



# WINDSOR SEVERANCE FIRE RESCUE

100 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street • Windsor • Colorado • 80550  
970-686-2626

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## SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

### Virtual Meeting Only

Wednesday, April 1, 2020 / 7:00pm

### MINUTES

#### I. CALL TO ORDER 19:00

- a. Pledge of Allegiance

#### II. ROLL CALL

Directors Abbott, Fagler, Pearson, Young and Rosen present. Also present for video conferencing was Fire Chief Kris Kazian, Captain Jeff Dykstra, Fire Marshal Sandra Friedrichsen, Life Safety Specialist Morgan Matthew and several members of the public.

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Rosen submits a motion to approve April 1, 2020 Special Board Meeting Agenda. Director Fagler seconds. All "aye". Approved.

#### IV. SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

- a. Public Forum:

- i. Public Comments:

1. Trent Hansen and Director Abbott: Was the public invited to this special board meeting? Chief Kazian: Yes, but only remotely via Zoom. Postings are on the District's website and the Nextdoor App.

- b. Staff Items

- i. Information/Update: COVID-19-Chief Kazian

1. Background:

- R-naught factor indicates an exponential increase in positive COVID-19 cases. The Senior Leadership Team/Incident Management Team is working daily to meet the current and near future operational needs of the District.
- WSFR crews have already responded to COVID-19 positive patients. Community spread present in the District. One member is currently out sick but tested negative for COVID-19.
- A recent case where Dispatch screening indicated a negative case, turned out to be positive for COVID -19. Responding members were wearing proper PPE during call so the likelihood of exposure is low.



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- Anecdotal call volume: lower over the last couple of weeks with an uptick in the last 2-3 days.
  - Planning:
    - Initial planning (first 2 weeks)-creating best practices for members to understand the disease and how to minimize spread to members. This includes daily biometric screening of staff that are coming on shift and into the admin offices.
    - Current planning: “Response Readiness”-preparing for operational needs during a surge event if COVID-19 cases spike dramatically. Currently training crews to use a multi-vehicle response to reduce exposure and allow crews to handle a larger than normal simultaneous call volume.
    - PPE and supply planning: trying to be conservative in planning to make sure stock is adequate. Determining burn rates of various supplies. Received a significant amount of PPE and supplies during Larimer and Weld County supply drives.
  - Board Discussion: none
  - Public Comments: none

### 2. Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Chief Kazian

- Institutes mandatory 80 hours of paid sick leave above and beyond current requirements. Fire and healthcare workers are potentially exempt from this law. WSFR has adopted the surplus sick leave pay (80 hours for admin staff and 120 hours for fire fighters).
- Also includes a daycare component that allows a payment for 2/3 of current pay, up to \$200/day to meet childcare needs.
- Also modifies current FMLA legislation which WSFR has exempted itself from because the District will not be able to meet its operational needs.

### 1. Financial Impacts to District:

- Current budget allows for \$400,000 that can be spent towards contingency planning. More financial information and concerns will be presented and discussed during the April 2020 Regular Fire Board meeting.
- Board Member Discussion:
  - Director Abbott: Is the District tracking COVID-19 related



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expenses and staffing for reimbursement? Chief Kazian: Yes, we have applied to FEMA to start the reimbursement process.

2. Operational Impacts to District:

- Based on the experiences of other fire agencies like FDNY, WSFR may not be able to rely on normal mutual and auto-aid partners for assistance during responses.

ii. Discussion/Possible Update: Resolution 2020-03 Emergency Remote Meeting Procedure

1. Chief Kazian:

- State statute allows the District to utilize remote meeting formats to maintain continuity during this emergency crisis.
- Board Discussion: Fire Board members supportive of new remote meeting format.

Director Fagler submits a motion to approve Resolution 2020-03 the Emergency Remote Meeting Procedure, Director Pearson seconds. All “aye”. Approved.

iii. Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 2020-04 Extending Emergency Declaration: Chief Kazian

1. Background

- The Fire Board has the power to extend the Emergency Declaration beyond the initial 7-days. Most regional fire agencies have already adopted this emergency resolution.

2. Board Discussion:

- Director Abbott: Is there a deadline for this Declaration? Chief Kazian: Legal Council recommended to leave it open ended rather than giving it a hard deadline which would require a redraft and another vote by the Board to extend the Declaration.
- Director Fagler: How does this change the responsibility of the Fire Chief in regarding normal operations, like spending caps that must be approved by the Board? Chief Kazian: Does not think the District will need to purchase anything that would undermine existing protocols between the District and the Board. The Declaration does not give the Fire Chief carte blanche to spend funds. If the Board wants more specific information, he



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would be happy to research further.

- Director Rosen: supportive of resolution and wants the Fire Board kept in the loop to help the District through this crisis.

Director Fagler submits a motion to approve Resolution 2020-04 Extending Emergency Declaration, Director Rosen seconds. All “aye”. Approved.

c. Board Member Items:

1. Director Rosen and Pearson: supportive of the District’s efforts to be prepared in this crisis.
2. Director Young: Has the District discussed implementing hazard pay for crew members? Chief Kazian: The District has not formally considered it, but the state and federal government may have plans in the works for this. The District will revisit this if needed. Chief Kazian would like input from the Board to discuss and develop best practices related to hazard pay that can be used during this pandemic if needed and future events as needed. Can be discussed as soon as the April 2020 Board Meeting.
3. Director Rosen: Is there a timeframe for signatures for Resolution 2020-04? Chief Kazian: he and Ruthie will find that out tomorrow and let the Board know the requirements are.

**V. ADJOURNMENT** at 19:41

Director Abbott to submits motion to adjourn the April 1, 2020 Special Board Meeting. Director Rosen seconds. All “aye”. Approved.