

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT
NO. 2**

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire District No. 2 was held at Headquarters Station 28 on April 9, 2020, commencing at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to proper notice. District officials in attendance, pursuant to virtual meeting software Go To Meeting were: Commissioners Elwell, Sitterley and Peden. Also attending virtually were: Chief Mike Marrs, District Secretary Joseph Quinn, and Assistant Secretary Eric Quinn. Others in attendance, if any, are as shown on the Attendance Roster.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Elwell who led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. A discussion ensued as to what is "necessary or routine" under Governor Inslee's March 24th order restricting public access to the meetings, and whether any items on the final agenda would *not* be considered "necessary or routine." The three items pertaining to the Public Educator contract and job description had been removed from the agenda for that reason, but are included in the attachments as received correspondence. Joseph Quinn concurred in that deletion, and stated that he saw no other agenda items on the final agenda that were not necessary or routine.

Agenda Approval. It was moved, seconded and carried 3-0 to approve the agenda as submitted immediately prior to the meeting.

Presentations/Announcements. (1) Presentations: Chief Marrs submitted the call summary, stating that the total number of calls this year to date is about 100 less than last year. Chair Elwell said he expected call volume to rise. Chief Marrs said EMS calls are slower or take longer due to the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment (PPE). There are also fewer motor vehicle accidents as there are fewer vehicles on the road due to statewide stay-at-home orders. He said there have been 14 encounters with COVID-19 patients, with about 26 firefighters involved. Chief Marrs described how state agencies are compiling the numbers. Chair Elwell said that it is great to be able to trace exposures back to the original encounter.

(2) Announcements:

- June 5 & 6 – Chelan (This has not yet been cancelled.)
 - (a) June 5 – Washington State Risk Management Group presents "PTSD and Current Lawsuits" and "Strategic Emergency Education", 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Lakeside Lodge, reception following at Campbell's Resort; and

April 9, 2020

- (b) June 6 – WFCAs Saturday Seminar Series Presentations include “Managing your Risk Exposure to Avoid the Witness Stand” and “WFCAs Self-Funded Health Care Program Update”, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Campbell’s.

Correspondence. Chief Marrs mentioned the guidance from King County stating that the first half tax deadline is being extended to June 1st. Chief Marrs said he did not think this would present a cash flow problem, but he will be monitoring that. The District has good cash carryover from 2019. Chief Marrs said he received a request to bargain the impacts of the health screening and that would be discussed in his Chief’s Report.

Public Comment. None. Discussion ensued regarding how public comment could be received. Joseph Quinn recommended that public comment be allowed by email only, and advertised as such on the web site, as many other agencies are doing that;

Local 1461 Comment. None.

Administration Reports. Chief Marrs delivered the Chief’s Report as follows:

Facilities. The stations are still locked down. Chief Pettigrew stated that the Fire Marshal and administration are still busy in this irregular time.

Equipment. N/A.

Personnel. Chief Marrs discussed the request to bargain the impacts of health screening and said there is an agreement in principle already.

Chief Marrs said that Captain Sykes has revoked his early retirement due to uncertainties, creating a unique set of dynamic circumstances that Chief Marrs discussed. Staffing issues must take into account availability (or not) of a fire academy, recruiting and filling positions.

Events. Chief Marrs said there have been 97 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Burien and Normandy Park, but we are not sure how many in the unincorporated area due to a lack of data. He said that, anecdotally, there is about as much infection in the unincorporated area. There have been two confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Burien. There are three isolation recovery sites in King County, including the one in Kent. The State Department of Health may order “health detainers” to enforce isolation orders.

The Chief said Joe Kupferling is in Tumwater serving on an incident management team.

April 9, 2020

Chief Marrs discussed the "scout" procedure for minimizing use of PPE. Only one EMT is sent in with a rudimentary set of PPE to make the initial assessment, but no closer than six feet from the patient. The procedure is working well. Obtaining PPE has been troublesome but the administration is working on it. Captain Wayne Metz is focused on that. There has been discussion of using rain ponchos as gowns and other creative solutions.

