**LWVSJ Observer Corps\*: SJI Fire District, March 16, 2023**

During Citizen Comment and Correspondence, a letter was read from John McDowell about a Fire Training Facility. Planning work was done in the past, and at one point the Commission authorized a cost estimate. More recently a potential site was discussed with Port of Friday Harbor on their property. He asked the commission to pursue the issue of a training facility. The Commission added discussion of a training facility to a future agenda.

Maureen See read out a statement. The entire statement will be part of the official minutes. She had considered running for the Fire Commission seat now vacated by Albert Olson at his suggestion. Considering that, she had attended Fire District meetings and workshops and was concerned about the state of the department and raised these concerns with Commissioners. A letter of no-confidence from some fire staff which was discussed at a recent Executive Session with the fire chief present, but without consultation with those who signed the letter. She stated the friendship between the Commission chair and the chief was a conflict of interest. She will apply to fill the remainder of Olson’s term through December 2023.

The Letter of Resignation from Commissioner Albert Olson was noted and added to the record. No reason for the resignation was stated, but it was noted that he has now moved out of the state.

The negotiations with Friday Harbor for the Fire District to handle certain business inspections and fire investigations are proceeding. When a draft is complete it will be submitted for legal review and then come to the Commission for approval.

The SAFEBoat is beginning its sea trial this month and delivery is expected in May of early June. Training will be here on-site in the county.

First quarter expenses were 20% of budget vs. the expected 25%, while revenues were at 42% as tax payments came in. In operations, a commissioner requested a breakdown of calls and response times by responding station to help look at disposition of equipment among stations. There is a new dispatch agreement with the Sheriff’s office and the service provider Codan is fixing the issues that have plagued the system and quality is improving.

In response to a question from the press, the chair of the commission said no decisions were made at the March 24 Executive Meeting. The chief said he has been conferring with family about possibly retiring before the year end, but that was not discussed at the Executive Session on March 24.

\*The **League of Women Voters,** a nonpartisan organization encourages informed participation in government. The Observer Corps attends and takes notes at government meetings to expand public understanding of public policy and decisions. The notes do not necessarily reflect the views of the League or its members.