

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

**December 11, 2023**

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

**Present:** Commissioners Wertheimer, Murphy and Francis, Chief Cole, and Treasurer Davelaar; Guests Karen Anderson and Gabe Murphy.

The minutes of November 13, 2023 were unanimously approved.

**Open:** Gabe Murphy reported the County Planning Advisory Committee met. Senator Lovett attended and she discussed that San Juan Island is finding Class A fire chemicals in their water; do we know if these chemicals have ever been used here? Commissioner Francis stated these chemicals have never been used on Guemes Island; it was found in one of the vehicles the fire department purchased, but was drained and disposed of before anyone here used it. Gabe Murphy also reported that a sketch of the proposed ferry terminal upgrade included a ticket booth and queuing lanes; it looks like it could be a significant obstruction, making emergency vehicles harder to get on and off the ferry. More information will be forthcoming and Mr. Murphy will share the sketch with the commissioners when it is available.

**Treasurer's Report:**

November Operating Fund cash balance	\$ 109,524.25
November General Investment Fund balance	\$ 12,729.54
November Capital Fund cash balance	\$ 96,794.81
November Capital Investment Fund balance	\$ 34,667.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$254,715.67</b>

<b>November GIFD expenditures:</b> Expenses	\$ 6,088.92
Payroll	\$ 4,590.18
VFF Stipends	\$ 2,840.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr Skagit County Accounting Charge	\$ 1,164.34

**November Expenditures Grand Total** **\$ 14,683.44**

<b>November GIFD Revenue</b>	Taxes collected	\$ 12,455.99
	Interest	\$ Not available
	Cash Receipts	\$ 2,430.52

**November GIFD Total Revenue** **\$14,886.51**

The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Fire Payments:	FP 12-001 through 12-008	\$ 3,689.85
Electronic Payments:	V7011-1201 through V7011-1206:	\$ 649.43

	V0591-1201 through V0591-1215:	\$ 1,535.58
	V5095-1201	\$ 214.06
Payroll Voucher:	PR 12-2023	\$ 4,590.18

**November Grand Total Payments** **\$10,679.10**

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

**Chief’s Report:** See attached report for a list of drills and responses.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Land Donation—Anya Mayo in active negotiation—\$6,000 offer on one parcel; no word yet on the second parcel.
- Water Softener System—currently two bids—need analysis of the two bids to find which equipment is the most promising. Water testing showed total coliform level was unsatisfactory. It’s very unusual and will require a serious chlorine pellet cleaning of the water system; waiting a month for the chlorine to dissipate and retesting the water. Tom Fouts recommended, after the water receives a clean test, installing a UV system to ensure purification of the water going forward. After dosing the water with chlorine, Commissioner Francis mentioned the availability of a chlorine meter, used in Holiday Hideaway for testing the water, which will be helpful in making sure the chlorine has dissipated.

**New Business:**

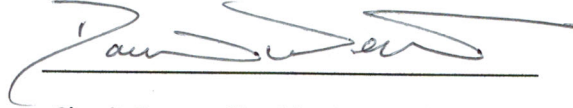
- Fire Levy Lid Lift. Proposition for the ballot discussed. Timeline should realistically be: draft language for the ballot by August 2024 and getting the proposition on the ballot for November 2024. The levy will increase from 30 cents to 50 cents per thousand. Commissioner Murphy recommends we schedule a work session to get the information together as soon as we can, possibly mid-January for the first session. Commissioner Wertheimer has submitted the proposed language to our attorney at Snure. Tom Fouts is concerned that we have air problems with a couple of our fire vehicles which will be quite costly to repair; adding an additional assessment would be a good idea. NFPA requirements are very costly fire departments because of scheduled equipment updates and annual testing requirements; SCBAs, bunker gear, pagers and radios will also need replacing. Chief Cole will contact District 6 and Sedro Woolley for recommendations of an advisor on these matters, since they have recently had successful ballot propositions.
- New Fire Hall Grant Possibility. Commissioner Wertheimer shared information about the American Recovery Act that Tom Fouts brought to our attention. It includes a firehouse grants program, a 2009 initiative that was part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Assistance to Firefighters grants program (part of FEMA) is ongoing, and might be a source of funding to which we could apply. (See: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/firefighters/assistance-grants>). The Region 10 contact for Washington State is Richard Dunne, (425-487-4633). It might be worth reaching out to him about funding that is available.

- Having been notified by the county auditor that we are over budget, Secretary Davelaar recommended a resolution to increase the budget \$40,000 until the end of the year. Motion made, motion seconded, motion carried. Resolution 468 was signed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

**Next Resolution will be 469.**

Submitted by Linda Davelaar, District Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Davelaar', is written over a horizontal line.

Skagit County Fire District 17, Chairman