

SKAGIT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 13
17433 Snee-Oosh Road
P.O. Box 1007
La Conner, Washington 98257



MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2024

1. **Call to order** – Chairman Shellhamer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Flag Salute** – Chairman Shellhamer lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Consent Agenda – action** – Commissioner Doyle moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Shellhamer seconded. Commissioner Shellhamer called for any more discussion and then for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Attendees – no action** – Present were Commissioner Bruce Shellhamer, Commissioner John Doyle, Commissioner JJ Wilbur, Chief Wood Weiss, Battalion Chief Jamie Jurdi, District Secretary Tracy Berg, Captain Chris Olbu, Captain Gary Ladd, Captain Ted Taylor (Zoom), Firefighter Cole Mardesich, Firefighter Tim Wurtz, Firefighter Tony Denunzio, Firefighter Pieter Van den Kieboom and Captain Jesse Strinden. Bill Reynolds from the La Conner Weekly News and Jim and Sue White from Skagit Bay Search and Rescue were also present.
5. **Public Comment** – N/A
6. **Firefighter Pinning** – Battalion Chief Jurdi gave the firefighter oath to Firefighter Tim Wurtz.
7. **Approval of Minutes – action** – District Secretary Berg presented the minutes from the February 8th, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Wilbur seconded. Commissioner Shellhamer called for any more discussion and then for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
8. **Financial and Administrative Reports – action** – District Secretary Berg presented the following checks and check registers for approval by the Board:
 - Check Register Dated 3/1/2024 for \$131,503.36 (Check #'s 11836-11841, DD1602-DD1630 and EFTPS in the amount of \$93,947.03 for payroll) (Check #'s 11806-11835 in the amount of \$37,556.33 for accounts payable)
 - Check Register Dated 3/14/2024 for \$10,808.62 (Check #'s 11842-11852 for accounts payable)
 - Transmittal \$165,000
 - Financial Report February 29, 2024
- Commissioner Wilbur moved to approve the checks and check registers as presented. Commissioner Doyle seconded. Chairman Shellhamer called for any more discussion and then for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. **Joint Committee w/ Town of La Conner – no action** – Chief Weiss reported that the town was unable to get a grant to purchase a new boat. Commissioner Doyle will reach out to the Chief and see if there is a way he can help them with a grant.

10. **Chief Report – action –**

- **Statistical Report** – Chief Weiss presented his statistical reports for the month of February.
- **Stairclimb** – The team did a great job at the LLS Stairclimb last Sunday. Chief Weiss is hoping to have a team every year.
- **Skagit Bay Search & Rescue** – The attorney completed the MOU for both entities to sign. Commissioner Doyle made a motion to sign the MOU. Commissioner Wilbur seconded. Chairman Shellhamer called for any more discussion and then for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved. Sue White, from Skagit Bay Search and Rescue, was also present to sign.
- **EMS Levy** – Skagit County EMS will be on the ballot for a replacement levy in April. Chief Weiss read the flyer that is coming out soon. Fire District 13 does receive money from this levy.
- **Compressor** – The compressor is broken and could possibly be fixed but probably not worth it (it is 30 years old). Chief Weiss has been looking at various options to replace the compressor. There are three manufacturers (Scott, Bauer and Macco) that have the type of compressor we need. If we choose Bauer, we would not have to replace the bottle changer because it is compatible with our current Bauer bottle change system. The cost for the compressor and bottles would be approximately \$50,000. Marathon has said they might be able to help us out. If we order the Bauer system, it will take 3 months to get. Currently Chief Weiss is going to Anacortes Fire and District 2 to fill bottles.
- **FEMA Grant** – Chief Weiss submitted a grant to FEMA for an exhaust elimination system.
- **Skagit Farmer's Grant** – Captain Strinden received a grant from Skagit Farmer's Supply for \$10,000.00. The grant is to be used for agriculture/farming purposes.
- **Wildland** – BC Jurdi received his wildland crew boss certification so he can now teach the wildland refresher class to our crew.
- **Evaluator Class** – Chief Weiss is taking the state evaluator class on Monday.
- **CPR Instructor** – Chief Weiss is taking a class to become a CPR instructor instructor.
- **Meetings** – Chief Weiss attended the Nicholson and Association meeting via Zoom. There are quite a few new members in the risk pool. There were a few changes in the bylaws. He also attended the county commissioners meeting yesterday.
- **Swinomish Tribe** – The Swinomish Tribe agreed to give us what we asked for, for 2024.
- **Staffing at Station One** – Chief Weiss is looking at the possibility of having daytime staffing at Station One. Initially it would be a twelve-hour shift, two days a week. He is thinking we would just need one initial person. At station one, there would be two firefighter/EMTs and at station two, there would be one firefighter/EMT and a duty chief. The casino is our fourth largest response area. The impact to the budget could be minimal and the possible extra transports could

offset the cost. Chief Weiss is going to discuss the possibility further with his officers.

- **CARES** – Chief Weiss had a meeting with Sarah Sullivan from the tribe about possible future grants.

11. **Medical Officer/CARES report – no action** – Captain Strinden gave the monthly statistical report along with the CARES report. The CARES crew did a CISM training (27 hours). They are working on becoming CISM certified. Captain Strinden and Captain Ferrell attended a wellness and emotional support class for first responders. They learned about the stress of the job and how to give first responders support. They are now working with the Tribe to see if they can offer a similar class. Firefighter/EMT C. Mardesich added that the hospitals are reaching out more. They are also working more with Anacortes and are going to try to get the software that Anacortes uses for their program. They are going to be going to Everett for an event/symposium for CARES programs. They are also going to be speaking at this event.
12. **Training Report – no action** – Captain Olbu gave his monthly update on training. He is trying to fast track volunteers Char and Serge Derrick for their EVIP training. February's focus for training was on harassment prevention. This month's focus will be hazmat training. They are looking at having a medical drill quarterly with Anacortes Fire.
13. **Battalion Chief Report – no action** – Wildland is fast approaching. The DNR refresher class is in April. The DNR phase one grant for PPE opened last week which he will put in for. BC Jurdi and Chief Weiss are going to go talk with Brian Geer from Swinomish DEM about wildland fire. BC Jurdi is still looking for a tactical tender. He did inquire about a type 6 brush truck from the DNR about a year ago and last week they asked him if he still wants it. He is going to look into it.
14. **Emergency Management Report – no action** – Captain Taylor referred to Captain Ladd about the March 30th EOC exercise. They are going to be simulating a wind storm disaster exercise. He would like for the firefighters to also be involved. Captain Taylor and Captain Ladd are working with Shelter Bay to come up with an emergency management plan.
15. **Good of the Order** – Chief Weiss gave a shout out to Brian Geer for saving another individual (which makes it three in the last couple of months).
16. **Adjourn** at 10:15 a.m.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2024.

Chairman/Commissioner, Bruce Shellhamer

District Secretary, Tracy Berg

Unless otherwise indicated all attachments and notes are maintained by the District Secretary.