



# Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue

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**DRAFT**

## **Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes**

**June 25, 2019**

### **Call to Order**

This meeting of the Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR) Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Chair Steve Hutchinson at 5:00pm

**Input from the Public** - None.

### **Commissioners and Staff Present**

Board Chair Steve Hutchinson, Commissioner Paul Messner, Commissioner Cheryl Engle, Chief Hartin, Deputy Chief Charlie Smith, Finance Officer/Board Secretary Kim Harpe, Lieutenants Jen Porter and Derik Vrable, Firefighters Jim Huff and Ryan Smith.

**Members of the Public Present.** Mr. Chris Geiger and Whidbey News Reporter Laura Guido

### **Consensus Approval of the Agenda**

### **Old Business.**

Discussion of Inter-local Agreement between WhidbeyHealth Hospital and Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue (CWIFR).

Chief Hartin reported the following timeline of events:

- CWIFR received notice from WhidbeyHealth Hospital, EMS Director, Mr. Roger Meyers cancelling the agreement with CWIFR. Chief Hartin stated, "The district's offered proposal sought to provide the best service to the districts citizens and believed at that time the money being offered from WhidbeyHealth was acceptable".
- WhidbeyHealth Hospital proposed the ability to use CWIFR people at the lead medics discretion without any constraints. CWIFR Proposed putting some constraints in place and WhidbeyHealth Hospital was not inclined to have further conversation about it.
- Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue and North Whidbey Fire Rescue sent a joint memo to WhidbeyHealth Hospital asking, "How they thought their proposal was better for the citizens?". It was at this point CWIFR received the notice to cancel the Inter-Local Agreement with CWIFR.
- Chief Hartin requested clarification from Mr. Roger Meyers as to when the current contract would end (i.e., within 120 days as stated in the contract or through the end of the current year).

- On June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, while away on travel, Chief Hartin received an email from Mr. Roger Meyers stating, "WhidbeyHealth Hospital appreciated an offer to be a guest at the upcoming joint CWIFR and NWFR Board of Fire Commissioner's meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, but were unable to attend as they had a scheduling conflict. Furthermore, they were currently in discussions with NWFR to finalize a contract for BLS services and as such could not discuss the details for the BLS operations plan or the deployment of the EMS systems at that time. There were still several plans being discussed; all of which serve to improve EMS for Whidbey Island and that they would provide CWIFR with additional information as it became available".

The Board provided the floor to Mr. Chris Geiger. Mr. Chris Geiger asked, "Why WhidbeyHealth Hospital would have a working BLS contract with South Whidbey Fire EMS and is currently in negotiations with North Whidbey Fire to renew their contract be unwilling to work with Central Whidbey Island Fire & Rescue? and if he were the fire chief or board member would want to know the answer to that question."

Chief Hartin stated, "The hospital would much prefer to do what they want and there is a good bit of differences between the agencies willingness to do transports".

Board Chair Steve Hutchinson stated, "He felt the district had exhausted all of its options and that CWIFR should continue to honor its obligations in the current contract and adjust staffing as needed to continue to provide good service".

Chief Hartin stated, "There is no statutory obligation for WhidbeyHealth Hospital to pay the fire districts anything. The hospitals last offer to pay CWIFR \$0.035/\$1000 AV for providing first response emergency medical services (EMS) under the same terms and conditions as provided to South Whidbey Fire/EMS would provide approximately \$66,000 and would allow CWIFR to continue shift staffing".

After much discussion, Chief Hartin recommended, "He and Board Chair Steve Hutchison draft a letter to to WhidbeyHealth Hospital EMS Director Mr. Roger Meyers outlining the districts understanding of the Hospitals proposal to pay CWIFR \$0.035/\$1000 AV for providing first response emergency medical services within the district and the districts interest to lease space for an ambulance and staff at the Race Road Fire Station". The Board concurred with Chief Hartin's recommendation.

Chief Hartin commented, "Part of the challenge is to know what our revenue will be so we can create the 2020 budget on time" and he respectfully asked to have the hospitals reply by July 11, 2019.

The Board provided the floor to Lieutenant Derik Vrable. Lieutenant Vrable stated, "He was speaking as the IAFF 4299 Local President and shared, after speaking to the union's membership and members of WhidbeyHealth EMS he found there was a lot of optimism regarding finalizing the contract between CWIFR and WhidbeyHealth Hospital. He stated, he understood the timeline and constraints on the districts need to build the 2020 budget, but felt maybe the district didn't need to be hasty in this matter".

Chief Hartin stated, "He would much rather see it work out, but not with the hospitals proposal of having complete say of when and where CWIFR personnel would run on calls".

Commissioner Cheryl Engle stated, “She felt the district should send the letter and hoped CWIFR would hear back from WhidbeyHealth Hospital by the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 deadline. If not, CWIFR would have to move along accordingly to create the 2020 budget with the information it has at that time”.

The Board collectively concurred with Commissioner Cheryl Engle.

**New Business.** None.

#### **Good of the Order/Announcements**

Sept 5, 2019	Host Sno-Isle Meeting @ Station 53
Oct 23-26, 2019	Annual WFCA Conference, Tulalip Casino, WA <b>(Commissioners Messner, Hutchinson &amp; Engle)</b>

#### **Next Regular Meeting**

July 11, 2019  
Time: 5:00pm  
Location: Station 53

There being no further business, Board Chair Steve Hutchinson adjourned the meeting at 17:55.

Submitted,



Kim Harpe, Secretary