

King County Fire Protection District No. 27

Minutes

The Board of Commissioners regular meeting of August 14 was rescheduled to a Special meeting that was held on August 16, 2012 at Station No. 271 located at 4301 334th PL SE in Fall City, Washington.

Commissioner Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present:

Commissioner Hollis
Commissioner Meredith - via phone
Chief Connor
Secretary Evans

In Attendance:

FF Fleming	Jerry Judd	Linda Wallon
FF Turcotte	Jeanette Patterson	Richard Werlein
FF White	Stan Patterson	
Bill Crone	Barbara Reed	

Chairperson Williams absent and excused.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:

Commissioner Hollis introduced himself and introduced Commissioner Meredith who was participating via the telephone. Commissioner Hollis explained that Chairperson William had been deployed to the wildfire in Cle Elum.

Local Board for Volunteer Firefighters

The Board convened into a Local Board for Firefighter meeting at 7:03 p.m. to discuss the pension buy back bill. The Board convened back into the regular meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Public Comment

Bill Crone a resident of Lake Alice West stated that he applauded the Board for implementing the new burn regulations and he would like to see Lake Alice West included in the restrictive area. He had talked to some of his neighbors and they are concerned that the burning restriction is 365 days a year. Maybe a reasonable compromise is to allow some burning during one month of the year.

He also reported that King County is planning on closing the Lake Alice road for three weeks next month for an emergency repair on a culvert. The County is proposing to use the Sorenson Street access to allow residents to get in and out. It appears to be the best option as long as it's temporary. He stated that he would like to talk with his neighbors about the Sorenson Street access and campaign for its use as emergency access only.

Jerry Judd a resident of Lake Alice stated that at the last meeting he attended he proposed that the Board allow a period of time for burning during the wet season. He conveyed that transporting all of his yard debris, which many of us have on our properties, will cost a lot of money. He did contact Rainier Recyclers and they have one day a year in April when they take free brush but they were not able to tell him any specific dates. Commissioner Hollis agreed that they don't promote or advertise their free day(s) very well.

Stan Patterson stated that he also lives in the Lake Alice area and he has six acres. Considering what happened last spring with the ice storm; I don't think people understand the magnitude of the limbs, brush, and trees that fall, which I had to clean up on my property. If we can't burn it would be filling up all of Fall City. I think it should be more than one month. I don't think there's any reason why we shouldn't be able to burn responsibly whenever there is not a burn ban. It's still a rural area and it needs to stay that way and I feel that you are taking rights away from property owners.

A comment was made that those living in Lake Alice West will get to burn. Bill Crone commented that he has people who do not burn responsibly and burn garbage, he would like to see the same restrictions in place for his area. Stan Patterson replied that if somebody is burning illegally then hold them responsible but don't take everybody else's rights away.

Jeannette Patterson commented that we have six acres and if we can't burn or dispose of the yard debris in a reasonable way, it will become a fire hazard itself, having all the dry timber down. After the storm last winter it was horrendous and I would like to see some reasonable solution.

Richard Werlein a resident of Lake Alice stated that as a citizen he is concerned about the strategy that the fire department has in a worst case scenario, when there is a wild fire. I wanted to speak to the Board tonight and have dialogue for when I want to burn, but it takes one mistake from one person for all of us to lose our homes. I am very concerned about several things; I am concerned about my only ingress and

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gress into my community being the Lake Alice road, which is a canyon, which will burn the hottest, and whatever catches on fire is coming to my doorstep and I have no way out. Even if there is a Sorenson access I still have no way out. There is so much fuel on the ground in our neighborhood and on our hill that when it catches on fire, and it will, the fire department will not be able to stop it. More than talking about what we can burn and what we can't I would like to see a strategy of how we can get rid of this fuel, by working together, maybe coordinating some days were the fire department has resources in place or have some designated burn days. As the temperature gets hotter, and things get drier, I don't know how the fire department is going to protect us. I think it's great that your trying to protect us by saying hey don't burn, because we don't want the hill to catch on fire. It's going to catch on fire and I don't know how you are going to stop it.

Chief Connor discussed the Fire Wise program; it's a program in the State of Washington were they identify communities that want to organize to reduce their fire risks. They will even help in some cases if money is available, to tap into some grant funds that the homeowners can actually use to reduce those risks. Mr. Werlein stated that there is not a lot of cooperation and uniformity in peoples' attitude toward fire prevention. If I clean my property and my neighbor has not, my house is probably going away.

Chief Connor stated if you create your own defensible space and you have enough room, in a wildfire situation the fire burns through there and sometimes not all of the houses burn, and the ones that have the best chance are the ones that have a defensible space around them. The fire wise program is designed to provide that education. If resources are called the firefighters are going to go to the neighborhoods and they are going to look at the structures and they are most likely going to try and protect the homes that have the defensible space, the ones that the residence have not maintained a defensible space those areas will be to dangerous for the firefighters to stay there.

