

**WHAT-COMM COMMUNICATIONS CENTER  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD  
MINUTES  
September 24, 2020  
Meeting held Via ZOOM**

Present were:

**Administrative Board Members:** Bill Elfo, Sheriff, Whatcom County Sheriff's office; Chief David Doll, Bellingham Police Department; Seth Fleetwood, Bellingham Mayor; Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County Executive; Tyler Byrd, Whatcom County Council Chair of the Finance Committee; Mel Blankers, Chief of Everson Fire Department; Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewett(non-voting member); Scott Korthuis, Lynden Mayor and Dan Hammill, City of Bellingham Council Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Absent: John Crawford, Fire Commissioners Association Representative.

Other Panelists in attendance:

Bellingham Fire Department, Prospect Division Chief, Dan McDermott; Scott Grunhurd, Bellingham Police Deputy Chief and Director of WHAT-COMM; Greg Erickson, Deputy Director of WHAT-COMM.

**Opening comments & Introductions:**

Sheriff Elfo called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and welcomed everyone.

Sheriff Elfo asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Approval of meeting minutes from the June 18,2020 meeting.

Sheriff Elfo called for a motion.

David Doll motioned that the minutes be accepted as submitted.

Seconded: Satpal Sidhu

Discussion: No discussion.

Sheriff Elfo called for a vote. None opposed. Motion passes.

**2021 Budget & Fees**

Presented by WHAT-COMM Deputy Director Greg Erickson & Prospect Division Chief Dan McDermott  
There are the usual annual increases to operations costs which are approximately a 2% increase over 2020. The budget was reviewed extensively to keep increases to a minimum. Both centers need additional staffing but are opting to put off that request until the 2022 budget year. The only new ask is for necessary equipment replacement for both centers.

The equipment that needs to be replaced are the end of life radio communications hardware/software at both centers, and the logging recorder equipment. Prospect also needs to replace their end of life Uninterruptible Power Supply unit, and their dispatch console furniture.

Much discussion followed.

Some board members expressed frustration with the complexity of the budget format and asked for additional information in the future. It was agreed that Board members would be provided with additional information in the future to include historical budget data as well as call data. It was also suggested that time be spent in the January meeting getting newer Board members up to speed with recent Board decisions regarding changes to the interlocal agreement and budget format. Questions were also raised about our previous consolidation study and the Board's decision not to consolidate. It was suggested that the Board would like to revisit that study and decision.

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Sheriff Elfo called for a motion.

David Doll motioned that the budget and fees be approved for 2021.

Seconded: Scott Korthuis

Sheriff Elfo called for a vote. None opposed. Motion passes. Whatcom County Councilmember Tyler Byrd abstained.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm