

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

REGULAR MEETING

September 9th, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
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, Halpin, Pearce, Thompson (*via Zoom*), and Washko (*via Zoom*)

OTHERS PRESENT: Fire Chief Riley, Division Chief Mather, Fire Marshal Drechsel, Secretary Knapp, John Spencer, Glen Seely, and Chris Larson

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 September 9th, 2021 Meeting Agenda as presented;
- B. Approval of August 26th, 2021 Budget Hearing/Regular Meeting Minutes;
- C. Approval of Unpaid and Paid Bills Lists;
- D. Review of YTD Financial Report for August

COMMISSIONER PEARCE made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER AMENDE** to approve the September 9th, 2021 Consent Calendar as presented.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Amende	Yes
Commissioner Halpin	Yes
Commissioner Pearce	Yes
Commissioner Thompson	No Vote (<i>audio issue</i>)
Commissioner Washko	Yes

Motion carried

V. New Business

A. Resolution 21-08

Resolution 21-08, entitled *Resolution Ordering a Special Election to be Held on the Question of Authorizing a Permanent Tax Levy Override in the Amount of \$2,000,000 beginning with the Fiscal Year Commencing on October 1, 2022; Establishing the Date of Election; and, Approving the Form of Ballot*, was presented for review. Per Idaho Code §34-106(1), the special election can be held on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November upon resolution by the Board.

CHIEF RILEY reported that the resolution as presented orders that the levy election be held on November 2, 2021 and includes the ballot question language. He also reported that the ballot language meets the requirements of Idaho Code §34-914.

COMMISSIONER PEARCE made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER AMENDE** to approve Resolution 21-08, *Resolution Ordering a Special Election to be Held on the*

Question of Authorizing a Permanent Tax Levy Override in the Amount of \$2,000,000 beginning with the Fiscal Year Commencing on October 1, 2022; Establishing the Date of Election; and Approving the Form of Ballot, as presented.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Commissioner Amende Yes
Commissioner Halpin Yes
Commissioner Pearce Yes
Commissioner Thompson Yes
Commissioner Washko Yes

Motion carried

VI. Reports

A. Chiefs Report – Was presented for review and FIRE CHIEF RILEY reported on the following:

1. Levy – The first levy mailer will be going out to all registered voters in the District this week, with the second mailer to go out two weeks prior to election date. **COMMISSIONER HALPIN** clarified with CHIEF RILEY that the first mailer had the same information as reviewed by the board at last meeting, other than updated photos and formatting. CHIEF RILEY also reported that the marketing firm is also working on a radio spot.
2. St. 8 – Still waiting on a response from the ITD regarding the District’s proposal to relocate the building due to the Highway 53 revision project as reported at last meeting.
3. Admin Quarters – Admin Chiefs have met with Lakes Highway District and toured their facility by the airport that they will be vacating to move to a new location at Garwood. Will be scheduling a meeting with Lakes Highway and the City of Hayden’s Public Works Dept. to discuss possibly sharing the facility; the District would move administrative staff/board room out of St 1 so it can be remodeled/renovated to allow room for more suppression staff. CHIEF RILEY reported that a joint venture would benefit both parties with the cost-sharing and is worth looking into.
4. Meetings Attended – CHIEF RILEY reported that he attended meetings both in person and over the phone with Range NW marketing, as well as with the DIFAC consultant on impact fees to ensure collection as soon as possible.
5. Request for MOU from Local 4045 – A letter from the Local 4045’s President was presented to the board for their review. CHIEF RILEY reported that the current collective bargaining agreement Article 24 states that longevity pay is paid out once a year to members who are currently employed on December 1st each year. The Local is requesting that there be language added allowing for longevity to be paid out to any member only upon retirement that would be pro-rated for the number of months worked past the date longevity is paid out. He noted that an MOU would be presented to the board at their next meeting for possible approval.

UNION PRESIDENT LARSON noted that as the District will be seeing more members approaching retirement eligibility, this will avoid employees waiting until after longevity is paid out in December to retire. He also noted that the proposed language would make service retirement as well as disability/medical retirements

eligible; and that upon the death of an active member, the benefit would be paid out to their PERSI beneficiary.

6. Staff/Operational Reports

a. **Training Report** - Presented for review. CHIEF MATHER reported on the following:

- i. Eight (8) members will be participating in the captain promotional testing beginning with the written exam on 9/20, a practical assessment on 9/21, and oral interviews on 9/22. **COMMISSIONER HALPIN** clarified that the eligibility to test includes 7 years full-time with the District, as well as other certifications/standards. There was discussion on a list being created for future promotional consideration.
- ii. CHIEF MATHER, FIRE CHIEF RILEY, and BATT CHIEF BELMONT will be meeting with CDA Fire and KCFR to discuss a joint Technical Rescue Task Force. The agencies currently have separate teams, but it makes more sense now to have a joint agency team. CHIEF MATHER noted he will keep the board updated.
- iii. Attended the Fire Service Training (FST) Advisory Council meeting in Boise last week and met the new program director, Ross Johnson. There was good discussion on the future of FST in the state and hopefully a new and better direction.
- iv. No new outside training opportunities.
- v. FLEET MECHANIC RUSSELL is doing a great job and keeping all of the District apparatus in good working order.

b. **EMS Report** – FIRE CHIEF RILEY reported that EMS CHIEF DILL is currently on vacation with his report presented for review. FIRE CHIEF RILEY reported that the District did finally receive its CPAT credential required by National Testing Network (NTN) and will be moving forward with establishing a hiring list.

c. **Fire Marshal Report** – Presented for review. FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL reported on the following:

- i. Approved 6,750 sq. ft. medical building (OSSM) in Hayden.
- ii. Met with City of Rathdrum on a proposed 300 unit multi-family project at Lancaster and Greensferry.
- iii. Approved 36 new residential permits in unincorporated areas of county (not within city limits).
- iv. Bureau staff attended recent National Night Out on 8/3.
- v. DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL LARSON attended a six-day course at the National Fire Academy (NFA) on community preparedness in August. FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL noted that this course had been postponed twice due to the pandemic.
- vi. FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL and DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL LARSON presented a hazardous fuels training to more than 30 residents at the Mokins Bay Fire Station (St 5) on 8/24. He reported that many residents on the back side of Hayden Lake are interested in becoming a Firewise community, and making their properties/homes more resistant to wildfire

damage. **COMMISSIONER PEARCE** clarified with FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL that they received good feedback from the residents.

