

Regular Commissioners Meeting
March 18, 2026

PRESENT

Commissioners: Dave Lohman, Tom Perry, Kirk Damon

Chiefs: Steve Riggs, Tom Miller, Greg Clayton

Absent: Secretary Sarah Smith

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

Motion made and approved to accept the February 18, 2026 minutes as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Samish Island PSE Solar battery noise complaint:** Chief Miller reported on the meeting with PSE community affairs officer on February 19. PSE has a new HVAC vendor and is currently redesigning the cooling system to resolve the noise problem.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report:** There was a beginning cash balance of \$469,487.35. We had a collective cash increase of \$17,758.52, and a collective cash decrease of \$46,967.62 leaving a balance of \$440,278.25. The reserve fund remains the same at \$220,000.
2. **Furnace at Allen Station:** Nordic Temperature Control provided an estimate of \$3656.31 for repairs needed on the 20 year old furnace. They also provided a quote of \$8423 plus tax for a replacement. Motion made and seconded to request an additional quote and proceed with replacing the furnace with a limit of \$9000 including tax. Passed
3. **Levy Lift:** Volunteers Adrian Mintz and Steven Dahl researching a levy lift for the district made a presentation outlining our financial position relative to other local districts and rising costs. The district faces critical revenue challenges with the maximum allowed levy rate falling far short of inflation. Our levy rate is currently 58% below comparable districts in the County which has severely reduced the tax revenue we receive. After lengthy discussion and analysis of financial models, a motion was made by Commissioner Lohman, seconded by Perry, to authorize and direct legal counsel for Skagit County Fire District No. 5 to draft a resolution for a regular permanent property tax levy increase at a rate of \$0.78 per \$1,000 of

assessed value, authorized for 6 years with an annual limit factor of 103%, requiring a simple majority for passage, for placement on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot. Motion passed unanimously.

4. **Air Fill Station:** The compressor for the SCBA fill station is currently out of service. Due to its age, parts do not seem to be readily available. Parts search by MES is continuing and bottles can be filled at District 6.
5. **Compensation for ESO Reports:** Chief Clayton requested EMT's get extra credit for OTEP training and completing PCR reports in ESO. OTEP requires several hours of online training before the in person practical and PCR reports take additional time after a call others are not required to spend. Motion made and seconded to grant 2 points for OTEP and 1 point for each PCR report. Passed.
6. **Secretary Medical Leave:** The board acknowledged and accepted Sarah Smiths letter requesting medical leave. The position will be filled on a temporary basis.

CORRESPONDENCE

PSE customer info re public hearing
Skagit County Treasurer SKIP pool updates
Samish Farms Water coliform monitoring violation notice
Paid Medical Leave notice from Employment Security for Kirsten Morse
Nicholsen Chelan Class 2026

CHIEFS REPORTS

Chief Miller: Assistant Chief Collins continues to be out of service, One volunteer completing the EMT course, one volunteer signed up for the next EMT course.

Chief Riggs: One FF attending the District 3 academy doing great, lost three volunteers from roster, two would like to attend the rope rescue technical training, and research shows Brinley Mountain Apparatus may be best for marketing surplus apparatus.

Interim Chief Clayton: There were 23 calls since our last meeting. Concentrating on classroom required training in winter months. First aid/CPR refresher, SCBA quarterly, and ICS training completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

AUDIT OF VOUCHERS

Proceeded with the audit of the vouchers and paying bills. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve the utility voucher dated March 4, 2025, in the amount of \$1106.84 and submitted on March 5. Motion made, seconded, and passed to approve all expenses except reimbursement for Nathan Vanbeek on the voucher dated March 18, 2026, in the amount of \$12,912.47

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Tom Perry, Chairman

Kirk Damon, Commissioner

David Lohman, Commissioner

David Lohman, Acting Secretary