

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
Minutes of Regular Commissioners Meeting
June 25, 2007
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Boling at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Hesse was excused from the meeting due to his participation in a charity event but would be available by phone for any needed discussion or vote. Present were: Commissioner Boling, Commissioner Ferraiuolo, Chief Walkup, Deputy Chief Blystone, Deputy Chief Rash, Administrative Assistant Trescott, members of the district and the public.

INTRODUCTIONS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Boling asked to restructure the Agenda in order to accommodate vendors in attendance for the bid opening, those citizens wishing to address the board during the public comments portion of the meeting and Commissioner Hesse's schedule. Chief Walkup read the revised Agenda order as follows: 1) Approval of the Consent Agenda, 2) 5B - Bid Opening, 3) 6A - Agreement with Local 3711, 4) 6B – M.O.U. with 3711, 5) Executive Report 7D - Ponderosa Development. The balance of the Agenda was to proceed in order.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Bid Opening – Commissioner Hesse joined the meeting via conference call. Chief Walkup explained the background of the bid process for the thermal imaging cameras, new generation fire shelters and extrication equipment which are to be purchased with monies received from \$38,000 awarded the district by an Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The deadline for bid submittal was June 19, 2007, 2:00 pm, prior to the previously scheduled regular board meeting. Bid opening was delayed to coincide with meeting date and time changes. Chief Walkup opened and read each bid as follows:

- West Coast Fire & Rescue Extrication Equipment \$ 7,881.84, including tax
- General Fire Apparatus Thermal Imaging Cameras \$17,593.00, including tax
Also quoted was various optional equipment.
- LN Curtis & Sons Thermal Imaging Cameras \$14,605.00, not including tax
Also quoted was various optional equipment.

• LN Curtis & Sons	Extrication Equipment	\$ 4,742.69
	Pump	\$ 4,365.00
	Hose	\$ 655.20
	Couplings	\$ 450.00
	Combination Tool	\$ 5,454.90
	Total Standard Package	\$10,212.89 not including tax
	Total Heavy Duty Package	\$10,900.25 not including tax
• LN Curtis & Sons	55 Fire Shelters - \$259.95 ea	\$14,297.25 not including tax
	10 Fire Shelters - \$299.95 ea	\$ 2,999.50 not including tax
• Municipal Emergency Svcs	Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$11,998.00 not including tax
• Municipal Emergency Svcs	55 Fire Shelters - \$245.00 ea	\$13,475.00 not including tax
	10 Fire Shelters - \$284.00 ea	\$ 2,840.00 not including tax

Commissioner Boling suggested staff review the bids for specification requirements and optional items and return to the board with justification only if not accepting the lowest bid. The commissioners authorized staff to proceed with purchase if the vendor offering the lowest bid meets all specifications.

Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to accept the low bid for all equipment and return to the board with justification if not able to accept the low bid in all areas. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Agreement with 3711 – The board has been briefed monthly on progress of the 13-month discussions between the district and Local 3711. Commissioner Boling served as the board’s liaison for the district. Chief Walkup said he was pleased to announce all parties have reached an agreement that meets the interests of the district and those of the local, and also offers improved service to the citizens. The Chief praised the creativeness of the local in helping the district balance hours - an unanticipated savings to the district. With a schedule change, the local is providing 4,000 hours back to the district which would have potentially be covered with overtime costs. The agreement calls for a change in staffing methodology which will reduce overtime and balance the number of hours worked by all full-time line employees. Chief Walkup said both he and the board sincerely appreciate the bargaining unit’s creative solution. The bargaining unit agreement calls for an increase retroactive to the first of the year, along with granting 11 Kelly days to put District 8 member’s hours in line with those of their comparable agencies. It calls for an annual salary adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index with a minimum of 1.5% and a maximum of 4%. In return, the local provides the 4,000 hours and will provide 2% of their top firefighter’s salary back to the district to continue current health care practices. Overtime for regularly scheduled trainings and meetings inside the 212 hour FLSA requirement that was previously covered at time-and-a-half will be covered at straight time. Chief Walkup strongly recommended the board enter into the agreement with Local 3711.

Chief Boling said all three commissioners were committed to bringing the district’s firefighters salary to that of the average or higher of their comparables. He added that by average salary he was referring to benefits as well as monies. Boling praised the local’s solution of better firefighter coverage and protection. He said the district could move forward, save money, and be able to provide a pay increase and benefit package that was acceptable to the commissioners, the staff and the local. Boling was very pleased with the local’s solution to save the district money and at the same time allow the district to provide for the people who are providing for its citizens on a daily

basis. He felt it was a package they could be proud of and would help the district retain its members. Commissioner Boling also highly recommended that the district enter into the agreement with 3711.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo expressed his thanks to Commissioner Boling and President Wainwright for reaching a win/win solution that all parties could agree on.

Commissioner Boling also thanked Deputy Chief Rash for his contribution to the process and his ability and willingness to research and undertake any duty that the Chief or the negotiation team requested.

Commissioner Hesse thanked the Chief, his staff and the local for the work that was done and the information that was brought to the commissioners. He said that while the process was lengthy, it was very informative and good for both sides. He supported the agreement whole-heartedly.

B. M.O.U. with 3711 - Chief Walkup said the Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) spells out the commitment by both parties to insure the realized overtime savings projected by the change in staffing configuration. The bargaining unit and the district agree that the potential exists for approximately \$60,000 in overtime savings for the district by moving day shift employees to a 24-hour shift with 2656 annualized work hours. This cost savings is a result of the bargaining unit's proposal to move these employees to a 24-hour shift which will increase their annual hours worked from 2080 to 2656 per employee, for a total net increase to the district of an additional 4,032 work hours. It will reduce the current overtime hours paid by the district and reduce the overtime hours worked by the district's temporary-hourly personnel. In order to realize these savings, the district commits to maintain the number of residents at 5, and to maintain the number of temporary-hourly employees at 10. It also recognizes there are circumstances beyond either party's control such as an extraordinary fire season, a large annexation effecting staffing methodology, budget, or a catastrophic accident or illness to one or more of the district's firefighters. Chief Walkup said he and staff believe \$60,000 is a very conservative benchmark and the actual savings should be in excess of that figure.

Motion: Ferraiuolo/Hesse to enter into the 2007-2009 Agreement with Local 3711, and the M.O.U. as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Hesse concluded his conference call with the board.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

D. Ponderosa Development – Chief Walkup clarified the background relating to an issue in the Ponderosa area. It was his understanding that Sheriff Knezovich and he were to meet to discuss the Ponderosa development situation following a discussion at the Law Enforcement and Fire Service Leadership Forum, but subsequently was informed that the Sheriff had contacted one of the residents of the Ponderosa. Knezovich shared with that resident that he was uncertain if Chief Walkup was on board with where he and Spokane Valley Fire were at regarding development in the Ponderosa neighborhood. At the Leadership Forum, Sheriff Knezovich announced that he had written a letter in support of the fire service regarding a moratorium on construction in the Ponderosa area. Walkup said that his comment which led Knezovich to believe he was not supportive was along the lines of, "I had not heard that and would be very appreciative if the stakeholders involved would have had some discussion before the information was made public so that our elected officials and

