

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
Minutes of Regular Commissioners Meeting
May 16, 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 6:02 p.m. Present were: Commissioner Hesse, Commissioner Ferraiuolo, Chief Walkup, Deputy Chief Blystone, Deputy Chief Nielsen, Deputy Chief Rash, Administrative Assistant Carol Trescott, members of the district and the public.

INTRODUCTIONS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chief Walkup asked to add three items to the Agenda: New Business - Item B, Site Survey; Executive Report - Item E, Assistance to Firefighters Grant; and Executive Report - Item F, Fire Commissioners Conference. **Motion: Ferraiuolo/Hesse to approve the agenda for the meeting as amended.** The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fire Investigation Interlocal Agreement – Chief Walkup shared the details and a final copy of the Fire Investigation Interlocal Agreement which was composed by numerous fire districts within Region 9 and reviewed by legal counsel. The agreement gives participating districts legal authority to ask one another for investigative assistance, allows the collection and logging of evidence, and will allow the reimbursement of related expenses, all through Region 9 Fire Investigation Training Council. Walkup asked the board for their input, approval and signature of the Fire Investigation Interlocal Agreement. Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked if the agreement was to be used in the event of a critical incident or to be used on an on-going basis. Chief Walkup responded that an incident must meet certain criteria and procedure before the agreement is enacted. Not all fires will qualify for services; there is a required threshold of dollar-loss or loss-of-life. Fires will be referred to the Spokane County area coordinator, who will then orchestrate resources and make a determination of need.

Motion: Hesse/Ferraiuolo to accept the Fire Investigation Interlocal Agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Site Survey – One of Station 82's adjoining property owners has contacted staff with a concern that one of the corner stakes between his property and Station 82 may have been moved or covered

when the well at that facility was installed, or when work was done on the well. For assurance he is asking the district to have the property surveyed. Chief Walkup expressed some concern over starting this practice without some substantive indication or proof that there was an error or change in the property lines as a result of actions on behalf of the district. He added that without some rationale for performing a survey, it may be considered a gifting of public funds and could set precedent for other property owners. Commissioner Hesse was in agreement. Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked if there was evidence to suggest there was an error in the current property line. Walkup replied the property owner is suggesting the evidence is no longer visible and thinks it may be inside the district's property, which is why he is asking the district to have the property resurveyed. Ferraiuolo said there are other ways to verify a property line and felt not all markers would have been moved during the construction. He suggested there should be corner stakes on the owner's property which would enable him to measure boundaries based on a plot map. Ferraiuolo said if there was quantifiable evidence that the property lines are in error then the district should consider having the property surveyed. Chief Blystone informed the board that the grain growers originally gave the district property that wasn't theirs to give, and at the time the property owner in question purchased his property, the power lines were moved. It was at that time he had the land surveyed and states the corner stake is under the well's fill pile. If that were the case, the district's fence line is 10' in his property, as the well is less than 2' from the property line. Commissioner Ferraiuolo again stated if the property owner has evidence that the property lines are not correct the district should re-visit the issue.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. 60th Anniversary Update – Chief Walkup referred the board to a list of activities planned as recognition for the district's 60th anniversary. The chief noted a barbecue planned for the event and a formal speech to be given by the commissioners at which time they would be able to share their vision for the district's future. During the pre-planning process, it came to the attention of staff that there are required county permits and regulations that must be followed when serving food to the general public. As a result, they are exploring alternatives to cooking on-site, one of which is hiring a commercial vendor to cater the barbecue. Walkup said he had previously spoken with Commissioner Boling regarding the recognition ideas and that Boling appeared to be in favor of current plans. Commissioner Hesse felt very few people attend events such as this and was not in favor of spending district funds to hire a commercial vendor for the barbecue. Walkup asked the commissioners for direction with respect to expense for the event. Commissioner Hesse stated he would like to discuss the issue with Commissioner Boling, but was not in favor of hiring an outside firm to supply food. Walkup said staff will continue to explore alternatives and he would share those ideas with the board at or before the June meeting. He asked for direction by that time as the recognition is scheduled for August. Commissioner Ferraiuolo was in favor of exploring other options as well.

B. Newsletter – The commissioners received two draft copies of the district's newsletter. One copy in the event the EMS lid lift was approved by voters, and the other in the event it was not. Commissioner Hesse noted his appreciation for the work put in to producing the newsletter and said it was important to tell the public how those funds would be used and to thank them for their support. Commissioner Ferraiuolo stated he would like to ask citizens in precincts that voted against the lid lift what their concerns were and if they see value in the services they receive. He would like to explore their responses and see if there are things the district could do to improve services.

C. Facility Projects Status - Chief Walkup reported that a number of the previously presented facility projects are moving forward. Several will meet completion in the near future. Station 84 is scheduled to be painted both inside and out, gutters will be installed, and the building re-roofed. Commissioner Hesse facilitated discussion on the future of Station 84 if or when the district enters into a joint partnership with Valley Fire for a facility on 32nd. Walkup responded that it would be a policy decision of the board but there are a number of alternatives for use of the building. He and Chief Thompson have just begun dialog on jointly constructing and staffing a station and he will attempt to answer and anticipate any questions. Multiple options are available, including leaving the facility open and staffing with residents and temporary-hourly personnel, or continuing to staff the station with career personnel. He added that if the facility were to be closed it would be a policy decision for the board. Any agreement made with Valley Fire would still be some time away from implementation, which is why the current repairs are being done to protect the current infrastructure. Commissioner Hesse stated he would like to see a facility to house apparatus that are currently left in the open and would like staff to explore the possibility of a storage facility to house that equipment. Chief Walkup said the need for a storage facility is on a current project list and may possibly be driven by the future plans or decisions for Station 84.

D. Response Times – Chief Nielsen has completed a preliminary study showing a drop in response and turn-out times since the opening of Station 85. Walkup felt further study may show a drop in response times across the district as well as a result of opening that facility.

E. Assistance to Firefighters Grant – The district and the City of Spokane Fire Department have jointly applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of approximately \$1,000,000. If awarded the grant, Fire District 8 would receive \$450,000; 20%, or \$90,000, of which will be encumbered by the district. This grant would allow the district to replace existing SCBA. The district's breathing apparatus does not meet current or upcoming standards. Both Chief Williams and Chief Walkup feel that together, and on a regional basis, the two agencies have a better opportunity to secure the grant than either one would individually.

F. Fire Commissioners Conference - Chief Walkup reminded the board of the Fire Commissioners Conference June 1 – 2, 2007, in Chelan. Commissioner Hesse suggested having a special meeting before the conference begins and before meeting with commissioners from District 1. Chief Walkup will contact Chief Thompson to structure topics for dialog between the two boards.

Chief Walkup informed the board he has received a formal offer from Fire District 11 to purchase the two 1974 Ward LaFrance pumpers for \$5,000 each. This price is in accordance with fair market value. Chief Walkup will dispose of the equipment as previously authorized by the board and in accordance with statute.

CORRESPONDENCE

1) Several new articles from the Spokesman Review as presented in the commissioner packets.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Valley Fire's Recruit and Training Academy graduation is Friday, May 18th, 10:00 am at Center Place. Four of the graduates are former District 8 members.

- Chief Walkup gave a special thank you to our citizens for their overwhelming support of the EMS Levy Lid Lift.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2007, 6:00 pm at Station 82.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners moved to Executive Session at 6:35 pm to review matters of personnel regarding negotiations with Local 3711. No action is expected to be taken at the conclusion of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Hesse adjourned the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

William A. Walkup
District Secretary