Richard Werlein replied that what he would like to see in the big picture, what is the plan if the canyon catches on fire. I just received a notice that they are going to close the Lake Alice Road because of the culvert issue. Mr. Werlein stated that when you have the burn ban laid over so broadly I agree with the concept of why you want to do it but I would propose that the fire district implements a burn strategy were in cooperation with homeowners, we could have controlled burns. If burning is completely prohibited there is a greater potential for homeowners to allow their debris to pile up and create a much bigger problem. I am not worried about the homeowners who want to burn they are being responsible in keeping their property cleaned up and maintained. There are people who just don't care and there are many properties that are owned by holding companies and are neglected with a lot of fuels just sitting there.

Chief Connor stated that the Fire Wise program is the right program if you personally are interested in doing something with your property and if you have neighbors who are interested you could encourage them to participate as well. There are some fire codes in place for extreme fire dangers.

Stan Patterson commented that a natural consequence of having a total fire ban is there will be more build up of dry fuel; even if there are days when you can take debris down for free there is going to be overall more build up of fuels if we don't have the ability to burn.

Linda Wallon stated that her family lives on a wooded parcel and after the ice storm we had mountains of debris that accumulated. Even if there are free days for recycling we don't own a truck or trailer to haul it away. If we relied on the recycling company to pick it up we would be cutting it up for days and putting it in their limited size bins. I am in agreement; I think there needs to be controlled days, a week, a month what ever is feasible. The fire department could send out a notice and say they have a fire truck available this day. She stated that she looked into the Firewise program and will pass the word on to the other Lake Alice residents. She also stated that she had not really thought about there only being one way out of the area, if there was a fire then the fire department could come and open the emergency access road, then people would have a way to get out, this issue really does need to be addressed.

Chief Connor stated that the situation with the access road, it's a local issue; the residents had decided that they don't want a road connecting to the Snoqualmie Ridge. Chief Connor stated that he has always been in support of having the road for emergency access.

Discussion ensued regarding the contention between the City of Snoqualmie and the residents of the Lake Alice Community; it was stated that most of the residents did not want the road put in because there was a real potential of it becoming a permanent access and forever changing the rural area.

Richard Werlein would like to see some cooperation between the County, Fire District and the Community to work with developing an emergency plan for the Lake Alice Community.

FF Fleming and FF Turcotte left for an alarm at 7:28 p.m.

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Jerry Judd asked about water tender resources, he commented that if the Lake Alice road is impassible during an emergency event, and the emergency access road is opened up, does Snoqualmie have a tender to bring in water since there are no hydrants in the area. Chief Connor replied that Snoqualmie does not have a water tender; Fall City, Preston, Carnation and North Bend have them.

More discussion on the Fire Wise program ensued. Chief Connor stated that they will write a plan for the Lake Alice Community, but the people need to be involved. Mr. Crone would like to have more discussion on initiating a plan.

Barbara Reed commented that she is hearing the request to allow some limited burning in the wetter winter season. Her sense is that you will increase the pollution problems and will not be as effective in burning cleaner if the debris is wet, it would make more sense to allow burning in the early fall or late spring. Spread it out over several weekends. She also stated that in other places where she has lived, the city's have promoted and established free chipper days.

Commissioner Hollis thanked the citizens for providing their comments and will take them under consideration.

End of Comments 7:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On the Motion made by Commissioner Hollis and a second by Commissioner Meredith the Board approved the minutes of the July 10, 2012 regular meeting and the July 23, 2012 special meeting. Motion Carried.

WARRANTS:

The Board reviewed the various vouchers drawn on the expense fund.

On the Motion made by Commissioner Hollis and a second by Commissioner Meredith the Board approved the following expenses and Commissioner Hollis signed the authorization documents.

Voucher No. 19611 -19653 totaling \$41,180.35
Payroll and EFT transactions totaling \$90,699.96
Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The Board reviewed the monthly budgets and financial statements. Secretary Evans stated that the election expense from last November had finally posted in July.

STATION USER AGREEMENTS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Lake Alice Road

Chief Connor reported on the imminent closure and emergency repair to the Lake Alice Rd due to a failing culvert. The pipe has collapsed so much that they don't think it could handle a major storm event this winter. The County wants to sleeve the pipe and put an overflow pipe about ten feet below the road surface. This will be a temporary fix which will close the road for about three weeks. Next year they anticipate a three month repair to replace the culvert. Chief Connor stated that the City of Snoqualmie and the County will need to work together and devise a plan to allow the Lake Alice residents a temporary alternative route through the access road at Sorenson Street.

