

SKAGIT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 17

Purpose: Special Public Fire Commissioners Meeting

October 30, 2023

Commissioner Wertheimer called the **Special Fire Commissioners** meeting to order at 5 pm.

Present: Commissioners Wertheimer, Murphy and Francis, Chief Cole, and Treasurer Davelaar.

Subjects for discussion: Time sensitive invoice re EMT training; hiring of Greg Vammen as GIFD Mechanic, presented by Chief Cole. Budget Levy 2024, presented by Treasurer Davelaar.

Chief's Report: EMT Certification. Current classes at Skagit Valley College are 3 nights a week and all day Saturdays; impractical for Guemes VFFs; the expenses would include VFF hours, lodging and meals; significantly adding to cost. Remote Medical Training, Bellingham, also offers classes in training with certification for Skagit County, as well as national. Pros and Cons: Pros are practicals are hands-on, 5 weekends in a row; there are instructors in Mount Vernon, who could return home after classes on Saturday and Sunday, saving travel and accommodation expenses. Cons are we have to have 10 members sign up, cost about \$24,000 or \$2,000 per member; we currently have 7 members who have expressed interest; and Chief Cole is confident she can find 3 members from other fire departments in the district. Motion was made to approve the request for EMT training through Remote Medical Training; motion seconded; motion carried.

Hiring Greg Vammen: Greg was filling in temporarily as mechanic, while Larry Pyke was out of the department for shoulder surgery; Larry has not been "rehired" according to the bylaws of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters, nor has he expressed an interest in returning to the mechanic position. Greg is highly certified as a diesel mechanic, as well as a positive attitude, working well with others in the department and especially with the Chief. Chief Cole highly recommends hiring Greg and at the rate of \$30 per hour. Motion made to hire Greg Vammen as GIFD Mechanic at \$30 per hour, motion seconded, motion carried. The mechanic will be supervised by and report directly to the chief.

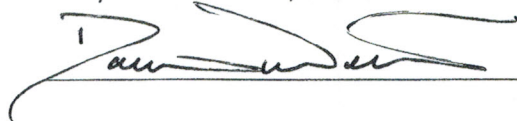
Chief Cole acknowledged that mistakes were made in the past year reporting Greg's hours for his mechanic's duties and as a result we owe him for approximately \$1,905 in back pay. Commissioners agreed that Greg Vammen should be paid for these past due hours.

Karen Anderson has been appointed Medical Officer for the department starting November 1, 2023.

Treasurer Davelaar presented the Commissioners with the "working draft" for the Budget Levy for 2024 as a preview. The amount proposed for 2024 is \$180,080. Discussion on the budget was tabled until the Regular Commissioners Meeting on November 13, 2023, after the budget meeting notice is posted for the public.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. The next regular meeting will be Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Linda Davelaar, Treasurer



Skagit County Fire District 17, Chairman