

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes **January 9, 2025**

Chair Scott Isenman called the Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Present were Commissioners Bruce Alward, Tim Carey, and Fritz von Ibsch; Fire Chief Jared Moravec; Deputy Chief Jeremy Mendola; and Finance Manager Ed Kaufman.

AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS **None**

COMMISSIONER VACANCY CANDIDATES

Four Island residents responded to the Department's request for letters of interest in the vacant Commissioner Position #3 seat. Commissioner Isenman invited each of the candidates to address the Board, introduce themselves and state why they are interested in becoming a Fire Commissioner for the Bainbridge Island Fire Department. The order was established by the order of signing in for the meeting. The candidates are the following:

- Jay Rosenberg
- Rakesh Bahrana
- Charlotte Pyle
- John De Lanoy

Commissioners asked several questions of each candidate upon completion of their statements. No action was taken on the position vacancy during this meeting. The Board intends to appoint a new Commissioner during the January 23rd BOC meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Island resident Pascal Schuback commented on the need for additional public outreach regarding response in the time of crises, such as the current wildfire situation in Los Angeles.

Island resident Jay Rosenberg asked if the recent crises in Los Angeles could be used as an opportunity for further community education. Chief Moravec indicated that it was an opportunity for education as well as an opportunity for BIFD responding crews to gain valuable experience for this type of event.

Island resident Rakesh Bharania commented on the Department's core values and how "adaptability" would be a valuable addition because "challenges of the future will not be the challenges of the past."

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Hidden Heights Fire: Chief Moravec briefed the board on the structure fire on Hidden Heights on January 4th. Crews responded to a single-family residence on fire at 9:00 PM and quickly called for a 2nd alarm. Although crews were able to knock down the fire inside of the structure, the roof construction presented challenges and continued to burn for several hours. No injuries to community members of the crews were reported.
- Lateral FF/PM Posting: Chief Moravec was pleased to announce that as of January 6th, the Department had restored its full cadre of 10 FF/Paramedics to its ranks and that he was suspending the Lateral FF/PM hiring process for now.
- Social Security Fairness Act: Finance Manager Kaufman briefed the Board on recent legislation, dubbed the Social Security Fairness Act, that repealed the Windfall Elimination Provision of the federal tax code.
- Preliminary 2024 Financial Report: FM Kaufman also provided the Board with a preliminary 2024 financial report. Early data suggests that the 2024 budget deficit is less than was anticipated when the 2024 year-end budget adjustment was passed in October.
- Legislative Day February 3rd: Chief Moravec noted the upcoming Legislative Day for Commissioners on February 3rd. Chief Moravec is unable to attend but encouraged Commissioners who want to attend to let him know and he will assist with registration.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chief Moravec noted the deployment of Engine 23 with a four (4) person crew to the fires in Los Angeles. Deployed staff include LT. Matt Phillips, FF/EMT Max Hale, FF/EMT Danny Sackett and FF/EMT Matt Williams. This is schedule as an 18 day deployment.

Commissioner Isenman noted the arrival of his mother-in-law to Bainbridge as a new resident.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Voucher numbers 36460 through 36514 totaling \$683,518.54, electronic payments for 12/27/24 through 12/31/24 totaling 773,176.06, December payroll totaling \$901,318.05, Meeting Minutes 12/12/24). Commissioner Carey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Alward seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Resolution #01-2025: Roster Update

Chief Moravec requested approval of Resolution #01-2025: Roster Update. This resolution captures the Department's roster on January 1st of the new year and provides parameters for volunteer benefits. Commissioner Carey moved to approve Resolution #01-2025 as presented. Commissioner von Ibsch seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. 2025 Commissioner Assignments

The Board discussed Commissioner assignments for 2025 with the following appointments: Commissioner von Ibsch would attend the Local Board for Volunteer Firefighters meetings along with the Board Chair; Commissioner Alward would continue

as BIFD representative to the Kitsap County Fire Commissioners Executive Board; Commissioner Carey would serve as Board representative for the capital projects at Station 23 in 2025.

3. Fire Chief Bereavement Leave

Chief Moravec requested approval of three (3) bereavement days, per his contract and the Non-Represented Employee Handbook, for the recent passing of his mother. Commissioner Carey moved to approve the Chief's bereavement request as presented. Commissioner von Ibsch seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:18 PM, Commissioner Isenman called for an Executive Session to last for 30 minutes. The Executive Session was called to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office per RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) and to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 6:28 PM the Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes. At 7:03 PM the Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes. At 7:13 PM the Executive Session was extended by an additional 10 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Submitted by:



Jared Moravec, Board Secretary

Approved

January 23, 2025