



**North County Regional Fire Authority
COMMISSIONER’S MEETING
Hybrid
February 22 , 2023
4:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER

The following attendees were present:

COMMISSIONERS

- Rob Johnson, Chair
- Jan Iverson
- Judy Williams
- Ric Cade
- ~~Debra Nelson~~, excused
- Barb Tolbert
- Marilyn Oertle
- Larry Longley
- Greg Oakes

FIRE AUTHORITY STAFF

- John Cermak, Fire Chief
- Dave Kraski, Deputy Fire Chief
- Chris Dickison, Assistant Fire Chief
- Katie Casey, Human Resources Manager
- Randy Krumm, Finance Director
- Kari Wheeler, Administrative Assistant
- Theresa Ramey, Executive Assistant
- Doug ten Hoopen, Assistant Fire Chief
- Steve Goforth, Assistant Fire Chief

PUBLIC GUESTS

- Eric Quinn

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm by Chairman Johnson.

EMPLOYEE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Watermark Finance Email submission was read to the Board.

John Hilty, a resident in the Grandview area submitted the following comments as a correction to the minutes of August 10, 2022 Commission meeting. “John Hilty, a resident within the Grandview area, spoke at today’s meeting, via zoom, presenting several issues of concern to the Grandview area community and its residents. Mr. Hilty stated that homeowners insurance rates in the area have almost doubled and upon investigation he determined the reason was that Grandview Station #92 was shut down – the NCFRA website reflected that the station was fully responding, and that there was the lack of timely fire protection in the community. This resulted in the WSRB setting the area risk rating at “9” – the worst possible fire protection rating, due to the high fire protection risk level in the area. He also brought forward that the Grandview community deserved and expected the same level of timely and robust fire protection as the rest of the areas served by North County Fire, as Grandview residents paid the same taxes, assessments and fees as everyone else and he requested resolution of the issues. Commissioner Oakes stated that Chief Cermak would be in touch with him, after his vacation.”

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA w/ amendment to add review of agreement for mediation with the City of Arlington to UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1st. Commissioner Iverson 2nd Commissioner Oakes

Discussion:

APPROVED: Unanimous

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered executive session for 25 minutes under:

RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) – To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

1st. Commissioner Cade 2nd Commissioner Iverson

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous



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MOTION TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 8, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

1st: Commissioner Oertle 2nd Commissioner Oakes

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION TO ADOPT THE TRAINING ADVISORY GROUP RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT TRAINING ADVISORY GROUP THAT WOULD PROVIDE INSIGHT TO THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGARDING THE TRAINING CENTER OPPORTUNITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH NCRFA MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

1st: Commissioner Oakes 2nd Commissioner Iverson

Discussion: Chief Cermak shared the intent to keep this resolution broad with the ability to flex to address future items. Position titles were not included at this time to allow for the Board to add members if/when necessary. Commissioner Johnson expressed he is pleased that Commissioner Cade will serve as a liaison between the Fire Commissioner Board and the Training Advisory Group.

Roll Call:

Commissioner Oakes: Yes
Commissioner Tolbert: Yes
Commissioner Williams: Yes
Commissioner Iverson: Yes
Commissioner Oertle: Yes
Commissioner Johnson: Yes
Commissioner Cade: Yes
Commissioner Longley: Yes

APPROVED: Unanimous

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EMS TRANSPORT WAIVER REQUESTED AS PRESENTED

1st: Commissioner Iverson 2nd Commissioner Oakes

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

Grandview Area Update

Chief Kraski shared he had a follow-up meeting last Thursday with Grandview Area residents. There were approx. 15 residents were in attendance. The plan is for our Spring Newsletter to communicate options available to the residents. Chief Kraski shared that while the best option would be to establish Grandview as a volunteer station, this is likely, not viable due to the amount of trained, committed volunteers required for this option. An alternate option would be establishing a rural fire brigade. Making a brush truck available at the station gives residents the ability to take a defensive posture while the responding team is enroute. This would give residents comfort in the event of a neighbor's grass fire, for example.

Commissioner Cade affirmed these sound like great options but questioned if there are L&I implications with a rural fire brigade option.

