

**South Whidbey Fire / EMS**

**5579 Bayview Road • Langley, WA 98260**

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# SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS SPECIAL MEETING

**5579 Bayview Road, Langley, WA 98260**

**Saturday, October 5, 2024 10:00am**

**Minutes - Final**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2208026387?pwd=WWNSR3JscUhZK3ZHU3JOV05ZOHF1UT09&omn=84756190683>

Meeting ID: 220 802 6387

Passcode: 926342

One tap mobile

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Attendees: Commissioner Erickson, Commissioner Noblet, Commissioner Towers, Chief Walsh, Mary Kaye Johansen, Lt. Gabelein, Lt. Kalahiki, Chief Magallon, Chief Dilley (via zoom)

1. **Call to Order**

Commissioner Erickson calls special meeting to order at 10:09

1. **Approval of Agenda**
2. **New Business**

Review Updated Strategic Plan 2025

Goals for staff and stations.

Station 34: maintenance facility and reserve.

Station 33 and 35: volunteer staffed/engine and tender

Station 36: boat

4 staff, 2 Lt. and Capt.

Increase staff, decrease fleet

Commissioner Noblet requests update on replacing bunker gear. Place order once budget approved. Lt.

Wilkie preparing budget presentation.

Lt. Kalahiki: Growth of Health and Wellness program for staff. Enrolled in L&I Fire Program. Possible Grant opportunities and discount on L&I rates.

1.4.1 continue to grow and focus attention in coordinating with local state and federal partners. Need to practice and develop exercises to be prepared in natural catastrophic events. Develop programs/ recourses for community self-reliance. Emergency Cache for stations. How to store and how to distribute still in planning stage. Have approx. stock for 2-3 weeks. Coordinate with food banks.

SWFE to look into hosting Bainbridge Prepares and involve Homeland Security and Emergency Management Center of Excellence to bring about community awareness. Key elements-operations and response; preparedness and hazard mitigation.

Set goal in late 2025 to bring formal community event for disaster awareness and preparedness.

Edit Initiative 1.4 to “Improve Agency and Community Resiliency During Crisis Level Events”

Create 1.4.5 objective for internal operations plan. Develop this prior to hosting outside agency events.

Add 1.4.6 objective for community plan

Add 1.4.7 objective for personal plan

(look at feasibility in developing new objectives. Cost/time. Possible outside assistance)

2.1.6: look at condensing policy for ease of understanding/accessibility. Possibly have Archbright advise.

2.2.1 Worker compensation costs reviewed. Recommend 2%. Board approves but keep eye on it.

2.2.2 Explore larger grant opportunities. Look to outside grant-writer for larger grants.

2.2.3 Succession plan is not specific to what we are trying to achieve. Define for clarity.

Update 2.3.1 to include positive return on investment

3.1.3 Goal to wrap up by 12/31/2024

3.2.2 remove from Strategic Plan

3.3 Do application fees limit recruitment in diverse populations? Waiver is available. Entry level positions are challenging

Lunch12:02pm -12:35pm

Commissioner Erickson calls special meeting back to session 12:36 pm

**Review 5-year budget projection**

Additional staffing. Up to 24FF by 2028

Purchase apparatus in 2027 and 2030

New station 2029

Commissioner Towers: Define Marine program uses. Review costs on a marine unit. Probable a trailer-able vessel. Ensure budget aligns with projections.

Commissioner Erickson: Current projection represents fiscal health.

Ongoing updates as necessary.

Communications: 2 print newsletters and monthly digital newsletter. Revive website newsletters. Discern criteria that is internal appropriate. Quarterly digital should be considered.

**Station 32**: County has plans and intentions for use. Sprinklers needed in sleep quarters. No other barriers moving forward. Commissioner Towers- are we keeping adjacent property for septic use? Chief Walsh-Septic on property is functional but no laundry facility / commercial activities. Surplus adjacent property proposed within the following year.

**Station 32.5:** Can move forward and communicate intentions with community. Meet with County once property located. Obtain budget approval for property this year.

**Station 34:** Estimates being processed. No zoning issues.

**Apparatus:** replace air and light unit. Existing rescue 3 can tow larger vessels.

Commissioner Towers**-** obtain estimate to determine costs of vessel / air and light unit

**2025 To Do**

2026-2030 Strategic plan.

Mission, Vision and Values re-write. Emergency Disaster Plan. Create lead or committee to facilitate.

Inject public input.

**Things to consider:** Marine Rescue, Wildland Firefighting/ Deployments. Marine taking financial priority. Commissioner Erickson- bring proposal to commissioners for approval and provide benefits. When to pursue Wildland capabilities.

Commissioner Noblet- Prepare for wildland capabilities and cache supplies in our disaster planning.

Commissioner Towers- Cost of providing consistent 4 person staffing goals.

Chief Walsh- Possibility of providing housing to help increase/retain staff. Include this in new strategic plan.

1. **Conclude**

Commissioner Erickson- motions to adjourn at 1:42pm. Commissioner Towers seconded.

The motion carried unanimously

**N**icholas Walsh,

District Chief