

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

February 10th, 2021

MINUTES

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

Attending on Zoom: Assistant Chief John Shields
Secretary Linda Hughes

Guests: several guests via online Zoom platform

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 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 January 13th, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Newmen moved to approve the Minutes of the January 13th 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 Merkel 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 \$21,373.87 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 \$17,266.33 be approved for payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harper. **Motion passed 3-0**

D.4 Budget Update

Financial Manager Merkel reported that 92.16% of the budget remained at the end of January, compared with the January 2020 amount remaining of 92.83%.

Financial Manager Merkel reported that there was a carryover balance of \$50,621.70 at the end of the year 2020.

MOTION: Commissioner Harper moved that the carryover from 2020 of \$50,621.70 be transferred to the Capital Fund for investment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newmen. **Motion passed 3-0**

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Carleton reported that there was no correspondence to be reviewed at this meeting.

F. CHIEF'S REPORT

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

Chief Carleton reported that the Covid vaccination interest survey he published had resulted in 510 responses, noting that 250 of those responses were from interested residents over the age of 65. Chief Carleton reported that a drive up vaccination clinic was in the planning stage, but he did not yet know which of the two available vaccinations would be allocated to Point Roberts. He noted his preference for the Moderna vaccine, as it did not require reconstitution, although the Moderna vaccine reportedly has slightly more notable side effects. Although doses had been applied for, Chief Carleton indicated that there was no guarantee Point Roberts would be allocated any doses.

Chief Carleton also reported that he was making efforts to reach out to residents of Point Roberts who may be interested in receiving the vaccine but may not have access to a computer to have completed the online survey.

Chief Carleton reported that the State of Washington is currently in Phase 1A of the vaccination allocation plan, which prioritizes those who are 65 and older, and noted that those with pre-existing conditions would be prioritized for receiving the vaccine in spring or summer of this year, although he believed it was possible we may be able to work through the phases quicker due to our closed community. He reported that dual citizens would be eligible to come to Point Roberts to receive the vaccine.

Commissioner Lester inquired about home-bound patients that may be interested in receiving the vaccine. Chief Carleton responded that a limited number of home-bound patients will be vaccinated in their homes.

Rhiannon Allen asked if the Covid tests being administered at the fire hall are acceptable to Canada, in light of the recent imposition of stricter border crossing regulations requiring all those entering Canada to prove negative results of a recent Covid test. Chief Carleton responded that our testing was acceptable to Canada, and that our results are processed by NW Laboratories, noting that even some Canadian providers were utilizing NW Laboratories to obtain results of their Covid tests.

Commissioner Newmen inquired about the requirement for a Covid test for entering Canada and Chief Carleton clarified that a negative result Covid test is required only when entering and staying in Canada, and is not applied to those directly transiting through Canada to Mainland USA.

Commissioner Harper asked if both doses of the vaccine must be the same formula. Chief replied that studies are still ongoing, but at this time both doses must be of the same formula.

Chief Carleton then reported on the Ford Explorer that was wrecked in December by a member who experienced unseen ice on the roadway. He reported that the District's insurance policy had a \$65,000 replacement value on that vehicle, but the first adjuster offered \$75,000 toward a replacement vehicle, followed by a second adjuster who revised that offer to just \$40,000. Chief provided information about the necessary outfitting of a vehicle with lights and required apparatus, and the insurance company agreed to provide a check in the amount of \$64,000.00.

Chief reported that he is looking into the potential purchase of two vehicles at this time, as was outlined in the Capital Facilities Plan. One idea he is considering is to re-outfit Battalion 58, the pickup truck that Assistant Chief Shields currently drives, to make it useful for wild land firefighting, at a cost of approximately \$8,000 to purchase the tank and tools to outfit it for that purpose.

Commissioner Newmen indicated that he worries about our vulnerability to wild land fire and suggested that Chief Carleton's solution seems ideal.

MOTION: Commissioner Harper moved that Chief Carleton be authorized to utilize the insurance proceeds from the wrecked vehicle to purchase a new vehicle, and be further authorized to access an additional \$50,000 to \$70,000 from Capital Reserves for a second vehicle and a wild land skid to re-outfit Battalion 58. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Newmen. **Motion passed 3-0**

Chief Carleton reported that he will be out of town for the next regular Commissioners' meeting scheduled for March 10th, and that Assistant Chief Shields would attend in his place.

Chief Carleton reported that one of our members had been hired by District 7, and that District 7 will be reimbursing us for the EMT training costs for that member.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

H. NEW BUSINESS


Commissioner Harper is concerned about various sites around Point Roberts where he has seen property clearing and piles of unattended stumps and debris, often left too close to a home or other trees, citing this fire hazard when it all dries out and becomes tinder. Chief Carleton replied that this would be a County controlled issue, and that property owners are responsible for appropriate disposal of property clearing debris. He also noted that the would reach out to the Fire Marshall for more information.

Financial Manager Markel noted that the March Agenda should include discussion of the Hospital District annual rental contract.


I. ADJOURNMENT

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


The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be February 10th, 2021, at 4:00 pm.



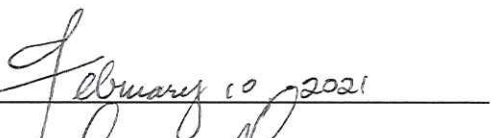
 Commissioner Virginia Lester



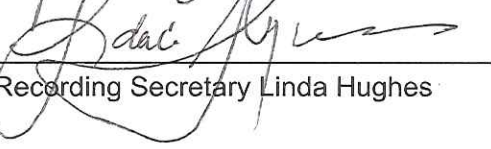
 Commissioner Pat Harper



 Commissioner Raye Newmen

Dated: 

 February 10, 2021

Attest: 

 Recording Secretary Linda Hughes