

**MARYSVILLE FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING  
October 19, 2021 – 7 pm – Virtual Via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Stevens called the meeting to order and led the flag salute at 7 pm.

**OPENING STATEMENT**

Pursuant the Governors proclamation 20-28, the Marysville Fire District meetings and workshops will take place virtually via Zoom. As indicated in the public notice, the public has been invited to join. The public comment section of our agenda has been suspended until further notice. However, public comment may be submitted via email, mail, or phone. Comments received will be read into the record at the following meeting.

Chairperson Stevens stated that we have received several comments and those and any additional received will be addressed at the next Board meeting.

Boardmember Norton suggested, considering the amount of comments, public interest, and the large number of people in attendance that we allow for public comment tonight. Norton believes, as representatives of these people, we should provide them the opportunity to be heard. Norton moved to amend the agenda to receive public comment.

Chairperson Stevens suggested that that public comment be added after new business and be limited to three minutes.

**Motion:** To amend the 10-19-21 Marysville Fire District Board of Directors Agenda to allow for public comment.  
**Made By:** Norton  
**Seconded By:** King  
**Action:** PASSED unanimously

**The following were in attendance:**

**Board of Directors:**

Michael Stevens	Participant Zoom ID 367796
Steve Muller	Participant Zoom ID 454248
Tom King	Participant Zoom ID 318904
Kamille Norton	Participant Zoom ID 419383
Rick Ross	Participant Zoom ID 555551

**Staff Members:**

Martin McFalls, Fire Chief  
Jeff Cole, Deputy Chief  
Darryl Neuhoff, Deputy Chief  
Chelsie McInnis, Finance Director  
Steve Edin, Human Resources Manager  
Paula DeSanctis, Board Secretary

**Guests:**

Brett Vinson, District Attorney



## **MFD CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approve minutes of the September 15, 2021, Regular meeting
- B. Approve minutes of the October 4, 2021, Finance Committee meeting
- C. Approve minutes of the October 6, 2021, Planning Committee meeting
- D. Approve September 2021 Financial Statements
- E. Approval of October Claims and Payroll:
  - i. MFD Expense Fund  
Voucher Numbers 211002001–thru–211003001 \$ 245,274.82
  - ii. Capital Reserve Fund  
Voucher Numbers 211001001 \$ 10,192.50
  - iii. MFD Payroll (excluding benefits) \$ 1,421,388.04

**Motion:** To approve the MFD Consent Agenda  
**Made By:** Ross  
**Seconded By:** Muller  
**Action:** PASSED unanimously

## **SAO AUDIT ENTRANCE CONFERENCE**

Chairperson Stevens welcomed and introduced Audit Supervisor Courtney Amonsens and Audit Lead Tiffani Anderson.

Courtney Amonsens reviewed the entrance conference documents stating the State Auditors will be conducting an audit of the Marysville Fire District RFA for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. They will be performing an accountability and financial statement audit. Tiffani Anderson shared that within the accountability audit they will be looking at payroll, self-insurance for unemployment compensation, and financial condition. The financial audit will include an opinion issuance on the basis of accounting, as well as a review of the internal controls and compliance over financial reporting process.

Courtney shared that to keep communication open they will hold weekly status meetings with Finance Director McInnis through the Exit Conference to be sure everyone is kept up to date on the progress of the audit. At the conclusion of the audit a Management Representation Letter will be provided and an Exit Conference will be scheduled to share the final results of the audit.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Communications:** Nothing to report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**EMS Committee:** Approval of October EMS account recommendations.

Month	Charity	Collections	Bankruptcy	Refunds
October	8,704.58	21,862.29	0.00	2,415.49

**Motion:** To approve the September ambulance account recommendations.  
**Made By:** Ross  
**Seconded By:** Norton  
**Action:** PASSED unanimously

**Planning Committee:** Chief McFalls shared that the Planning Committee last met on October 6, 2021 and discussed upgrading the Location Emergency Alerting System at Station 62 and 63. We will meet again on November 3, 2021.

**Personnel Committee:** Has not met.

**Finance Committee:** Finance Director McInnis reported that the Finance Committee met on October 4, 2021 for a preliminary review of the 2022 budget and update on where we are currently with the 2021 revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. We looked at the preliminary Snohomish County assessed value figures and how that will affect our levy rates. The Budget Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

**STAFF BUSINESS**

**Fire Chief Report:** Chief McFalls reported on the following:

- The Boardmembers are all registered for this year's annual Washington Fire Commissioners Conference hosted at Tulalip Resort October 21-23, 2021; as well as the Snure Seminar Wednesday evening October 20, 2021.
- Shared with the Board our two new lateral FF/PM's Charles Damron and Holly Wienker.

**Operations Report:** Chief Cole reported the following:

- We had 1,173 calls for service in September. We are starting to see our call volume climb.
- We had a couple significant events, a commercial fire at Cabela's, which was contained to the back store room due to the sprinkler system, however there was water and smoke damage throughout the store. There was also an apartment fire at the Villas Apartments, again the sprinkler system help to contain the fire to the room of origin, but there was water damage to surrounding units. The crews did an outstanding job on both fires.
- The vacation and debit day process is beginning this week.
- We have four new graduates from our part-time academy. Thank you to Captain Green and all the instructors that assisted with the academy.

Chairperson Steven asked for overtime numbers due to COVID be added to the monthly overtime report.

**Overtime Report:**

September 2021	Dollars	Total Hours	Sick Leave Used
Full-time	\$ 194,488.31	3,851.75	2,299.72
Part time			
<b>Month Total</b>	<b>\$ 194,488.31</b>	<b>\$ 3,851.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,299.72</b>
YTD Totals	\$ 1,016,213.88	\$ 16,081.14	\$ 18,367.80

**Human Resources/Personnel Report:** Human Resources Manager Steve Edin reported the following:

- We have eight employees off on intermittent FMLA, three off on long term disability, one off on FMLA, and three off on short term disability.
- We are currently recruiting for lateral FF/EMT's and lateral paramedics.
- The Personnel Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 to hold entry level interviews.
- Congratulated Katie Reeves who was promoted effective November 1, 2021 to Driver Operator.



- New job descriptions have been reviewed by the Local and will be brought to the Board for approval in the near future.

**Finance Report:** Finance Director McInnis reported the following:

The Quarter 3 2021 Fund and Budget Report was included in the board packets. This report summarizes where we are at with our fund balances. We are in good shape, we did not go below our minimum fund balance goal of 25% of our operating expenditures. Our revenues are on track and are in excess of what we expected to collect on average at this point in the year. Our expenses are also on track with 26% remaining. The Apparatus and Capital Funds have pending projects that will be rolling over to next year so there are no amendments needed. As far as category groups we have spent 85% on personnel, 14% on M&O, and 1% on capital. In comparison, our fund balance is 23% higher than we were at this point last year which means we were able to fully compliment the Capital Funds transfers that we had budgeted for 2021. Our ambulance transport fees continue to return to normal (pre COVID) volume and collection rates.

Boardmember Norton asked how our overtime was last month, if it is continuing to climb or if we are seeing a decrease. McInnis share we have seen an increase in overtime due to shift vacancies, which has been ongoing throughout the year. McInnis stated she will provide her with a more detailed slide of the overtime analysis. Norton asked McInnis to add that information to her monthly report.

**Fire Prevention Report:** Deputy Chief Maloney was absent from the Board Meeting. The monthly Fire Prevention report was included in the board packets.

**Legal Counsel Report:** District Attorney Brett Vinson stated he has no report tonight.

**Local 3219 Union Report:** Local President Dean Shelton was absent from the meeting.

***OLD BUSINESS***

None.