Commissioner Johnson recommends the Board checks with an attorney on liability as well as an appropriately coined phrase.

Commissioner Iverson questioned if there is any stipend for volunteers.



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Chief Kraski indicated there is a per-call stipend.

Discussion continued on the topic including the possibility of a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class, led by Bob Knapp, to include a CPR component for this rural remote area.

The discussion concluded on this topic with Commissioner Iverson expressing appreciation for the work Chief Kraski is doing.

ILA Mediation Update

Commissioner Johnson shared that the City of Arlington had passed an agreement to split the cost for mediation between the City of Arlington and NCRFA and determined the earlier resolution was adequate. Commissioner Johnson will sign the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE REPORT – presented by Randy Krumm

Discussion: Commissioner Johnson asked to clarify that nothing was unusual or concerning regarding pulling funds from cash reserves. Randy confirmed – not at all unusual or concerning. Anticipating the amount of accounting for the training center will increase over time, Commissioner Johnson asked if Randy could present to the Board, possibly in March or April, how Training Center accounting will be set up to keep accounting separate from NCRFA accounting.

POLICY 75 – Facilities Technician Job Description – Presented by Katie Casey

Available for review and will be brought back to the Board on March 8th for a second review and consideration for approval.

Discussion: None

SUPERVISING DELEGATE PHYSICIAN – presented by Assistant Chief Dickison

The current Supervising Delegate Physician, Eric Cooper, is resigning. A select group consisting of Captains, MSO's and AC Dickison conducted several interviews and recommend Dr. Joshua Corsa for the position of Supervising Delegate Physician.

MOTION TO APPROVE ENTERING INTO A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR SUPERVISING DELEGATE PHYSICIAN WITH DR. JOSHUA CORSA

1st: Commissioner Oakes 2nd Commissioner Cade

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

CHIEF'S REPORT

- Chief Cermak was out sick with COVID-19 for the third time, however, was able to work from home in most cases to complete work.
- Met with Liz Loomis and AJ to discuss the next steps in the EMS Levy process. The messaging is being created for the EMS Levy.
- Katie, Doug, and Chief Cermak met regarding the division of job tasks to best address the skill sets of the new administrative assistants. One of the recommendations is to train and move Kari to Board Secretary with the Board's approval. This would free up time for Katie to complete more HR tasks with the new organization.
- Chief Cermak met with one of the local colleges and continue to work on an agreement to share funds to help support firefighter training. It is before the Board of Colleges on March 7 for the next step. It will then return to the college to finalize an ILA between Snohomish County Training Consortium, that ultimately benefits all participating agencies.



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NCRFA would then be able to develop an ILA to help directly support NCRFA training and employee Professional Development.

- Chief Kraski and Chief Cermak met with Eric Quin multiple times to discuss the FD 21/25/19 contracts.
- With Chief Cermak off sick, Chief Ten Hoopen met with some area Police Chiefs looking to conduct their own academy like the Snohomish Chiefs. They have the same challenge of location for training and need land to develop for their academy. They have some other barriers with training laws to address before they can move forward. They loved our site location. This would be a perfect subject for the proposed TAG group to develop.
- Chief Cermak attended the legislative day in Olympia. One of the areas they are addressing actively is wall time and nursing shortages at hospitals. They do not have a short-term solution for this challenge. The County Chiefs will continue to work to address the issue.
- Chief Cermak and Chief Ten Hoopen traveled to the new SNO911 building to look at furniture they are looking to share with other government agencies that might help outfit the Training Center. We have scheduled a day to go back and remove multiple sets of cabinets and desks for the training center. They will also keep us informed about some appliances they may be removing.

IAFF LOCAL 3438 REPORT

Kirk Normand expressed thanks for the work of the Commissioner Board.

BOARD DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Williams noted that she had some health issues that stalled the work on Fire Chief’s evaluation work. The work will continue and she will report back at a later date.

GOOD OF THE ORDER.

N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN 5:28pm

1st: Commissioner Oakes

2nd: Commissioner Williams

Discussion:

APPROVED: Unanimous

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Rob Johnson

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**Rob Johnson
Board Chair**

DocuSigned by:

Kari A. Wheeler

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**Kari Wheeler
Interim Board Secretary**