- vii. FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL and DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL LARSON worked multiple shifts at the Co-Op Smokehouse during the North Idaho State Fair in August, along with all the other fire agencies, the IDL, and USFS.
7. Bureau Report – For August was presented for review. **COMMISSIONER HALPIN** clarified with FIRE MARSHAL DRECHSEL that the project review/inspection fees collected YTD for this fiscal year have exceeded the amount of fee collections in prior years.
8. Overtime Report – For August was presented for review.
9. Run Report – For August was presented for review. There was discussion on the call volume YTD for the calendar year and the increase in number of multiple calls happening at one time becoming a regular occurrence.

B. Commissioner Reports

There were no commissioner reports.

VII. Public Input

JOHN SPENCER stated that he visited the District's website recently and clicked on the Levy Info tab; after reading through the FAQs he feels it answers a lot of questions, but is too much information and suggests the site have more of a "sound bite" message instead. He stated that people probably won't read through the FAQs.

There was discussion on the levy flyers being mailed out to voters that have the basic information on why the levy is needed. CHIEF RILEY agreed that the website could have that information in bulleted format in addition to the FAQs.

The board thanked MR. SPENCER for his input.

GLEN SEELY presented copies of a recent article in the *Coeur d'Alene Press* to the board for review. MR. SEELY went through some of the statements from the article that he took issue with and felt weren't entirely true, including:

- The article states that the District levies 3% and new growth each year, but failed to mention additional revenue it receives through an EMS contract.
- The call volume increases as reported in the article don't address the numbers increasing due to fire-based EMS service being added.

MR. SEELY reported that the budget information he received through a public records request shows that payroll/benefit costs have increased to 81% of the District's total budget this year, as opposed to 65% of its budget in 2006. MR. SEELY also noted that over the last 5-10 years, the District has seen large increases in spending and questioned whether the District's funds are being spent wisely.

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON thanked MR. SEELY for his comments and noted that the board has a five-minute limit for public comments. MR. SEELY stated that he was not aware of the five-minute limit on public comments. **COMMISSIONER THOMPSON** stated that the board would be happy to have MR. SEELY speak more at the next board meeting.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN noted that the increase in wages as part of the total budget was a decision made in order to keep good employees, who were leaving for higher wages at other agencies.

MR. SEELY stated that he feels the District should have consolidated with the “county” in 2000 and should look into some type of hybrid ambulance service. He also stated that the elected board has a financial responsibility to its residents and that the Fire Chief spends funds only on their authority.

The board thanked MR. SEELY for his input.

UNION PRESIDENT CHRIS LARSON reported to the board that a 9/11 20th Year Remembrance is being held at Rathdrum City Hall this Saturday hosted by American Legion 154, with the Honor Guard participating, including a wreath laying ceremony and FIRE CHIEF RILEY speaking.

CHRIS LARSON also reported on a procession for SCFD #9 Firefighter Cody Traber on Sat., 9/18 at 1:00 p.m. with the procession lining up at 11:30 a.m. at SCFD #9 Fire Station 92.

VIII. Executive Session

COMMISSIONER PEARCE made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER AMENDE**, to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (1) (a) to consider hiring of personnel and §74-206 (1) (b) to consider the evaluation of employees.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:
Commissioner Amende Yes
Commissioner Halpin Yes
Commissioner Pearce Yes
Commissioner Thompson Yes
Commissioner Washko Yes

Motion carried

Entered Executive Session at 10:40 a.m.

COMMISSIONER PEARCE made a motion, seconded by **COMMISSIONER AMENDE**, to exit Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for discussion. There was no discussion.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for the vote and all were in agreement to the motion.

Motion carried

Exited Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. There was discussion on hiring of personnel and on the evaluation of employees. No decisions were made.

I. 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 AMENDE** at 10:56 a.m.

COMMISSIONER HALPIN called for the vote and all were in agreement to the motion.


TERRY J. THOMPSON, Chairman


DENNIS L. AMENDE, Commissioner

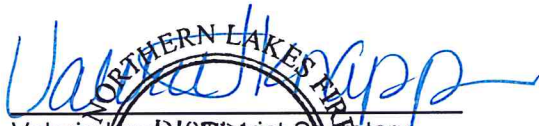

DAVID P. HALPIN, Commissioner

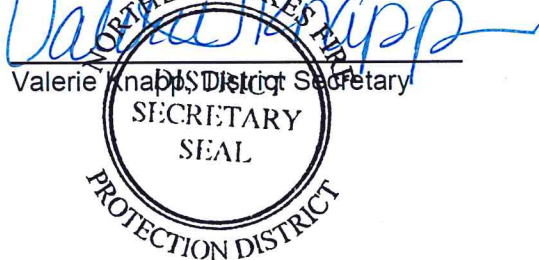

MICHAEL R. PEARCE, Commissioner

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 9th day of September 2021.

ATTEST BY:


Valerie Knapp, District Secretary


NORTHERN LAKES FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
SECRETARY
SEAL