

**Fire Commissioner Regular Meeting
San Juan Fire Protection District 2
Orcas Island Fire & Rescue
October 17, 2016**

Present: Commissioners Chair Wesley Heinmiller, Barbara Bedell, Amanda Montague, and District Secretary Patricia Ayers, Acting Chief Scott Williams, Orcas Island Fire and Rescue staff, and members of the community.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Additions or Modifications to the Agenda

Move the New Business to before the Financial Section. Also the first public comment is moved to the beginning of the meeting.

Public Comment #1

1. I would like to thank Scott and his team for setting up in preparation for the upcoming storm.
2. I would like to express my disappointment in the selection of the commissioner to fill in the former commissioner's position.
3. I agree with the other comments that the choice for commissioner was not a good one at this time, and it's been evident from several other members of the community who've talked to me about this topic. The budget for 2017 should be worked on right now in working sessions and should be ready for approval by early next month. A working draft hasn't been presented to the commission yet, and
4. The decision has been made and it's time to move on with the choice that has been made. We will stand behind the decision and support that has been made.

Motions / Minutes / Resolutions Approved

The following Meeting Minutes were approved:

- 2016-09-19 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2016-10-03 Special Meeting Minutes

Financials

Acting Chief reported that the District is continuing to track slightly below what has been budgeted, which is good. Complete financial summary and detailed expenditures are available to the public through a Public Records Request online or in person at the Eastsound fire station.

Correspondence

None.

Chief's Report

Acting Chief Scott Williams presented the Chief's Report for the period of September 19, 2016 through October 16, 2016. Call volume for the past month have continued to track around 3xx% for multiple calls during the same period of time. OIFR coordinated with the County in setting up a countywide emergency system in anticipation and preparation of a large storm.

The complete chief's report may be obtained through a Public Records Request online or in person at the Eastsound fire station.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Chief Search Update – Commissioner Bedell reported that the committee is getting closer, with a total now of six applicants. The cut-off date was 10/14; although the committee accepted an additional application today. There will be another committee meeting on 10/24 to review the applications.
2. Fire Marshall Program Update – Acting Chief Scott Williams reported that County Council approved an inter-local agreement, which will allow a fire inspector position for a total of eight hours a week on Orcas Island. FF RJ Myers will continue to hold this position.
3. Strategic Plan & 2017 Budget Update – Acting Chief Williams updated the commissioners regarding the ongoing work that is being done for the 2017 budget, and recommended that the commissioners start

- meeting soon – as early as this week if possible – to start working through the budget process.
4. Social Security Issue Update – Acting Chief Scott Williams updated the commissioners on 218 agreement with IRS was signed in 1971 that the District opted to participate in absolute coverage. In 1986 congress passed legislation that if a district had a 218 agreement in place, that it is permanent and cannot be changed. However, a few years back the District negotiated the union contract to drop the social security payments, and put those funds into the State Retirement Plan rather than into Social Security. When the finances were switched to the County, they “uncovered” the oversight. The total amount of back payment notice is approximately \$290,000. The IRS has stated that they will work with the District in potentially decreasing the amount owed; in the meantime, however, the District is responsible for making payments.
 5. Increase Number of Commissioners from Three to Five – Commissioner Bedell reported that the public seems to want this move. She proposed to the Commission that they draft a Resolution to increase the number of members from three to five so that it could go to the voters early in 2017. Commissioner Bedell made a motion to increase the number of the board from three to five members. All commissioners approved the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Oath of Office to swear newly appointed commissioner – Chair Wesley Heinmiller swore Amanda Montague in as the new Board of Fire Commissioner to replace former Commissioner Jim Coffin.

Public Comment #2

1. Several lengthy comments were made by different community members who expressed their strong opinions on increasing the number of board members from three to five.

Board of Firefighters Association

- None at this time.

Executive Session

No executive session was held during this meeting.

Reconvene

Not applicable.

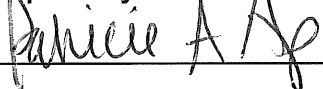
Announcements

- The next Regular BOFC Meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 5:30 pm.


Adjournment


6:35 pm – Adjournment of Regular Meeting


Respectfully submitted:



 _____ Patricia Ayers, District Secretary

Approved:


 _____, Wesley Heinmiller, Chair Commissioner


 _____, Amanda Montague, Commissioner


 _____, Barbara Bedell, Commissioner


 _____ Scott Williams, Acting Fire Chief