Commissioner Peden asked if Chief Marrs had had the chance to review the link he had sent him, regarding how a Colorado fire department was dealing with the crisis. Chief Marrs said that had been discussed. He discussed various methods that have been used to protect employees from a highly infectious virus such as this one. The administration is working on a process for stockpiling and re-using masks safely. The price tag for some measures, such as a fog machine using hydrogen peroxide, for sanitizing masks, is approximately \$30,000. The District is working with FEMA on that. Chair Elwell said he had read about hospitals re-using masks. Chief Marrs said it costs about \$3.65 for each decontamination of a mask, and Chair Elwell asked how much hydrogen peroxide was needed. Joseph Quinn asked if Burien Fire was participating in the proposed interlocal agreement to make a group purchase of the N95 masks. Chief Marrs answered affirmatively, stating that Burien Fire had put in for 5,000 of those masks.

Commissioner Sitterley told the Board of the preventive measures his own company (Belfor Inc.) has utilized for decontamination. Chief Marrs said he would be reaching out to Commissioner Sitterley to get more such information. He will keep the Board informed of the district's measures to combat the COVID-19 problems. The district has had four firefighters tested and all have come back negative for the virus.

Chief Marrs said Tukwila has reduced staffing and that may impact us. Burien Fire is responding more into the City of Tukwila. They are collecting very little sales tax as so many businesses are closed.

The Field Hospital at Century Link Field is closing and being moved, which is a good sign that local hospitals are not as overwhelmed as they once were. The State Department of Health issued a best practices letter to skilled nursing facilities, nursing homes, and homeless shelters. Apparently there are a total of 158 of these in King County. They tend to create "clusters" of infected persons. District personnel will be delivering that letter to such occupancies in our district, the Chief said, as we respond to calls there. COVID-19 is most dangerous where the elderly and vulnerable are present in close proximity to each other.

Chief Marrs thanked Commissioner Hiatt of North Highline Fire District for providing masks. She and her family have sewn 100 masks as of the time of the meeting. The goal is to have 600 masks so the responders can "wear three and wash three." Chief Marrs expressed a lot of pride in the crews and those helping to combat the

April 9, 2020

crisis. He gave a huge thanks to the entire admin staff for their unbelievable focus during this trying time.

Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda, all of which was approved 3-0, upon a motion made by Commissioner Sitterley and seconded by Commissioner Peden, consisted of the Chief's Report and the minutes of the regular meeting of March 17, 2020.

Unfinished Business. None.

New Business. None.

Executive Session. None. Chair Elwell asked if the attorney-client privileged memo regarding random drug testing should be discussed, but Chief Marrs said he would be in touch.

Good of the Order. Trina Norsen showed a video or slide show of the procession of emergency vehicles near Highline Hospital Emergency Department, in honor of the hospital staff.

Commissioner Peden noted that the Exchange Club and the Rotary Club have honored the first responders.

Chair Elwell thanked Chief Marrs for coordinating the remote meeting.


Adjournment. It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, 3-0. At 6:00 p.m., after the Board reviewed and approved any necessary papers and/or vouchers, the meeting was adjourned.

Attachments. Attached to these Minutes are copies of:

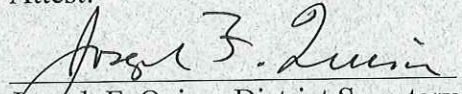
1. the Meeting Notice
2. the Meeting Agenda
3. the Attendance Roster
4. Call summary report
5. County guidance re: extension of tax deadline
6. Local 1461 request to bargain
7. MOU, job description, and Public Educator contract

Minutes Approved: April 21, 2020.


April 9, 2020


Chris Elwell
Chairman

Attest:


Joseph F. Quinn, District Secretary


Ted Sitterley
Commissioner


Rudy Peden
Commissioner

April 9, 2020

