

**WESTERN EMERGENCY SERVICE AREA
PO BOX 350
72440 MILO FRITZ AVENUE
ANCHOR POINT, AK 99556-0350
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 12, 2022
18:30 HOURS**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter called the meeting to order at 18:33 hours.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Chair, Dawson Slaughter led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Cherie Richter, Seat A; Dawson Slaughter, Seat B; Kathryn Lopeman, Seat C; Katherine Covey, Seat D; Janice Nofziger, Seat E

Staff Members Present: Jon Marsh, Chief; Rob Mathis, Deputy Chief; Cassie Parkinson, FF Tech/ Acting Secretary

Absent: David Bear, Assistant Chief; Robert Dash, Training Captain/56 hour; KPB Assembly President, Brent Johnson

Visitors: Jeran Marchbanks, Firefighter/56hour

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Discussion: none

 K Covey / **K Lopeman** moved and seconded to approve the Agenda as written.

 5 Yes, **0** No, **0** Absent Motion Passed

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, Regular Board Meeting, September 14, 2022.

Discussion: None

 K Covey / **K Lopeman** moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting as written.

 5 Yes, **0** No, **0** Absent Motion Passed

PUBLIC COMMENTS UPON MATTERS ALREADY ON THE AGENDA

Comments:

No Public Comments.

REPORTS

A. Chief's Report ~ Jon Marsh, Chief: (see attached)

Key Points: Dave Matthews is planning an Open House on Halloween at Station 3. Shannon Schwendeman is planning something small at Station 1. Fire Service Instructor class is starting October 24th. National Fire Academy class (STICO) this weekend at Station 3. EMS Symposium in Anchorage October 18-22. Dave Matthews, Jolayne Soplanda and Cassie Kwell will be attending. Previous 12 Months billing collection rate is at 78%. \$264,136.02 total charges, \$148,960.32 collected with \$73,580.82 pending. Calls for assistance: 421 YTD, 34 calls since last meeting.

B. SREMSC / KPESI Report ~ Ryon Turley:

Absent. Preparing for the Annual EMS Symposium in Anchorage. No report

PENDING BUSINESS & FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST MEETING

A. Positions:

Last Meeting, Board Chair Dawson Slaughter had tasked the board members to go and speak with community members to get input on how the community felt about adding positions and the expected increase in property taxes that may come from extra coverage.

Board Members spoke with people from both Ninilchik and Anchor Point communities and came back with the following:

- Community members are supportive of extra coverage.
- Most community members don't seem to know or pay attention to what their property taxes cover.
- Overall, most community members are ok with an increase in taxes for an increase in coverage.
- A small amount of community members are not supportive of potential property tax increases, no matter what the reason
- Overall, a majority of community members worry more about assessed property values than the mil rate or actual property tax paid.
- The community will support the Boards recommendations as long as the service they expect, is being provided.

There was much discussion on how to manage the needs of the service area and request additions to funding.

Key points of discussion:

Managing the service area

Assess and request for needs of the service area

Bare minimum requests for coverage needs

Overtime wages vs Staffing

Transparency and community awareness of services provided

Staffing vs shift coverage by volunteers

Decrease in volunteer hours and availability

Justification for needs of the service area

There was discussion and review of requests. The Board (prior to the merger) had requested positions, those requests were put on hold due to the COVID crisis. The merger happened and the task force decided on the minimum number of positions that were needed to manage the area of expansion. These positions are covering the entire area.

In order to decrease overtime wages, improve response times, cover mandatory paid leave, and provide the expected level of service to the community we need additional positions.

The addition of 7 full time positions would only guarantee that the two staffed stations would have a full crew to cover one call at a time, per station with no backup for a third call if it were to drop.

Board members decided the appropriate number of positions to ensure the needs of the service area are met, should be 9.

Board Chair, Dawson Slaughter addressed the Board concerning this request. Mr. Slaughter recommended that the Board as a whole, needs to be in accord and agreement on this issue before it proceeds any further.

The Board unanimously agreed to support the management of the service area and provide the community with the level of service the community expects.

 K Lopeman / **K Covey** moved and seconded to recommend Chief Marsh move forward with the request of 9 additional positions for full staffing in order to fulfill the needs of the Service Area and provide the level of service the community expects.

 5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent Motion Passed

NEW BUSINESS

A. Property (74155 Sterling Hwy):

Board Member, Katherine Covey introduced this topic.

This property was acquired during the merger with Ninilchik Emergency Services. It was previously utilized as a training property for NES. The property is not being utilized and the suggestion is to sell this property and utilize the funds for needs of the service area.

Chief Marsh spoke with Finance about this property. The intent with the merger was to donate this property to WES. It is ours (the service area) to do with as we please.

This property is relatively small. There is no need for it right now and the topography of the parcel makes it unusable for our needs.

More discussion on this parcel ensued.

 K Covey / **K Lopeman** moved and seconded to proceed with listing this property for sale on behalf of Western Emergency Services.

5 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

Motion Passed

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

Expense Report
Chief's Report

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Seat A; Vice Chair, Cherie Richter: none

Seat B; Chair, Dawson Slaughter: none

Seat C; Kathryn Lopeman: none.

Seat D; Katherine Covey: none.

Seat E; Janice Nofziger: none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Discussion: The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for November 9th. Acting Secretary Cassie Parkinson and Chief Marsh will both be out of town on this day. There was discussion of rescheduling the meeting for the following Wednesday, which is November 16th.

The Board unanimously agreed to reschedule the meeting for Wednesday, November 16th, 2022. This meeting will be held at Station One in Ninilchik.

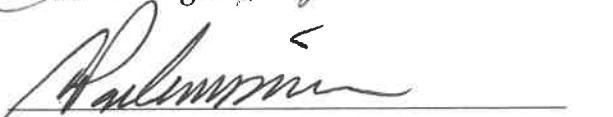
Wednesday, November 16th, 2022 will be the next scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman, Dawson Slaughter adjourned the meeting at 19:30.


Dawson Slaughter, Board Chair

11/16/2022
Date Approved


Cassie Parkinson, Acting Secretary WES Board

11/16/2022
Date Approved