

SKAGIT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 17
Purpose: Regular Monthly Public Fire Commissioners Meeting
Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2025

Commissioner Wertheimer called the **Regular Fire Commissioners** meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Commissioners Wertheimer, Commissioner Francis via Zoom, Chief Cole and Secretary Davelaar. Commissioner Meekins absent.

The motion was made by Commissioner Francis to approve the minutes of February 10, 2025; motion seconded; motion carried.

Open: None

Treasurer's Report:

Skagit County Treasurer's General Ledger Detail Report

February Operating Fund cash balance	\$ 58,106.53
February General Investment Fund balance	\$ 13,532.09
February Capital Fund cash balance	\$ 94,376.03
February Capital Investment Fund balance	\$ 38,230.09
Total	\$204,244.74

February GIFD Expenditure:	Expenses	\$6,855.24	
	Payroll	\$4,648.44	
	VFF Stipends	\$2,270.00	
	Expense Grand Total		\$13,773.68

February GIFD Revenue:	Taxes collected	\$7,981.20	
	Interest	\$ 194.85	
	February GIFD Total Revenue		\$8,176.05

The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Fire Payments:	FP 02-001 through 02-006	\$ 4,767.80	
Electronic Payments:	V9360-0201 through V9360-0203	\$ 788.60	
	V0591-0201 through V0591-0215	\$ 941.18	
	V5095-0201 through V0591-0204	\$ 357.66	
Payroll Voucher:	PR 022025	\$ 4,648.44	
	February Grand Total Payments		\$11,503.68

The motion was made by commissioner Francis to approve the above Expenditures and Revenue Report; motion seconded; motion carried.

Chief's Report: See report for a list of drills and responses.

Unfinished Business:

- WA State Audit of years 2021, 2022, 2023; exit audit pending.
- Medical officer, Karen, has confirmed with EMS that Fire 17 will be receiving 3 AEDs.
- After-hours emergency ferry runs—invoice received for \$539.50 dated 1/19/25—there was a structural fire in Anacortes, GIFD assisting Anacortes Fire Department; with ferry transporting fire crew and equipment both ways after regular ferry hours. Invoice is from Skagit County Public Works and will be approved for payment with this meeting. Commissioner Francis will be calling Skagit County Public Works to request an appointment to discuss the extravagant price increases for **emergency runs** and what this will mean for the island residents going forward.
- Chief Cole received an email from Skagit County EMS two days ago relating to the following: As usual, Arrow Boats has been contracted for passenger service during the ferry outage March 15-April 29, 2025; any emergency calls will be billed/charged by Arrow Boats.
 - The charges from Arrow for emergency service after hours will be \$2,629.84 **per hour**, and \$5,259.60 **per hour** during holidays (Easter occurs during the ferry outage).
 - Anacortes Fire will be in contact by radio and cell phone for suggestions/advice in treatment of “low acuity” medical calls (code Alpha=broken ankle, code Charlie=fall to stroke, code Delta=unconscious, code Echo=CPR required); “low acuity” (code Alpha) means get on scene, assess, plan from there. Code Charlie, Delta, Echo necessitate helicopter transport; if the helicopters cannot fly, for any reason, we are to contact Skagit County Sheriff for whatever boat/assistance they can provide.
 - Final option is to pay the rates as presented by Arrow Boats and charge EMS. We have a pickup schedule in place and will rendezvous with the boat as needed.
 - We cannot contact Cory for help (San Juan Enterprise barge) because contract negotiations have fallen through; Cory refuses to purchase the insurance required by the boatmen’s union, saying they are excessive and have not been required for hazmat runs.
 - If there is a fire during the outage, Anacortes Fire Chief McDonald stated that they will be unable to get fire trucks to the island.

New Business:

- New email from EMS re interlocal agreement that the commissioners signed last month, rescinding paragraph on Page 5 covering insurance limits, stating the \$20M coverage per occurrence was excessive; the \$5M per occurrence/\$10M aggregate was reasonable; commissioners’ initials needed.
- New letter from Skagit Assessor covering 2025 levy: new property valuation for Guemes Island is \$619,085,316; Secretary Davelaar met with the assessor last month and was told that after our successful levy lid lift, we are unable to increase the certified budget levy for 2025; however, in 2026 our annual budget levy will not increase by the usual 1% per annum, but may increase by as much as 200%. The assessor’s office will work closely with the secretary to establish the new levy amount in November 2025 to make sure we receive as much as is lawful.
- Bill Soren-Property on Glencoe Lane: Bill owns two lots here and he has offered to donate them to the department in exchange for a letter of in-kind donation. Commissioner Wertheimer and Chief Cole will be meeting him to discuss and will report back at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm. The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Next Resolution will be 478.

Submitted by Linda Davelaar, District Secretary

Skagit County Fire District 17, Chairman