

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
Minutes of Regular Commissioners Meeting
February 26, 2007
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Board Chair Hesse at 6:01 p.m. Present were: Commissioner Hesse, Commissioner Boling, Commissioner Ferraiuolo, Chief Walkup, Deputy Chief Blystone, Deputy Chief Rash, Administrative Assistant Carol Trescott, members of the district, and the public.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Boling/Hesse to approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. LID Lift Discussions – Chief Walkup confirmed with legal council that because the district originally ran the EMS levy as a permanent levy it is considered a regular tax levy and the district is able to restore it to \$.50 with a simple majority of the voter approval (50% + 1). Walkup shared with the board that a 10% decrease in the EMS levy is \$.05 and a 10% decrease in the fire levy is \$.15. He recommended the district run an EMS Levy Lid Lift in May's election and wait to run a fire levy until the outcome of House Bill 1369 is known. House Bill 1369, which is the number one priority of the Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners, would authorize annual increases in levies for up to six years. The EMS levy, which last ran in 2000, declines at a slower pace and therefore has only decreased \$.13 in the past 6 years. The Chief told the board that the \$280,000 generated from an EMS levy lid lift could be used for improved staffing, meeting the goals and strategies of the Customer Centered Strategic Plan and possible implementation of ALS in Station 81's response area. He is recommending the board run a lid lift in May so that staff is able to plan ahead for 2008. Commissioner Hesse said he is in favor of providing the highest level of services available within the fire district but expressed his concern on providing ALS because of the associated costs and the geographic makeup of District 8. A discussion on providing ALS within the district took place with Commissioner Ferraiuolo and Commissioner Boling suggesting the district move toward increasing services. They suggested presenting the information to taxpayers and letting them make the decision. Commissioner Ferraiuolo said the district is changing in makeup and population and believed that they should begin looking toward growth. Chief Walkup told the board that ALS was not the district's only need, that there is a host of other needs as well. He said the district is required to use the monies in accordance with the ballot title. Walkup suggested running an EMS levy lid lift in May and a fire levy lid lift in 2008 after the outcome of current legislation is known. After further discussion Commissioner Boling made a motion to go to the public for an EMS Levy Lid Lift in the May 2007 election.

Motion: Boling/Hesse to Restore the EMS Levy to \$.50 on the May Special Election Ballot.
The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Boling/Hesse to approve Resolution 07-01, Authorizing the Placement of a Proposition Authorizing Restoration of Previously Approved Property Tax Levy for Emergency Medical Services on the May 15, 2007, Special Election Ballot. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Inter-local Agreement for Inspections with Spokane County – Chief Walkup presented an update of the district’s past Inter-local Inspections Agreement noting changes in reference to code. The agreement gives the district authorization to perform fire inspections within the fire district. That responsibility resides with the county fire marshall, who is a building official with Spokane County.

Motion: Boling/Hesse to accept the Inter-local Agreement for Inspections with Spokane County and allow the chairman of the board to sign on the board’s behalf. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Capital Budgeting – Commissioner Ferraiuolo initiated a discussion and offered to take the lead on a capital replacement study for district apparatus and buildings. His idea was to work with the fire chief and staff to development options to begin integrating a formalized capital replacement budget into the district’s budget, and to present those ideas and options to the entire board. Commissioner Hesse felt a workshop with all 3 commissioners and the senior staff was a preferred option. Ferraiuolo said his idea was to work with staff as a lead on the project, learn more about the district, and development a program and options to bring to the rest of the board for any decision. Commissioner Boling said each of the commissioners has a level of expertise and felt Ferraiuolo could take the lead in the initial discovery and formulation of a capital replacement plan before it was brought before the board in a possible workshop setting. Hesse agreed on the process as long as all commissioners were involved in any decisions. Commissioner Ferraiuolo affirmed that all will be informed and his plan was to get the process started.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Banquet Feedback – Chief Walkup asked the board for their comments on the recent recognition event. Commissioner Hesse gave positive feedback on the facility, the setting and the dinner. Commissioner Boling said he enjoyed the event and was especially impressed with the pride and the atmosphere shown by members who wore their Class A uniforms. He expressed a desire to have Class A uniforms available to all members of the district. Commissioner Hesse said he realized the district not able to pay for the meals for non-district members but said it would be desirable to invite additional family members to the awards banquet if the meal cost could paid by those individuals. Chief Walkup said the district did have members who invited additional guests at their own expense but that we could attempt to communicate that option more effectively in the future. Boling suggested raising funds to enable family members to attend the banquet. He added it was nice to see former District 8 members as well and suggested inviting district retirees in the coming years. Commissioner Ferraiuolo said name tags would be helpful for those who are not acquainted with one another and he would like to see groups from different stations/classifications mingle. He also expressed a desire to staff stations so that all members were able to attend. Chief

Walkup said the volunteer officers have also offered suggestions and staff will try to incorporate those ideas and suggestions into the planning and preparation for future recognition events.

B. Assistance to Firefighter Grant – Chief Walkup advised the board that the district has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighter Grant in the amount of \$37,944. Those monies will go to purchase new generation wildland fire shelters and additional thermal imaging cameras.

C. Public Commission Filing - Public Disclosure filings are due April 16th.

D. Notary – Chief Walkup informed the board that one of the district paid staff has offered their services as a notary and asked if they had an interest in having a notary accessible to the district. The associated costs are approximately \$150. Commissioners Hesse and Ferraiuolo felt it would be beneficial to both the district and the community. Commissioner Boling asked if the district’s current insurance would cover the requirements. Walkup responded that a notary is required to be bonded and was relatively certain the district’s insurance would meet that requirement. All commissioners gave their approval for the addition of a notary to the fire district.

E. 60th Anniversary – Chief Walkup reminded the board that the district will reach its 60th anniversary this August and asked if there was interest in sponsoring a recognition event. The board agreed that it would be a good time and opportunity to share with the community the advances the district has made, as well as a vision for the future. The commissioners shared ideas on numerous options and suggested forming a committee for the planning of a 60th anniversary event. Staff will work to develop a program to celebrate the district’s 60 years of providing service to our citizens.

F. Apparatus - Chief Walkup received a call from Chief Sehorn, Fire District 11, inquiring on the status of the 1974 fire engines which are on loan to them. Commissioner Hesse said it would not be cost effective to return the engines into use in District 8 and suggested the apparatus be declared surplus. He recommended the chief get District 11’s intent and present a recommendation to the board.

CORRESPONDENCE – 1) An article from the Valley News Herald dated January 26th regarding the joint efforts of area fire districts to present a levy lid lift. 2) An article from emsresponder.com on the City of Spokane/AMR possible contract violation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deputy Chief Rash expressed his appreciation and thanks to the commissioners for the receipt of Commissioners Award at the recent awards banquet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hesse shared that he, Commissioner Boling, Commissioner Ferraiuolo, Chief Walkup, Deputy Chief Rash, and Lt. Wainwright will be attending the Northwest Leadership Seminar in Portland, March 6 – 9th.

Commissioner Boling announced that the next Spokane County Fire Commissioners Association meeting is to be held at District 5 on Thursday, March 15th.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2007, 6:00 pm at Station 82.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Hesse adjourned the meeting at 7:17 pm.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

William A. Walkup
District Secretary