

**NORTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY**

8117267<sup>th</sup> St NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292-7879

Meeting Minutes

The Board of Commissioners of North County Regional Fire Authority, meeting was called to order by Commissioner Longley, **September 10, 2014**, at Station 90 at 4:05 PM.

Commissioners in attendance were Commissioner Larry Longley, Commissioner Greg Oakes, Commissioner Bob Magee, and Commissioner David Fennell. Commissioner Jeff Sinker, had an excused absence. Also present were Acting Fire Chief Scott Johnston, Sheri Lynn Stevens, acting Board Secretary and several guests.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Longley called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

**FLAG SALUTE:** Commissioner Longley led the meeting in the flag salute.

**OPENING COMMENTS:** Commissioner Longley reiterated Oakes comments at the sadness and unexpected nature of the passing of Commissioner Bratland. His unexpected and sudden passing the night of the meeting with District 1, earlier that evening. Acting Chief Johnston was noted to say that there was no indication in the meeting that anything was amiss. There was some discussion among the commissioners as how to show their respect. It was determined that a representative of the board would approach Ms. Bratland privately.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Commissioner Longley opened the floor for Public Comments. Elizabeth Early addressed the board and asked about the Davis Arbitration as it was communicated that this would be resolved by Mid-August. Commissioner Longley noted there was no update on the status of the case, other than there have been several delays filed. He assured Ms. Early as soon as they know of any change in the status of this matter, others will be informed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Movement of the Oath of Office for David Fennell was suggested by Commissioner Oakes; seconded by Commissioner Longley. Motion entered to elect new Chair and Vice Chair by Commissioner Oakes and approved by all.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Commissioner Oakes moved to approve; Commissioner Magee seconded motion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Fire Chief Search:** Commissioner Longley gave an update on the Fire Chief Search with the commencement of 12 finalists, the declining letters sent and the Interview panel being coalesced and appointments made for September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Budget Retreat** – Acting Chief Johnston confirmed the location and day is set for the Stillaguamish Natural Resources Center on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Start time is 8:30 AM. Box lunch men to be reviewed after the meeting per Sheri Lynn Stevens.
- **Employment Contracts:** Commissioner Oaks noted that the process is nearly complete with some final reviews needed by legal council before completion. This will be a topic in the Executive Session.

- **Surplus of Spartan Fire Engine:** Resolution 09102014-01. Commissioner Longley noted that the receiving fire district is quite pleased with this acquisition as he has received a phone call from one of their Commissioners. Chief Johnston noted that he too has received thanks from their Chief and while the engine is old to us it is 10 years newer than their current equipment.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Oath of Office:** David Fennell stated his oath of office and was sworn in by Sheri Lynn Stevens, acting Board Secretary and Public Notary, within the District #18 meeting.
- **Election of new Chair and Vice Chair:** Commissioner Oakes nominated Larry Longley as the new Board Chair; Commissioner Magee seconded. Longley consented and the vote was passed unanimously. Commissioner Longley then nominated Greg Oakes as Vice-Chair; seconded by Commissioner Magee, and this too passed with no contest and unanimously.
- **WFCA Conference:** Sheri Lynn noted that there were three commissioners currently signed up and the District Secretary has made hotel reservations for everyone in case. Commissioners Longley and Fennell needed to communicate as to their attendance and whether or not they would also be attending the Snure Seminar on Thursday.

#### **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- **Arlington / 9-11 Memorial:** Acting Chief Johnston reminded everyone that the event was happening at the Library at 6 PM on September 11 (tomorrow). He noted that the fundraising was still going on with the Challenge Coins and some are still available. There was some discussion among the commissioners as to their attendance at public events.
- **Meeting with SnoCo Fire District 1:** Acting Chief Johnston presented the highlights of his meeting on Monday with the following: Commissioner Bratland (deceased), Commissioner Longley, Assistant Chief Eastman, Chief Ed Widdis, James Kenny and Jim Mcgahee.

The attendees discussed the following topics with NCRFA – contract services for key supplemental personnel or programs such as Fire Chief, Human Resources, Public Safety officer, etc. When asked by Commissioner Oakes how the meeting seemed to go, Chief Johnston noted that it went very well and the atmosphere was very positive. When asked by Commissioner Magee what type of products were offered, Chief Johnston said the group was very open to hearing what our needs were and packaging those services in a quoted proposal and longevity of contract was up to NCRFA.

There was some questions regarding Commissioner Bratland's attendance and if he seemed to reflect any impending health issues at the time of the meeting. Both Chief Johnston and Commissioner Longley said there were no outward signs of distress observed.

A discussion was begun by Commissioner Magee that this may be an opportunity to have further discussions about regionalization with the surrounding district. Commissioner Oakes suggested that maybe a letter be sent to Marysville and Arlington to see if they would be interested. As the conversation progressed and other districts

were suggested, it was decided that a letter be sent out to all the surrounding districts, including Tulalip, to inquire as to the interest in having a meeting to discuss the matter of resource sharing and regionalization..

- **SnoCo Fire Chief's Meeting:** Acting Chief Johnston noted in conjunction with the potential opportunities was the fact he was asked last month while attending a meeting with AC Eastman by several of the other Chiefs to come back to the SnoCo Fire Chief's Meeting. It was suggested that was a good idea to plant the seed of NCRFA sending a letter and he said he would attend Thursday.
- **City of Stanwood Meeting:** Action Chief Johnston updated the board on the happenings in the City.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Board was presented with thank you letters from the Governor and Warm Beach Community Association.

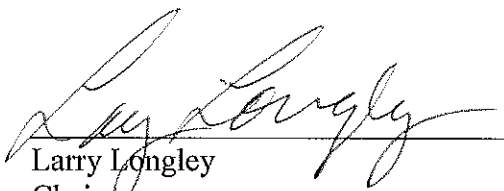
**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 4:55 p.m. to discuss employee contracts and disciplinary issue. . The session will last approximately 30 minutes. There were two extensions at 15 minutes and then 10 minutes. Commissioners came out of executive session at 5:55 p.m. with the following action taken.

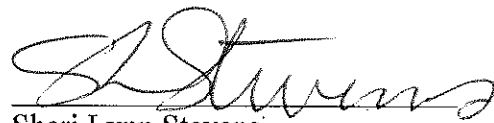
Review of personnel disciplinary action appeal denied. Decision by Fire Chief upheld. Re-application if desired at one (1) year.

**BOARD FOR VOLUNTEERS FIREFIGHTERS MEETING:** No items presented for review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Magee moved to close the meeting; Commissioner Oakes seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

  
Larry Longley  
Chairman

  
Sheri Lynn Stevens  
Acting Board Secretary