Bill Crone came back into the meeting and addressed the Board and stated that the citizens attending the meeting tonight have reached a consensus that they do want to further investigate the Fire Wise program. They also would like to ask the Commissioners to consider some type of a compromise that would allow them to burn some of their yard debris during certain times of the year. Commissioner Meredith thanked Bill for his comments.

Chief Connor reported on the bridge replacement project over Patterson Creek at 292nd Ave. The road will be closed for up to three months. The CAD system has been updated so that EFR will be dispatched to this area first.

Alarms

In July, the District responded to 43 BLS Aid calls, 12 ALS Aid calls, 9 Fire calls and 16 Service calls for a total of 80. The fiscal year to date total at the end of the month was 613 alarms, compared to 518 in the 2011 fiscal year. The calendar year to date total at the end of the month was 454 alarms compared to 365

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in 2011. The District requested mutual aid on 12 alarms of which we cancelled 4 times. The District provided mutual aid on 26 alarms of which we were cancelled 13 times.

The 01:30 turnout time standard was achieved on 66 of 73 calls which is 90.4%. The 90% turnout time was 01:28. Alarm Charts for the month were provided for review.

Chief Connor reported on some time disparity issues with a few alarms last month. He further discussed the increased trend of calls coming in on cell phones and how it relates to getting the correct GPS coordinates in a given area.

Volunteer Recruit Training

Chief Connor reported that one of the six newest recruits has relocated his family and left the department. Three of the recruits are already EMT's and have worked some volunteer shifts. The remaining two are scheduled to attend the EMT class and will also be integrated into the E shift program.

Volunteer Firefighters / E Shift Program

Chief Connor reported that one Volunteer Member is currently attending the Washington State Training Recruit Academy at North Bend. His graduation is scheduled in November and will be held at the Criminal Justice Center in Burien.

NORCOM

Chief Connor reported that the regular monthly Governing Board meeting was held last Friday. The 2013 budget was approved with an overall 2.3 increase. Interviews for a new Executive Director have been completed and a candidate has been selected, an offer of employment subject to a background investigation will be made. The Technology Project is ongoing and steps are being taken to organize, and to prepare for testing and evaluation of new software releases from the vendor.

Hazardous Materials Consortium

Chief Connor reported that a meeting was held earlier this week to approve the 2013 budget. Contributions for an apparatus replacement reserve fund will begin again in 2013 and the annual assessment of the members will rise next year.

SERRA

Chief Connor stated that no meeting had occurred to discuss changes to the ILA.

VHF Radio

Chief Connor stated that new VHF radio equipment is still on order. The alphanumeric paging receiver has been received and is in test mode and awaiting installation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Future Options – Revenue and Expenses

Chief Connor reported that he and Melinda had attended an informational meeting the King County Assessors Office had scheduled on July 18th in Bellevue. There was discussion on property valuation and pro-rationing of levies but nothing specific or predictable. Earlier this week the County published the area report for Fall City and it reflects an overall decrease of approximately (-13%) in the District. Chief Connor also discussed the pro-rationing of the levy rate that will occur again this year.

Outdoor Burning

Chief Connor reported that he did receive a phone call from another citizen Corey Vance off of 324th avenue. His family has nine acres and a couple of homes on the property. He was concerned about the windfall debris that accumulates and having a reasonable way of disposing of it. Chief Connor had invited him to attend the meeting as well.

Commissioner Meredith recommended that outdoor burning remain on the agenda. Commissioner Hollis stated that we need to address the issue of excess yard debris and how to deal with it effectively.

Chief Connor reported that no informal meeting dates have been set for the Collective Bargaining group at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hollis stated that the Sno Valley Senior Center will be holding their annual fundraising event. He would like to offer up a dinner at the fire station and a ride in the Fall City Day's parade for their auction. He further stated that he could coordinate with the local and donate the food items.

Commissioner Meredith stated that he would participate in that as well.

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On the Motion of Commissioner Meredith and a second by Commissioner Hollis the Board approved the request to offer the auction items to the Sno Valley Senior Center.
Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Secretary Evans' Annual Review

The Board convened into a brief Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to review the performance of a public employee in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Executive Session was expected to last five minutes. Executive Session closed and Special Meeting opened at 8:16 p.m.

On the Motion made by Commissioner Hollis and a second by Commissioner Meredith the Board authorized a 2.7% CPI-U increase in Secretary Evans' compensation effective August 1, 2012.
Motion Carried.

OTHER:

Adjournment:

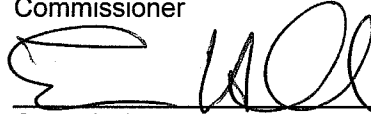
With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hollis at 8:18 p.m.

Attest:

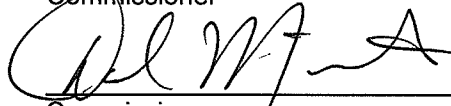
Melinda Evans
Board Secretary

Melinda Evans

Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner

