

Commissioner Lester expressed her distress at the news of the J&J vaccination pause and how that news has shaken the confidence of potential recipients. She asked Chief Carleton if he knew how many prospective recipients had refused the vaccination. Chief responded that it was a very low number, certainly less than ten and perhaps even less than 5 refusals.

Chief reported that 190 J&J vaccinations were administered in the past week and he had not heard of any difficulties experienced by any of the recipients.

Commissioner Lester reported that she had received one phone call from a patient who was suffering anxiety and loss of sleep after learning of the J&J vaccine pause.

F. CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Carleton's Chief Officer Report was presented and submitted.

672 Covid vaccines have been administered by the District and Clinic to date. 211 of those have had one shot and are awaiting their second shot on April 25th.

Chief reported that Battalion 58, which is now the name of the newly purchased 2015 vehicle, is expected to be delivered on April 21st.

The Dodge pickup vehicle that is currently driven by Assistant Chief Shields will then go to the dealership in Bellingham for a mechanical examination and to receive the wild land skid, which is already on order and is expected to arrive in May.

Chief asked to revert back to discussion of the financial statement for March to clarify that the payment to NW Pathology in the amount of \$13,870.00 was for 3-4 months worth of Covid testing of the District members. He noted that fully vaccinated members are now tested once per month and unvaccinated members are tested bi-weekly. He noted that \$20,000.00 had been set aside within the 2021 budget for member testing.

There was a general discussion of the costs of the new Battalion 58.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

H. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Lester inquired whether our Canadian members had been offered the Covid vaccination. Chief responded that all members have been offered the vaccination and a "good amount" of them have accepted, noting that the vaccination is not mandatory.

Commissioner Lester asked whether Chief Carleton would consider more frequent Covid testing for the unvaccinated members, and Chief agreed that more testing could be offered to members.

Chief noted that 6 new Covid positive cases had emerged in the community, reporting that all of those patients will be tested again this week for follow up. He added that contact tracing shows that no one within the circles of the six patients had tested positive. Chief adds that he wants to thank all here, and members, for the efforts required to care for isolated patients.

Chief indicated that the origin of the new Covid cases had not been determined, and reminded everyone to remain diligent with proper masking and physical distancing.

Chief reported that during a recent vaccination / testing event, high winds had resulted in damage to a vehicle belonging to one of our district members. The incident had been reported to the insurance company for review.

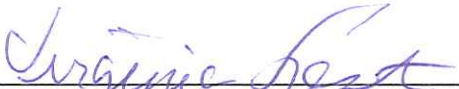
Chief advised that Covid testing would be scheduled this weekend, with a vaccination event scheduled immediately thereafter. He noted that the district is administering approximately 100

vaccinations per hour on the current schedule, adding that he had just received confirmation that 100 more Moderna vaccination doses had just been received.


I. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Commissioner Harper moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Newmen seconded the motion. **Motion passed 3 – 0.**


The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be May 12th, 2021, at 4:00 pm.



Commissioner Virginia Lester



Commissioner Pat Harper



Commissioner Raye Newmen

Dated April 14, 2021

Attest: 

Recording Secretary Linda Hughes