SKAGIT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 17
Purpose: Regular Monthly Public Fire Commissioners Meeting
Location: Guemes Island Fire Station
Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026
Commissioner Haggerty called the **Regular Fire Commissioners** meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Present: Commissioners Haggerty, Meekins and Vammen; Fire Chief Cole, Secretary Davelaar. Guests Jan Gilkey, Greg Vammen, Brenan Filippini

The motion was made by Commissioner Haggerty to approve the minutes of August 10, 2026, including the corrected Treasurer's Report; **motion seconded, motion carried.**
Motion was made by Commissioner Meekins to approve the meeting agenda, **motion seconded, motion carried.**

Open:

Treasurer's Report:
Skagit County Treasurer's General Ledger Detail Report

August Operating Fund cash balance	$20,348.45
August General Investment Fund balance	$98,119.27
August Capital Fund cash balance	$10,046.81
August Capital Investment Fund balance	$112,899.63
Total	**$241,414.16**

August Expenditures	Expenses	$3,884.97	
	Payroll	$5,514.05	
Expense Grand Total			**$9,399.02**

August GIFD Revenue:	Tax Collection	$2,170.80	
	Donation	$ 145.00	
	Interest	$ 333.26	
	Timber Excise	$ 25.10	
August GIFD Total Revenue			**$2,678.58**

The following vouchers are approved for payment:

Fire Payments:	FP 08-001 to 08-005	$1,065.33	
Electronic Payments:	V9360-0801 to V9360-0805	$ 629.77	
	V5202-0801 to V5202-0810	$1,309.32	
Payroll Voucher:	PR 082026	$5,515.05	
August Grand Total Expenses			**$9,399.02**

VFF Stipends (banked monthly) $2,430.00

Commissioner Meekins made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, **motion seconded, motion carried.**

Chief's Report: See report for a list of drills and responses.

Unfinished Business:

- There is now a link on the website to the calendar under "About Us." Brenan and Olivia are working their way through the website; updating is ongoing. Website will eventually include on- and off-island trainings; listing holidays that Fire 17 participates in celebrating with the community (such as Fourth of July, Trunk or Treat, Meet & Greet with Santa, Annual Christmas potluck), firefighter and commissioner biographies with photos.
- Public contacting the fire department: encouraging folks to contact 911 instead of calling the chief. This has been working lately; folks have called the chief and in turn are told to call 911. This will eventually become the norm.
- Suggestion to start a campaign for identifying pets in the community; C02 masks are available for dogs, cats, and birds. The chief will be exploring publicizing our ability to help the pets on the island during fire/smoke events; making window stickers available for residences identifying number and type of pets living therein.
- Commissioner Meekins discovered that islander, Jay Simac, is willing to discuss the fire department acquiring a 5-acre parcel of his on Paradise Lane. Discussion followed: we first need to prioritize discussing the replacement of vehicles that are critical. A 5-10 year plan needs to be kept in mind for capital planning. Greg: Would suggest starting with a dumpster to unload all of the parts that are currently being stored in our smaller spaces; cleaning out unusable/outdated parts, designating surplus and recyclable parts. This would add approximately 5 to 6 feet of space for a longer rig just by cleaning out the bays.

New Business:

- Guidance for transferring funds this month: $45,000 will be transferred from the general investment fund to the general fund. This amount should see us through to the end of November, when the second half of tax revenue for 2026 is received.
- Jan Gilkey gift planning for GIFD; island property owner since 1966. Presented the fire department with a $25,000 check. She has initiated an investment fund that will earn money for the fire department going forward.
- Commissioners accepted Ms. Gilkey's donation with gratitude and determined that the donation should be deposited directly to the Capital Fund. Investment Officer Davelaar will carry this out and the funds deposited will be designated as Resolution 495.
- How to make donations to the fire department or the volunteer firefighters association needs to be explained simply and put on the website to educate anyone who wishes to donate. Estate planning to include the fire department should be researched. **In a follow up email on 9/15/2026, Commissioner Haggerty reported a consultation with the county auditor and learned that we can accept a donation of stock. She will be working with the auditor to determine if it can be deposited directly to the shared county investment account and immediately liquidated.**
- Greg Vammen, mechanic/engineer: vehicle replacement considerations--#1711—electrical problems, in the shop at Hughes Fire Equipment because all repair work on our vehicles needs to be certified by fire mechanics. Replacement of the pumper trucks is not that great a need;

pump testing is done annually per NFPA standards on both pumpers. #1712 is completely mechanical, meaning no electronics, very basic and a great backup, can transport 5 firefighters—keep. The ambulance is an antique; $300,000 is typical replacement cost for a decent ambulance; particularly concerning is that we are using the ambulance a lot (used it 4 times this weekend). We don't need an ambulance with all the bells and whistles because we do not transport. Brush rig has low mileage, pump needs to be replaced, not user friendly, drivers need training; $15-25,000 to upgrade the engine/pump; equipment bolted to the roof of the brush rig needs to be removed and the roof waterproof coated. Water tender is our fire hydrant (source of water) $15,000 to update the pump; the pump unit needs to be looked at and replaced or possibly rebuilt. 1714 and the ambulance are taken to Zap Lube for any work needed; Pacific Tank & Body services #1711, 1712 and 1716 annually.

- Priority replacement: Ambulance first, then 1711 to transport more VFFs. Commissioner Haggerty will produce a spreadsheet for priority needs. There are grants for ambulance replacements; we can discuss fundraising on the island and working with the community to move this forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm**.** The next regular meeting will be held at the Guemes Island fire station on **Monday, October 12, 2026 at 7 pm.**

Next Resolution will be 496.

Submitted by Linda Davelaar, District Secretary

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Skagit County Fire District 17, Chairman