***NEW BUSINESS***

**Agenda Bill – Resolution 2021-005 Portable Radio Surplus Declaration**

Our old radios that have been removed from service are in excess of 15 years old with no value. We are asking the Board to declare them surplus.

<b>Motion:</b>	To approve Resolution 2021-005 Portable Radio Surplus Declaration
<b>Made By:</b>	Ross
<b>Seconded By:</b>	Norton
<b>Action:</b>	PASSED unanimously

***PUBLIC COMMENT***

Chairperson Stevens opened the meeting to public comment with a reminder that this is a time for the Board to hear comments, not a question and answer session. Stevens asked for all speakers to keep comments to within three minutes each, stating their name and address for the record and to please be polite and respectful to all who are listening.

The following provided public comments:

Danielle Ackley 2832 176<sup>th</sup> St NE, Marysville  
 Danielle Peterson 12029 11<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville

Chelsey Steinbach 6414 Armor Rd, Marysville  
Jacob McConkey - MFD Employee  
Joani Lang 5405 95st St NE, Marysville  
Tami Salvati 3214 79<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville  
Tyler Goarck - MFD Employee  
Derek Henry 30 280<sup>th</sup> St NE, Arlington  
Angela Gummer 14300 8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville  
Brittney Hanajoesa 6509 76<sup>th</sup> Dr. NE, Marysville  
Melissa Holiday 6110 37<sup>th</sup> PI NE, Marysville  
Dawn Day 12608 182 Dr. SE, Monroe  
Nick Meyer – MFD Employee  
Josh Olsen – MFD Employee  
Tyler Dormaier – MFD Employee  
Rocky Alton 11127 47<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Marysville  
Crystal Henderson - Works in Marysville  
Hunter Day – MFD Employee  
Joe Ballif – MFD Employee  
Johnathan Starr 8712 75<sup>th</sup> Dr. NE, Marysville  
Noah Pester – MFD Employee  
John Mulhome 7111 70<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Maryville  
Kjirsti Leestma 9611 64 Dr. NE, Marysville  
Seth Kinney 18223 Burn Rd, Arlington (Marysville Business Owner)  
Becky Denny 10807 28<sup>th</sup> St NE, Lake Stevens  
Ryan Swobody – MFD Employee  
Josh Farnes – MFD Employee  
Nanette Gemmer 5802 90<sup>th</sup> St NE Marysville  
Chris Longspaugh 17120 Marine View Dr., Stanwood  
Mona Solterra 4511 19<sup>th</sup> PI NE, Arlington  
Brian Donaldson – MFD Employee

## **CALL ON BOARD**

**King** – Thanked all the citizens and firefighters who spoke tonight. Stated he will take all comments and input into consideration.

**Norton** – Shared the following:

“Thank you to all the community members who attended and spoke this evening. I appreciate your well-spoken words. Thank you to the firefighters who were laid off for their service. I applauded your courage in standing for your convictions. I want you to know I stand with you. I feel it is wrong that our Governor has put the District and our employee in this position. I want to make it clear that the decision to not make accommodations was not made by this Board of Directors. I would like to ask the attorneys, what authority, if any, does this Governing Board have in granting some of these accommodations? I want it to go on record that I am in support of finding accommodations for these employees. I have collected information from other Districts, many of them are making simple and reasonable accommodations for their employees, not just fire districts but other health care providers. Even our State Capital, Olympia, is making accommodations. Why can't Marysville Fire? Why do we want to take a hard line and lose these valuable employees? It is not in line with our community, it is not in line with our Board, and it is not in line with the values of the Marysville Fire District. The firefighters and other healthcare workers affected by this are the ones who have been taking care of our sick for the last year and a half and have been on the front line of this working side by side with their co-workers. The assumption that they are suddenly now a danger or a threat to their co-workers and to our

