COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

1. Baneta (Bonnie) Sheffler, Chairman
2. Steven A. Brown, Commissioner (absent)
3. Gary Frisque, Commissioner

**STAFF, FIREFIGHTERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Star Orman, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
2. Robert Webber, Fire Chief
3. Robert Rosencrantz, County Commissioner
4. Adam Micone, Capt. Firefighter
5. Jim Penix, Firefighter
6. Cheyne Anderson, Capt. Firefighter / EMT, Kalispel Tribe
7. Jake Richer, Resident Firefighter / EMT
8. Brittany Nordhagen, Firefighter / EMT
9. Samantha Cummins, EMT
10. Adelle Allen, Firefighter / EMT

Chairman Sheffler called the meeting to order at 18:00; Commissioner Frisque led us in the pledge of allegiance, and Commissioner Brown led us in Prayer.

**Consent Agenda**

* Approve Meeting Minutes – October 4th, 2023.
* Deposits: $42,560.74
  + EFT- $651.15, $1,205.55
  + Sign- $50
  + WSP- $26,974.80
  + DNR- $12,679.24
* Vouchers: 8536- 8545
  + General Fund – $52,532.50.

**COMMISSIONER BROWN MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, COMMISSIONER FRISQUE SECONDED, AND CHAIRMAN SHEFFLER CONCURRED.**

**Correspondence – See Attached**

* Card from Janine and Matt Goodrich.

**Chief’s Report – See Attached**

* We had a structure fire outside of Newport Thursday morning. It was a content fire in the structure with no extension. Chairman Brown asked when drugs burn how does it affect the members. Commissioner Rosencrantz asked if the sheriffs or the county was advised about the things that were found. Chief informed the crew was well aware about the drugs and were on air and in full turnouts.
* M42 repairs – Jim has been working on it. Should be in service within the week. The condenser and manifold were replaced. The airbag in the rear had a hole in it. Also replaced 2 batteries. Chief wants to replace the 2 front seats. Commissioner Brown asked about the seat in the bus at Station 44.
* Audit update – The Auditors were here, so far everything was good. They are going to ask us to be more specific about what we go into executive session for. We currently post the section of the law that we are doing it for, but they want us to list it out with words as well. Commissioner Brown asked to have the receipts if people can start putting their badge number on it.
* Surplused equipment – no update.
* Merkle Standard is still helping us put in a phone system at Station 41. They also want to help us by paying for an advisor to help us establish more revenue streams in which to operate. They also want to help us when, and if, we run another EMS levy by helping with social media, signage, and support. In the future they want to be involved to help support us. Merkle Standard wants to hire a guy to come and help us figure out how to get more revenue into the district.
* I am still working with the tribe on an automatic aid agreement.
  + The tribe has just approved the fire department to start staffing 24/7. I am not sure when that will take effect, hoping within the next couple weeks. This is addressed again in new business.
* AT&T / FirstNet has sent us cell service repeaters to install inside of all 3 buildings at station 41, as well as stations 42 and 45. They are all free.
* I will be applying for a surplused DNR engine. Commissioner Brown indicated all of our Brush engines are not from DNR. Chief informed the Newport brush engine is going to be getting stripped, all the equipment that is Fire District 4’s. Commissioner Brown asked if we are going to be leaving the truck red and if we are going to be changing the emblem so it doesn’t look like a DNR engine. Chief informed we can do whatever the Board would like.
* Adam, Connor, Jim and Jake have been doing a tremendous job on the facilities and apparatus.

