

# MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

## REGULAR MEETING

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.  
Fire Station 1, 125 W. Hayden Ave., Hayden, ID

### I. Call To Order

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Amende, Duncan, Halpin, Pearce and Washko

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Division Chief Drechsel, Division Chief Anderson, Secretary Knapp, and John Spencer

### II. Pledge of Allegiance

COMMISSIONER HALPIN led the Pledge.

### III. Amend Agenda

There were no amendments to the agenda.

### IV. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar was presented for review as follows:

- A. Approval of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Meeting Agenda as presented;
- B. Approval of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes;
- C. Approval of Unpaid and Paid Bills Lists;
- D. Review of YTD Financial Report for September

COMMISSIONER PEARCE made a motion, seconded by COMMISSIONER AMENDE to approve the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Consent Calendar as presented.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for discussion.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for the vote and all were in favor. Motion carried

### V. New Business

#### A. Master Service Agreement for Ethernet, Internet, Cloud beam, Lit Fiber, and Wavelength Services

A Master Service Agreement, Terms and Conditions, and Service Order with Fatbeam, LLC was presented for review. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that as discussed at last board meeting, with the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> staffed station, our IT manager has recommended the District upgrade its internet, ethernet, and phone system. He noted that the monthly cost with the upgrade will be less expensive than what the District currently has.

DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that switching to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) system will also allow the public to have direct communication to the Chief Officer's cell phones.

There was discussion on the cost quoted in the Service Order as presented for a five-year term including fiber optic internet at St 1, St 2, and St 3. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that the total cost for the fiber option internet system and VOIP phone system will be \$1,900/month.

COMMISSIONER WASHKO clarified with DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL that the VOIP phone system is an internet-based system and not hard wired. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL noted that copper lines (hard wire) are not being maintained and affecting alarm systems when not working; he reported that most common operations have moved to internet-based systems.

**COMMISSIONER DUNCAN** clarified with DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL that “double redundant” means that if the main service goes down, there is a backup service they can switch to.

**COMMISSIONER HALPIN** clarified with DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL that Fatbeam, LLC has been in business locally for a few years.

There was further discussion on switching to a cellular based alarm system at St 2 and keeping the landline at St 5 due to unreliable cellular service on back side of Hayden Lake. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL clarified that keeping the current internet service at St 8 (shop) will be less expensive than upgrading to the fiber optic from Fatbeam.

**COMMISSIONER DUNCAN** noted that the Master Service Agreement references a 5-year agreement, but the Terms and Conditions has language for paying on a “one year renewal” basis.

The board’s consensus was to table further discussion until getting clarification from Fatbeam, LLC by next meeting.

## VI. Reports

A. Chiefs Report – It was noted that FIRE CHIEF RILEY is on medical leave and ASST. CHIEF DILL is attending the final walkthrough of the St 3 modular building in Canada. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported on the following:

1. St 1 Renovations Update:

- a. The renovations to the Shift Office have been completed.
- b. Renovations to the crew quarters’ kitchen should be complete by the end of next week.

2. St 3 Status:

- a. The site prep bids have been received with North Fork submitting the lowest responsive bid at \$273,235 with Ginno Construction’s submitted bid of \$285,000. There was discussion on the bid process having been reviewed by bond counsel. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL noted that the work will include site prep, concrete work, utility connections for water, sewer, gas, etc. He also noted that the modular building will have to anchored to the ground per the county.
- b. **COMMISSIONER DUNCAN** clarified with DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL that the initial estimated cost for the site prep did not take into account the cost to anchor the building. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL stated that originally the building manufacturer advised the station committee that the building would just be set on a concrete pad; but then the county building dept. ended up requiring helical anchors due to it being in an earthquake zone. There was further discussion on how this will involve eight-foot screws attached to helical anchors welded to the foundation of the building; then the anchors are driven into the ground and no foundation is needed.

DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that the county has granted authorization to set the building, but the permit won’t be approved until the anchors are set. He reported that the building is set to be delivered on or around 10/26.

- c. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported on issues with Lakes Highway District (LHD) and Panhandle Health District (PHD) approving the building permit, noting that the issue with PHD was resolved yesterday. He reported that



LHD has deemed the new station a “change of use” and is not allowing the 2<sup>nd</sup> driveway for crews to have ingress/egress to the parking lot, but that Administration is working with them to resolve the issue.

**COMMISSIONER DUNCAN** questioned if the driveway issue would affect the site prep bid. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL stated that if the site design changed, the District would negotiate the cost down.

There was discussion on LHD considering the “change of use” from an unstaffed to staffed fire station, and that the proposed driveways are less than 330 feet apart. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that PHD and Kootenai County have both deemed the project as no change of use.

DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL reported that Administration has been working with bond counsel on the definition of “fire station use”, and that Administration’s position is that a change from unstaffed to staffed would have no impact on the use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> approach.

3. Staff/Operational Reports were presented for review including:

- a. Asst. Chief Report – Was presented for review.
- b. Fire Marshal Summary - Was presented for review.
- c. Fire Training/EMS Division – Was presented for review.
- d. Bureau Report for September – Was presented for review.
- e. Overtime Report for September – Was presented for review.
- f. Run Report for September – Was presented for review.

**COMMISSIONER WASHKO** clarified with DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL that Administration is working on maintaining staffing at the ARFF station after St 3 is complete, as noted in ASST. CHIEF DILL’s report. DIV CHIEF DRECHSEL noted there is a tentative meeting with the airport director scheduled for next week.

B. Commissioner Reports

There were no commissioner reports.

VII. Public Input

JOHN SPENCER reported on an article in the Coeur d’Alene Press on the city of Hayden starting the initial steps to study having its own police department. He stated that the first step will be to set up a preliminary safety committee to look into the feasibility of this, including cost vs. need. He encouraged the District to have fire department representatives at the city council meetings to address questions or concerns as they come up.

The board thanked MR. SPENCER for the information and his support.

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to be brought before the board, the regular meeting was adjourned upon the motion of **COMMISSIONER PEARCE** and as seconded by **COMMISSIONER WASHKO** at 10:37 a.m.

**COMMISSIONER HALPIN** called for discussion. There was no discussion.

**COMMISSIONER HALPIN** called for the vote and all were in favor. Motion carried

  
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**DAVID P. HALPIN**, Chairman

  
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**DENNIS L. AMENDE**, Commissioner

  
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**DOUGLAS D. DUNCAN**, Commissioner

  
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**MICHAEL R. PEARCE**, Commissioner

  
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**JAMES C. WASHKO**, Commissioner

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a duly called meeting of the governing body of the Northern Lakes Fire Protection District held in accordance with all applicable legal requirements, including Idaho Open Meeting Law, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2023.

ATTEST BY:

  
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Valerie Knapp, District Secretary

