

# **SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 21**

Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 @6:30 p.m.

Arlington Heights Improvement Club, Arlington, WA 98223

**Call to Order:** Chairman Taft called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

**Attendees:** Chairman Taft, Commissioners Nordstrom & Safford, Fire Chief Schmidt and Executive Assistant Tiner. There was one Crew present and there were two guests via Zoom.

**Flag Salute:** Led by Chairman Taft

## **Agenda Items:**

**2021 Budget Planning** – Chief Schmidt displayed the Cushman Model that show the current state of the District's budget and the 2021 budget:

- Model includes two new fulltime employees and a fulltime Fire Chief for 2021.
- Received the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the City of Arlington's invoice for Paramedic and BLS services. Invoice is higher than normal due to a higher ALS response than normal.
- Had estimated 167 ALS calls for our area, but had 222. Had estimated 121 BLS calls in the South, but had 151.
- Will run our own report of the mutual aid ALS responses and compare to the City's report.
- In 2021, Service Calls in the South area will be handled by District #21.
- District did well with the budget for 2020.
- District still inputting funds into Reserves. Will have \$1 million in them. Will put less into Apparatus next year and put that into Staffing. Will use a Bond for the new Engine. Chairman Taft expressed concern over reducing the amount going into Reserves, but the Chief assured the Board that the District has more than enough funds.
- The Bond for the Engine will cost \$60,000 a year at a rate of 1.75% for a \$550,000 loan. Will do the Bond so can use the cash funds for Staffing. Can always pay off the loan down the line.
- There has been no delay in property tax revenue despite the current economy. Current assessed values have increased. Just below the 7% anticipated.
- Budget includes the purchase of a new Engine. Pierce Co. has a demo for \$460,000, but we would need to pick it up in Florida. Will send the specs to the Board. The Rosenbauer Engines tend to have problems.
- We have an old fleet. Will need to replace a Tender in the next 4-5 years. Will pay cash for it.
- We are budgeted for two Fulltime employees for Jan. 2021 and three more later. Will apply for a Safer Grant to help with the three additional.
- Will have six Fulltime employees for 2021 so, if the economy crashes due to COVID, can still staff three Fulltime employees at each Station and will be okay.
- It is getting difficult to get Volunteers. Have used some for staffing and responding to calls as Part Timers with a pay adjustment.
- Discussion regarding Fulltime employees volunteering at other agencies, how that affects insurance, the Safety Rule and the Union's position on this. Per the Union, Fulltime employees cannot volunteer at other agencies. A law was introduced to allow this, but did not pass.

Daytime MOU Draft – Chief Schmidt presented a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and Local 3728 that covers daytime staffing. This would be for future use. Once the Local approves the MOU, the Chief will bring it back to the Board for approval.

Acting Chief LOU Draft – Draft was not ready by meeting time. The Chief is still working on it.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**Minutes Approved By:**

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Chairman Taft

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Commissioner Nordstrom

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Commissioner Safford

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Fire Chief/Board Secretary Schmidt