

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



SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 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 Shellhamer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Doyle 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, Chief Wood Weiss, Battalion Chief Jamie Jurdi, District Secretary Tracy Berg, Captain Chris Olbu, Captain Gary Ladd, Captain Ted Taylor, Firefighter Taylor Peterson and Firefighter Cole Mardesich. Bill Reynolds from the La Conner Weekly News was also present along with firefighter spouse Allison Peterson.
5. **Public Comment** – Bill Reynolds stated that Fire District 13 had a great response to the house fire in La Conner.
6. **Approval of Minutes – action** – District Secretary Berg presented the minutes from the June 13th, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Shellhamer made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Commissioner Doyle seconded. Commissioner Shellhamer called for any more discussion and then for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.
7. **Financial and Administrative Reports – action** – District Secretary Berg presented the following checks and check registers for approval by the Board:
 - Check Register Dated 7/1/2024 for \$111,878.65 (Check #'s 11971-11977, DD1718-DD1744 and EFTPS in the amount of \$87,393 for payroll) (Check #'s 11978-11998 in the amount of \$24,485.65 for accounts payable)
 - Check Register Dated 7/18/2024 for \$11,772.22 (Check #'s 11999-12012 for accounts payable)
 - Transmittal \$120,000
 - Financial Report June 30, 2024
 - Commissioner Shellhamer 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.
8. **Town of La Conner– no action** – Commissioner Doyle spoke to La Conner Chief Reinstra about starting discussions to form a regional fire authority. Both Chief Weiss and Commissioner Shellhamer are on board with starting these discussions to see if it can be feasible.

9. **Chief Report – action –**

- **Statistical Report** – Chief Weiss gave his monthly statistical report.
- **Meetings** – On August 7th, the county will be switching to the recommended units dispatching.
- **Compressor** – There was an issue with the electrical for the compressor but they have figured out a fix and the new compressor should be here next week.
- **Air Conditioner / Heat Pump** – Handy's Heating has installed the heat pump at the residence.
- **Summit Shifters** – They have been able to reduce response times with having the extra shifters at Station One.
- **Driveway Resurfacing** – They are resurfacing half the parking lot/driveway today and the other half will be done next week.
- **Wildland Drill** – The wildland drill went really well.
- **Lid Lift** – Chief Weiss and Secretary Berg are discussing the communications that will need to go out for this to be successful.
- **Porta Tank** – Chief Weiss would like to get a new lighter porta tank. He thinks the cost will be between \$1,500 and \$2,500.
- **Solar Panels** – The solar panel was struck by lightning back in February. The arrestor took the brunt of it and 12 panels have been not functioning. Fire Mountain Solar came out and fixed everything. To add the 12 additional panels that were talked about at the last meeting plus the inverter charger and the batteries (replacing the current one too), the new quote is \$41,000.00. The tribe has stepped up and let us know they have a grant in place and they feel this can all be covered under that tribe grant.
- **Bunker Gear** – Commissioner Shellhamer made a motion to increase the bunker gear budget item to \$40,000.00. Commissioner Doyle seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **EV Blanket** – Chief Weiss would like to look in to getting an EV blanket.
- **Impact Fees** – Chief Weiss was able to get \$106,000 from casino gaming for 2023 impact fees.
- **Billing** – Firefighter Cole Mardesich is taking over the billing duties that Captain Ladd has done for us the last 10 years. This is an additional duty he is taking on that doesn't pertain to CARES.
- **Toilet** – Chief Weiss replaced the toilet in the bathroom in the bay at Station Two.
- **CARES grant** – Chief Weiss has been working with Sarah Sullivan for the new cycle of CARES grants.
- **Pinning of Taylor Peterson** – BC Jurdi gave Firefighter Peterson his oath and his wife pinned him.

10. **Medical Officer/CARES report – no action** – Firefighter Mardesich presented the graphs for the month for transports and for CARES (MIH visits). He also gave an update on the CARES program.

11. **Training Report – no action** – Captain Olbu gave his monthly update on training. They have also been cleaning up the grounds around Station One.

12. **Battalion Chief Report – no action –**

- BC Jurdi and two firefighters went on their first mobilization in June. They were only there for three days (in Yakima). They got another call on the 4th of July but they

turned it down so they would be in District. They are currently on standby to go to Oregon.

- He completed the Swinomish Emergency Management grant for a tactical tender and also completed a needs assessment to submit with the grant.
- We have one firefighter (Noah Lee) who is working on obtaining his red card.

13. **Emergency Management Report – no action** – Captain Taylor and Captain Ladd said the wildland drill went well. It was a good exercise. Captain Taylor is working on a template for evacuations.

14. **Good of the Order** – Captain Ladd talked about Marine 13. It was called out twice recently in which they discovered there are a few kinks they still need to work out. The Swinomish Emergency Operations Center is located at Fire District 13. Captain Ladd has been the communications operator for the last 10 years. When he leaves, we will have zero operators. If the Fire Department wants the EOC to remain in place, they need to find a new ham radio operator that will take over for him. Both Commissioner Shellhamer and Commissioner Doyle have been hearing good things about our firefighters around the area.

15. **Adjourn** at 10:14 a.m.

Dated this 8th day of August, 2024.

Chairman/Commissioner, Bruce Shellhamer

District Secretary, Tracy Berg

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