

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes February 13, 2025

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

AGENDA ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

None

CALIFORNIA DEPLOYMENT PRESENTATION – LT PHILLIPS

Lieutenant Matt Phillips, the lead officer from BIFD on the recent deployment to the Los Angeles fires, briefed the Board on the deployment. LT Phillips was accompanied by FF/EMTs Max Hale, Daniel Sackett and Matt Williams, staffing Engine 23 as part of a 6 Engine strike team from Kitsap County. Engine 23 was assigned to the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles and provided containment and mop-up duties for 14 days. In total, the LA fires burned over 37,000 acres and 18,000 structures and were responsible for 29 deaths. The Board was very complimentary of the deployment and thanked Lt Phillips for his service and that of the other personnel. Lt. Phillips reported that Engine 23 performed phenomenally during the entire deployment. All members returned back to Bainbridge safely and without injury.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Island resident Rakesh Bharania expressed concern regarding recent activity of the Federal Government and possible cuts in grant funding for fire districts.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Department of Retirement Services Audit: Finance Manager Ed Kaufman informed the Board that BIFD has been randomly selected to participate in an audit of the Washington Department of Retirement Services (DRS). BIFD was chosen as a local governmental organization that uses DRS for pension services for its members. The audit is expected to wrap up in April.
- Newsletter Update: Chief Moravec briefed the Board on Department intentions of producing a community newsletter, to be mailed to Island residences twice a year. The Chief asked for topics of interest that the Commissioners would like to have addressed in future newsletters. The first newsletter is tentatively scheduled for mailing in April.
- Fire Chief National Fire Academy Attendance: Chief Moravec provided a summary of the "Executive Planning" training he is attending at the National Fire Academy. A major focus of the class is strategic planning.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Isenman related a recent emergency medical experience of a family member, and the service provided and received at St. Michael's Medical Center.

Commissioner Isenman noted the upcoming annual fire extinguisher event to be held on May 10th at the Winslow Wharf Marina.

CONSENT AGENDA

(Voucher numbers 36569 through 36628 totaling \$255,835.79, electronic funds transfers from 1/6/2025 to 1/13/2025 totaling \$1,195,467.25, January payroll of \$1,082,765.16, Meeting Minutes 1/23/25). Commissioner Carey moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner De Lanoy seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Human Resources Manager Hiring Process

Chief Moravec informed the Board that Staff intends to engage an outside vendor, Prothman, to assist the Department in its hiring process for the HR Manager position. Using an outside vendor is budget neutral given that the HR Manager position has been budgeted for the entire year and has yet to be filled. The Commissioners expressed their support for this hiring strategy.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Submitted by:



Jared Moravec, Board Secretary

Approved

February 27, 2025