**Unfinished Business**

* EMS and Newport update:
  + Newport – No changes, but Chief Martin is acting as if it is his already the Chief of Newport when talking about moving forward. Chairman Brown asked if it was legal for Chief Martin to put in that post in the paper. Chief informed it has been pointed out Chief Martin has been overstepping, and he’s not sure if it is legal.
  + I met with the county wide EMS stakeholders at the County Commissioners Office for another update and Q & A for the paramedic service today. Discussion included:
    - * Commissioner Rosencrantz attempted to accommodate all of the stakeholders by drafting a document that laid out ground rules from which everybody would play by to better provide for transparency.
        + District 2 and POEMS both scoffed at it, and then pretty much everybody felt that it was not necessary, myself excluded.
      * Chief Haynes brought up that he and Chief Martin recently learned that there was the possibility that a local business is talking with POEMS and looking to help them continue operating. Chief Haynes warned that if it is true, he felt that it would put SPOFR in a position to never want to step up in the future.
      * I was asked what my intentions are for providing services moving forward. I responded with “I don’t see us changing anything in terms of my BLS service, and that I couldn’t answer if there were going to be any changes in how we respond to ALS yet because I have not heard anything from SPOFR or D2 on what their plans are short of what was spoken about at the last meeting”.
      * I asked for deployment models, and there are none yet. I specifically pointed out that it is imperative the service to the northern part of D4, D5 and the Tribe not get worse.
      * Commissioner Rosencrantz in attending the Spofr commissioner meeting tomorrow.
      * John Jackson is going to be giving the state a 60-day notice of when they will be closing the doors. Commissioner Brown asked if federal law said there has to be a 30-day notice. Chief isn’t sure and that John Jackson is going to be giving a 60-day notice.
* Discussion, possible vote, and/or directive to the Chief on paramedic or Newport Fire matters. Chief asked the Boards direction on when to give a 30-day notice to the City of Newport for our Contract for the Fire Department, Chief thinks we should give the notice in mid-November. Chairman Sheffler is in agreement, same with Commissioner Brown as well, Commissioners Frisque asked what bed are we trying to poke, Chief said we aren’t trying to just over the disrespect. Adam shared he was asked when Spofr is taking over Fire District 4, he informed that won’t be happening. Further discussion took place regarding the City of Newport. The Board of Commissioners are in agreement to move forward with drafting a letter and alerting the newspaper.
* Computer security – no updates as of now.
* Chief’s life insurance – More requests for quotes have been sent out, nobody has responded yet.

**New Business**

* Mutual aid agreement with West Pend Oreille Fire – Review, discussion, possible vote or direction to the Chief. West Pend Oreille signed it. The Board of Commissioners agreed to sign the agreement.
* Automatic aid agreement with Kalispel Tribe Fire - Review, discussion, possible vote or direction to the Chief. Chief is going to have Snure draft up an agreement.

**COMMISSIONER BROWN MADE A MOTION TO ALLOW CHIEF TO CONTACT SNURE ABOUT THE AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT, COMMISSIONER FRISQUE SECONDED, AND CHAIRMAN SHEFFLER CONCURRED.**

* Ambulance billing – Review, discussion, possible vote or direction to the Chief
  + Local billing
  + Rate hikes
  + Chief’s recommendation to the board we should not have a different rate to resident’s vs none residents until we get a levy to pass then think about lowing the resident rate to lower. Commissioner Brown doesn’t have a problem with having equal rates but how are we going to educate when we have the next levy that we will lower rates for residents if they levy passes. Chief informed Merkle Standard will help advertise. Chairman Brown asked what rates should we increase, Chief informed we should for BLS none emergency $1,000, for ALS 1 no less than $1,200 but no more than $2,000, and for ALS 2 and SCT doing the same as POEMS. Commissioner Brown asked about Medicare and VA, Chief informed the rates that are dictated and won’t really change due to the rates being dictating by Medicare and Medicaid. The Board of Commissioner agree the BLS None emergency and BLS emergency being $1,000, ALS 1 being $1,500, ALS 2 being the same rate as Poems. For the Mileage rates $20.

**CHAIRMAN SHEFFLER MADE A MOTION TO CHANGE THE RATES AS FOLLOWED ABOVE, COMMISSIONER BROWN SECONDED, AND COMMISSIONER FRISQUE CONCURRED.**

* New application- Cheyne Anderson **APPROVED**

**Open Sesson**

* None

**MEETING ADJOURENED**

As there was no further business before the Board, Chairman Sheffler adjourned the meeting at 19:09 pm.

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Gary Frisque, Commissioner

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Baneta D. Sheffler, Chairman

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Steven A. Brown, Commissioner

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Star S. Orman,

Secretary to the board of Commissioners