

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

November 13, 2022

Commissioner Wertheimer called the **Regular Fire Commissioners** meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Present: Commissioners Wertheimer (via Zoom), Murphy and Francis, Chief Cole, and Treasurer Davelaar.

The minutes of October 16, & 30, 2023 were unanimously approved.

Recess regular meeting.

Budget 2024 Meeting: The motion was made to approve the 2024 budget levy of \$180,080. Motion seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Budget Meeting adjourned.

Regular Commissioners Meeting Resumed:

Open:

Health insurance for volunteers as offered by WFCA was discussed. The availability of this self-financed insurance plan has been shared with all GIFD volunteers; two people are pursuing the program, Chief Cole and Mechanic Vammen. Chief Cole stated that enrollment has just opened and she is considering the best health insurance options available for herself. More information is needed, which the Chief will supply next month. Commissioners want to look at the premium costs, etc., before approving a cost-sharing plan with the Chief, as she is our only fulltime employee.

Treasurer's Report:

October Operating Fund cash balance	\$ 104,204.31
October General Investment Fund balance	\$ 12,827.94
October Capital Fund cash balance	\$ 96,794.81
October Capital Investment Fund balance	\$ 35,667.07
Total	\$ 249,494.13

October GIFD expenditures:	Expenses	\$ 2,055.48
	Payroll	\$ 6,699.13 --
	VFF Stipends	\$ 3,520.00
October Expenditures Grand Total		\$ 12,274.61

October GIFD Revenue	Taxes collected	\$ 61,141.55
	Interest	\$ 53.09
	Cash Receipt	\$ 11.78
	District IGT	\$.50
October GIFD Total Revenue		\$61,206.92

The following vouchers are approved for payment—

Fire Payments:	FP 11-001 through 11-002	\$ 2,055.48	
Electronic Payments:	V7011-1101 through V7011-1108:	\$ 484.66	
	V0591-1101 through V0591-1114:	\$ 1,109.19	
	V5095-1101 through V5095-1104:	\$ 96.11	
Payroll Voucher:	PR 11-2023	\$ 6,699.13	
October Grand Total Payments			\$8,754.61

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
- Water Softener System—currently two bids—need analysis of the two bids to find which equipment is the most promising

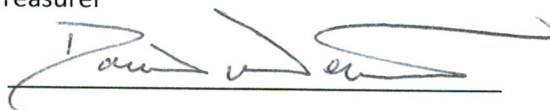
New Business:

- Hand carved and constructed bench donation from John Hoenselaar, honoring VFFs who responded to his own medical emergency, was discussed. Once it is delivered, we can find a place on the island to display it; the park and stage were suggested as possible locations. After delivery, a thank you letter will be sent to John.
- A motion was made to express heartfelt thanks to the fire department and fire fighters for their hard work after the last wind storm, removing several downed trees, plus protecting the public from downed powerlines. Motion seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Fire Levy lid lift. Gerry presented figures and percentages from our previous levy in 2009. (See attached info he presented.) Gerry emphasized we need to come up with justification for the lid lift. Property values have increased dramatically since 2009, yet our levy has dropped from \$.50 cents per \$1,000 to \$.31 cents in that time. Resolutions need to be written, and research with Skagit County Auditor needs to be done to inquire about the mechanism needed to get a proposition for levy lid lift onto the ballot in the spring, as well as a build levy for a new fire station. Commissioner Wertheimer volunteered to contact the Auditor and will report on next steps at our December meeting.

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

Next Resolution will be 468.

Submitted by Linda Davelaar, Treasurer



Skagit County Fire District 17, Chairman