COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2023

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF, FIREFIGHTERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**

1. Star Orman, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners
2. Robert Webber, Fire Chief
3. Jake Richer, Resident EMT / Firefighter
4. Caleb Barnett, Resident EMT / Firefighter
5. Brittany Nordhagen, EMT / Firefighter

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

**Consent Agenda**

* Approve Meeting Minutes – June 21st, 2023.
* Deposits: $15,427.66
  + EFT- $50, $905, $240.84, $729.01, $1,205.55, $627.26.
  + Fire protection for the City of Newport- $3,000
  + DNR-$8,570
  + CPR and First Aid class- $100
* Vouchers: 8458 – 8479
  + General Fund – $63,200.89

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

**CORRESPONDENSE – See Attached**

* None

**CHIEF’S REPORT – See Attached**

* Adam is on a fire assignment in Oregon, and is expected to be released on Sunday, been gone for about a week and a half.
* The Tahoe has had the new radio installed last week, there will be a tech out tomorrow to fix the other radio that got messed up.
* Department of Ecology grant radios, Day Wireless is not allowed to program in Spokane County’s programing, but they will get it programed for free.
* Brittany did a great job with the booth at the Rodeo. Further discussion took place about updating brochures. A couple calls came out of the rodeo.
* The residents have asked that we collectively review and possibly update the current resident contract. I will present it to you for authorization of any changes.
* The State is in the process of issuing us a check for $7,000 for Samantha’s involvement with CQI. $2,000 of that is dedicated to IT needs (a computer for Samantha).
* POFD4 was dispatched to 53 calls in the month of June, with the breakdown being 34 in Newport City, 5 in the Newport area, 6 in Usk and 5 in Cusick. We were also dispatched to 3 mutual aid requests, 2 for Fire District 5 (Trauma and a Motor Vehicle Accident), and for 1 for SPOFR (Vegetation Fire).

**UNFINSHED BUSSINESS**

* EMS and Newport update
  + City Council voted to run a “fire levy” on the November ballot, asking for a rate of $1.00 per $1,000. It is projected to levy just under $200,000.
  + It is still unclear who the City plans on having as their service provider moving forward. Further discussion took place regarding about Newport Fire Department.
  + I had to answer questions on why it was necessary to levy funds. One of the council members pointed out that his rough estimates revealed that they were already paying basically $88 per response. I advised him that the contract wasn’t actually paying for any of the responses, it was paying for me to administrate their department’s activities, and that the response aspect is done simply because we as an agency want to provide the best services possible for the citizens of Newport. I also pointed out that most of the responses made within the City is from my staff and equipment, and that it is being paid for by D4 tax payers. I also pointed out that the City does not cover the expenses associated with the maintenance and operation of D4 equipment, training, PPE, supplies, computers or software.
    - I threw it out there that the goal ultimately is to save the tax payers money, while providing better service. An increase of $300 in taxes is steep, but if it leads to a savings of $350 on insurance, it’s well worth it, and it leads to increased service delivery.
    - I pointed out that the insurance rating for the City is horrible, and that without adequate funding, there is nothing I can do about it. I pointed out that I asked for $7,000 to be budgeted for a 5% AFG grant match so that I can purchase hose and nozzles, and it was denied. I pointed out that this issue is low hanging fruit that could increase the rating by roughly 10%.
* Gym Memberships is done, we will start getting invoiced from The Club, and the Camas Center.
  + Commissioner Frisque inquired about the guy memberships from the Camas Center, and if we are only paying the one member and not for the families. Chief informed about it was negotiated that only the one approved member is paid for and if they wish for the family membership the extra is on them. Life Flight memberships were also inquired about and informed we are just waiting on them.
* Computer security – Discussion and possible action. Tabled for next meeting.
* Town Hall 07/26/2023 for Levy – web page announcement- **APPROVED**
  + The Miner wants to know if we want to advertise the levy- we are not allowed.

**NEW BUSSINESS**

* John Foster - Discussion and decision
  + John came in to training and talked to the body about coming back, the group asked for him to take extra specialized harassment and sexual harassment training, he was good with that. Further discussion took place regarding Johns returning. Commissioners **APPROVED**.

**OPEN SESSION**

* None

**MEETING ADJOURENED**

As there was no further business before the Board, Chairman Brown adjourned the meeting at 19:04 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