**2025 Budget Hearing and**

**Business Meeting Minutes November 13, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm. Present were Commissioner Chair Molly Olson, Vice Commissioner Chair Pat Sample, and Commissioners Doug Rupp, Kate Hayes and Jason Lavinsky. Also present were Chief Eric Andrews, Asst Chief Ernie Walters, MSA Pete Parrish, Battalion Chiefs Brandon Vargas and Rob Thurston, and Karen McPeters (recorder).

**2025 Budget Hearing**

Presentation of projected revenues and budget for 2025. The major change discussed was hiring 3 full time firefighters. The district is applying for a SAFER grant to subsidize the cost and will wait for grant awards to move forward with full time hires.

Dr Brown is retiring at the end of Dec, so the cost of physician oversight will have to be renegotiated.

Increases to employee wages as described in proposed contracts, BC contracts to go from .34 time to .60 employee status, contract signing authority for Chief Andrews with the exception of his own contract, and levy resolutions were all presented.

Molly moved to approve the 2025 budget as presented. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Molly moved to approve increases to employee wages as described, changes to BC contracts, and contract and addenda signing authority for Chief Andrews (Molly will sign Chief Andrews’ 2025 addendum). With a second from Kate, the motion passed unanimously.

Molly moved to approve Levy Resolution 2024-01, 3.98% increase in EMS levy due to banked capacity. With a second from Kate, the motion passed unanimously.

Molly moved to approve Levy Resolution 2024-02, fire levy increase of 1% over last year. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

**Public Commentary:** No public commentary

**EXECUTIVE**

Tonight is the Budget hearing that has been posted on all stations and the website. The projected revenues and line-item budget proposals are included for 2025. The 2025 tax resolutions are prepared with the 1% increase in the fire levy and 1% increase plus banked capacity in the EMS levy.

Updated wage scales and contract changes and addendum proposals are included for your approval**.**

Capt. Tubbs is making substantial progress on the training site, updating the septic plan, beginning building plans, and planning movement of training props.

We are once again working to get volunteer and part-time firefighters’ presumptive disease in front of next year’s state legislature. Sno-Isle, Spokane, and Chelan counties are helping with this push.

The new Sno 911 radio system (Digital) is still planned to switch over in March of 2025. Testing is in progress around the county on coverage issues.

The Snohomish County Remote Area Internet Committee is collaborating with us on bringing fiber up to Index and out to the river sites. There are plans for expanding fiber up Index-Galena Road but how far is unknown.

The builder of forty-four homes off Ley Rd (Alder Ln. & Birch Court) is in full build out mode now. The city states that he plans to have all forty-four homes started before the new year. There are eleven under construction at various stages of completion.

**OPERATIONS (Chief Walters)**

**Facilities**

**Station 53: W**ork on the kitchen/classroom repairs continues as time allows.

We are still waiting for the PUD contractors to complete the light upgrade. Station 53 only needs the front hallway to be completed.

**Station 54 / Station 55:** All lights have been changed out except for the outside pole lights, which should be replaced soon.

**AFG Grant:** The ultrasonic cleaner that we ordered with the excess funds from the exhaust system grant has been shipped and should arrive in the next week or so, and paperwork has been submitted to FEMA for reimbursement.

Unfortunately, we did not get the grant for the new air trailer. We will look at other options to try and replace the aging air trailer.

**Apparatus:**

**Aid 54:** Aid 54 was picked up on the 18th of November and is back in service.

**Engine 54:** E-54 is still down in Tacoma/Pacific being fixed. There has been a delay due to unavailable parts.

**Tender 53:** We have received the quote for the repairs on the tender and will be scheduling repairs. We have also invested some money in improving the emergency lights and the headlights on that rig.

**New Br-54:** The new brush truck is at Station 54, and we have been installing the front bumper winch and the push bumper and hope to get the flat bed on the truck by the end of next week.

**New Aid Car:** The new medic unit is also at Station 54 and is awaiting the MDC mount and then it will be placed in service.

**Drone:** We had in-service training on November 4th for the new drone that is being purchased with funds left over in the Support Services Division.

**EMS (Chief Simmons / Chief Parrish)**

**Continuous Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (CQI/QA)**

All ESO electronic health reports (EHRs) have been assigned to the QA team through October,

Code Stat is caught up, and all Cardiac Arrest and Advanced Airways have been annotated.

**SCEMS-** 2025 protocol update completed, with education to be following soon.

The 2025 OTEP plan has been approved.

**EMT Class- The** EMT class started with 20 students, and is 75% finished.

**CPR Training-** No update

**Stevens Pass-** The 2024/25 season ALS schedule and SOW have been approved.

**Personnel-** Hired Gabe Howland, who must complete the SCEMS POMP (Paramedic Onboarding Mentorship Program) before he is eligible to work M54 on his own.

Hired Jessican Hanna as a ski medic. She will be working shifts at Stevens Pass only.

October ALS coverage 93% (51 hours not covered out of 744 total hours).

**TRAINING / SUPPORT SERVICES (Chief Coulson / Chief Thurston)**

**Training:** Staff completed 231.5 hours of training in October for a total of 4783.5 for the year.

Planning is underway for the next Fire Academy. The Fire Academy will start in March and end in June. We are looking forward to involving King County District 50, District 5, and District 22 (Getchell) this year. We have an open invitation to others and will bring on partners as they show interest.

**Recruiting:** Nothing to Report

**Emergency Management/Disaster Response:** IMT/Wildland: HLS1 IMT had an out of state activation to support Hurricane Helene. BC Coulson, BC Thurston, and Firefighter Smith responded with other IMT members from Washington and were on the ground supporting the response in North Carolina for two weeks.

**UAS Program:** Training and Support Services had some room in our capital improvement budget to purchase a DJI M30T Drone. It comes with a grapple drop system, PA speaker, and spotlight. Chief Coulson and Chief Walters attended service training. The Autel drones bought 4 years ago are nearing the end of their service life for public safety work, but GEN PAC has a program where we can surplus them to other agencies, utility companies, real estate etc. who are starting a program. We intend to purchase a second M30T early next year.

Secretary’s Report: The WA State Auditor’s Office will begin our 2022-23 audit this month. The auditor would like to meet with at least one commissioner to do a risk assessment, but all commissioners are encouraged to participate, and are welcome to sit in on meetings with the auditor, review audit materials, etc. Molly and Jason offered to participate in risk assessments, and Jason will sit in on the initial meeting with the auditor to get an idea of the process.

Budget: Currently at 90%

Minutes: Molly moved to approve the October minutes. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers: Molly moved to approve voucher 24-473 for $66,550.47, vouchers through 24-474 through 510 for $94,207.98, and vouchers 24-511 through 522 for $30,046.21 from the expense fund, and voucher 4 from the apparatus fund for $80,328.74 With a second from Kate, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Molly moved to approve payroll in the amount of $186,760.23. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Action Item: Molly moved to surplus the old aid car. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Next regular meeting is December 11, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35