LWVSI Observer Corps\* Notes SJI Fire District March 14 2023

A donation of $1000 was received expressing gratitude for the speedy response for the laundromat fire.

The 3-year audit for 2019-2021 was completed with No Findings. The audit concentrated on fraud detection. Auditors examined 3 years’ worth of data over a two-month period. There were no findings and an audit with No Findings was returned.

The feasibility of a levy increase was discussed. The fire district cannot maintain the current level of service at the existing funding level. Inflation is a significant issue. The District will need to educate the public on the issue.

The District continues discussions **with Friday Harbor** town council on a **contract to handle B2 (business) fire inspections/risk reduction and fire investigations**.

The district plans to apply for **two federal FEMA grants** which would help fill staffing requirements. The health grant would **pay the health insurance cost** of any volunteer who meets the minimum requirement of working 120 hours a month. This benefit will improve recruiting and retention. The second grant would support flexibility by allowing volunteers to specify where they will work. A volunteer specifying exterior only would not have to work inside the building with the fire. The goal would be to add 6 volunteers per shift. Additional staff would improve performance and help achieve coverage goals.

\*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.

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