community is ludicrous. It is not based on any facts or science, the vaccinated can still contract the virus and spread the virus. The mandate is nonsensical, divisive, destructive and simply wrong. The irony of all of this, it has been forced upon us in the name of public health and public safety when this mandate is going to create a far greater public health and safety crisis than COVID ever could. When we lose a bunch of firefighters, medics, nurses, doctors, and police officers, we are in trouble. When MFD can't respond to calls as quickly, when we are understaffed, when our overtime costs are soaring, and our employees are overworked, that becomes a problem for all of us. Just to be clear, I am not anti vax or pro vax, it should be your choice. What I care about is the ability for our firefighters to do their jobs, to keep their jobs, and to serve our community. That is what we hired them to do and what we pay them to do. I care about them in respecting their ability to make choices for themselves. We need them, and us treating them as if they are a danger is completely illogical and as I said, it is not based on science but based on nothing more than power, fear and cowardice. To sum up, I feel very strongly, as a representative of the people we serve, we as district leadership, need to show leadership and some courage. None of us like this situation, I know this has been heart wrenching on many of you and our administration but this is where we are. It is now time for us to stand up, to show some courage and to lead. To do what we know is right. I know there are legal considerations, I am not advocating for non-compliance but I am asking that we try harder to find accommodations which are allowed under this mandate. These employees are not a threat to us, not any more than anyone else is, so rather than casting them out, let's work together and make this work for everyone by showing courage to lead and to try because the way it is now, we all lose and does not have to be this way. We have the opportunity to do the right thing for our district, for these employees, and most importantly for our community that we serve."

**Muller** – Thanked everyone for taking the time to share their sincere testimonies tonight, we will take everything into consideration. Welcomed Charles and Holly to MFD. As promised, as a new RFA, we are following through and continue to hire new firefighters. Asked what the procedure is as individual Boardmembers responding to public emails. Chief McFalls stated to forward all correspondences to him and he will work with legal counsel on replies.

**Ross** – Welcomed Charles and Holly to MFD.

**Stevens** – Share the following:

"Thank you to all those who spoke tonight, emailed, and called regarding the governors mandate. I appreciate the communities understanding of the near impossible position that has been imposed on local governments to navigate. On a recent 27 state road trip my family and I saw 27 different ways states are managing this "pandemic". Respectfully, this is unequivocally the governors mandate not the Marysville Fire Districts. This has been coming down the pike for 20 plus months made possible by our governor operating in a vacuum allowing it to go unchecked by our legislative representatives. Frankly, it is convenient and in my opinion, cowardly to levy a mandate that falls on the shoulders of local jurisdictions to implement without a single care for the communities and the individuals impacted. Communities all across the state are losing many dedicated hard working employees and we have broken spirits of countless others due to this mandate. It is infuriating and yes, unfair. I am thankful for the communication we have received over the last few weeks. It is helpful and encouraging to know that the people are paying attention and truly care about what's happening in our community and across the state. I am not saying this is my responsibility as a local elected official but there are certainly more conversations to be had. I want to acknowledge the gut wrenching work put into this effort by our Chief, staff and other involved locally. With that said, the other folks who truly need to hear these concerns from each of you, the outrage and impact on local communities, are the folks who are supposed to represent each of us in Olympia. Please contact them today and often here after, and tell them the stories you have shared tonight. We will continue the conversation and I appreciate all of you."



**McFalls** – Expressed his gratitude to the citizens for sharing their hearts and words of support to the firefighters. I am very proud of the men and women who work and support this community.

**Cole** – Nothing more to report.

**Neuhoff** – Nothing more to report.

**McInnis** – Nothing more to report.

**Vinson** – Nothing to report.

**Edin** – Nothing more to report.

**DeSanctis** – Asked for Chairperson Stevens and two other Boardmembers to stop by the office to sign tonight's approved documents. Stated that all Boardmembers should have received an email containing a Zoom link to tomorrow's Snure Seminar.

### ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

Chairperson Stevens called for a 20 minute executive session at 9:55 pm to review the performance of a public employee pursuant RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and Pending Litigation pursuant RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to return at 10:15 pm with possible action to follow.

Chairperson Stevens called for a 20 minute extension to return at 10:35 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 10 minute extension to return at 10:45 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 10 minute extension to return at 11:55 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 10 minute extension to return at 11:05 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 10 minute extension to return at 11:15 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 5 minute extension to return at 11:20 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 5 minute extension to return at 11:25 pm.  
Chairperson Stevens called for a 5 minute extension to return at 11:30 pm.

### ***RECONVENE***

The open public meeting reconvened at 11:31 pm.

Chairperson Stevens asked the Board for any potential motions.

Commissioner Ross moved to add two items to the agenda, to approve a separation agreement and provide Board direction to the Chief.

**Motion:** To amend the agenda to include the approval of a separation agreement and Board direction to the Chief

**Made By:** Ross

**Seconded By:** Muller

**Action:** PASSED unanimously

**Motion:** To authorize the Chief to sign separation agreement as discussed in executive session

**Made By:** Ross

**Seconded By:** Norton

**Action:** PASSED unanimously

**Motion:** To direct the Chief to consider alternatives to the mandate accommodations

**Made By:** Ross

**Seconded By:** Norton

**Action:** PASSED unanimously



**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further action required, the October 19, 2021 regular meeting adjourned at 11:34 pm.

*Martin McFalls*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martin McFalls  
District Secretary

*11/18/21*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved

*SM*



## Fire Prevention Report

Prepared by: Thomas Maloney, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal  
October 19, 2021

- The total fire loss for 2021:
  - We had 30 fire incidents investigated in 2021. With over \$18.4 million in assessed value and over \$2.7 million in fire loss.
- We had one fire in September in a travel trailer. Fire destroyed the unit and minor damage to the nearby exposure.
- We are just finishing up the building and fire code updates. We will be meeting the building department to finalize the code updates and bring them to the Board for information and Council for adoption.
- We are participating with King County in developing some wildland related messages and guidelines to help our residents with making outside the home more fire safe.
- PIO Veley orchestrated a very successful media launch for PulsePoint in Snohomish County. We continue to work with our emergency response partners throughout the county to ensure the success of this program. In October, we are making a big push to help us register AEDs in the PulsePoint system.
- We have been conducting several Virtual Fire Safety education classes with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students at Liberty Elementary, Shoultes Elementary and Sunnyside Elementary.
- For Fire Prevention Week in October we hung banners with fire safety messages (focused on cooking and smoke alarms) on all fire stations. We shared social media messages each day using the NFPA FPW theme "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety." We will continue to share additional fire safety messaging throughout the entire month.
- We are coordinating with kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers at Liberty Elementary and Local 3219 to supply free coats to all 150 students in those grades.
- PIO Veley conducted 4 car seat checks for local families.
- Our Facebook audience increased to 5,200 followers. Our Twitter audience is also up to 2,484 followers. We have 371 followers on Instagram. We currently reach 16,661 households on Nextdoor

**Public Education** – Chart was removed as we are not conducting in-person events at this time.

Marysville Fire District 2021 Fire Incident Totals										
Month	Total Investigations	Accidental	Incendiary	Undetermined	Residential	Commercial	Vehicle	Other	Total Property Value	Total Fire Loss
January	3	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	\$ 1,515,693.00	\$ 710,770.00
February	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	\$ 581,362.00	\$ 305,000.00
March	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	\$ 707,312.00	\$ 183,711.00
April	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
May	6	6	0	0	3	1	0	2	\$ 10,607,434.00	\$ 218,252.00
June	8	5	0	3	8	0	0	0	\$ 2,660,434.00	\$ 414,773.00
July	6	3	1	2	5	0	0	1	\$ 1,483,679.00	\$ 589,235.00
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
September	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
October									\$	\$
November									\$	\$
December									\$	\$
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$ 18,464,047.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,746,572.00</b>