staff could be informed.” As an appointed official, Walkup said he did not liked being surprised, and that it was his experience that elected officials do not like to be surprised either. Walkup said his comments to the sheriff were more in terms of process as he believed they had made a commitment to schedule a meeting the following Monday with other local fire officials to discuss the issue. The Chief understood how Knezovich left the meeting with the perception that he was not supportive of the actions the Sheriff took. Walkup, Knezovich, Chief Anderson, and Chief Lewis have subsequently met to discuss the impacts of what they are requesting and how those requests affect and potentially impact other agencies. Chief Walkup said any change in policy, or in previous direction he has received from the board on an issue should come from the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Chief Walkup said the board took official action by sending a letter to Spokane County and the City of Spokane Valley in April of 2005 at the request of the Ponderosa residents. The letter stated the district is supportive of, and is always in support of, additional ingress and egress in that area. The letter requested the planning departments of Spokane County and the City of Spokane Valley consider the cumulative impacts of development in those neighborhoods on the traffic system. Walkup asked that the board be aware of the shared consequences on other agencies in the county, city, and fire departments so that they can make an informed decision. He has also been in contact with legal counsel to ascertain what the district can and can't do and said he has shared that information with the board.

Walkup summarized that in addition to sending the aforementioned letter supporting additional ingress and egress which asked for consideration of cumulative impacts, the district has conducted an individual threat assessment of homes in the Ponderosa neighborhood and he has personally been involved with the sheriff's staff on the county evacuation plan. The district has worked actively with the community to hold a neighborhood meeting which included the Spokane County Sheriff's office, Spokane Valley Police Department, Spokane Valley Fire, Central Valley Schools, the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Emergency Management, Red Cross, Fire Safe Spokane, the CERT program, the HEART program, Avista Utilities and the Water District. Walkup said District 8 is involved and engaged in the community and is doing things to assist its citizens. The board has taken action in the past in support of the Ponderosa community but the Chief could not make a commitment for the board without their knowledge and consent. His efforts are to make sure the process is clear and clean and that affected agencies and individuals are involved. Chief Walkup said he recently received six e-mails from members of the Ponderosa community which he has shared with the board, along with as his research on previous history. The Chief said the board's options could include sending a letter in support of the Sheriff and Fire District 1, looking at the issue as policy that could effect county-wide and city planning policies, may better be addressed by a county association such as the Spokane County Fire Commissioners or County Fire Chiefs, or an alternative of their own choosing.

In 2004, District 8 and Spokane Valley Fire held a joint board meeting for the sole purpose of addressing the Ponderosa development issue. Commissioner Boling said he was concerned when he recently received a phone call from a community member. District 8 commissioners and Spokane Valley Fire had met earlier in the month, and as president of the Spokane County Fire Commissioners Association, Commissioner Boling has met with District 1 commissioners over the past several months, but he was not aware of their action until recently. Commissioner Boling told the citizens in attendance that their concerns were also his concerns and that as a former law enforcement officer he understood how hard it is to evacuate people in an emergency situation. He added that laws are continually changing and as commissioners it's their job to obey the law.

Currently the law says a traffic study must be performed. If the traffic study meets the guidelines set forth by another agency, they can approve those developments. Boling said if District 8 commissioners make rules that affect other fire departments the district could be liable. At the same time, he felt there should be room for an exception to a rule if it does not make sense in a particular situation. He is in favor of continuing dialog with the community.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked Janice Cooperstein, as representative of the Ponderosa citizens, what the main concern of the Ponderosa community was. Ms. Cooperstein said there are several developments in progress and a hearing is scheduled for August 2nd at which time their group will be submitting a SEPA appeal. Her basic concern was that ingress and egress in the area is not sufficient, and without that, felt there should be a moratorium on development. She shared information on traffic studies and the community's efforts to change direction on development.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo said he was in support of neighborhood concerns, and because he lives in a similar area, understood their position. He then asked Ms. Cooperstein what District 8 could do to help. Ms. Cooperstein responded that the regulations pertaining to road standards, SEPA, and subdivision code, all state there must be a written report stating the minimum road requirements are adequate for public health, safety and welfare. She added three access roads can be required, if in the opinion of the fire district, there is a concern for safety.

Commissioner Boling said technically there are three access roads counting the road that is used for emergency vehicles. Boling referred to a letter by The Transportation Group who conducted a study in November of 2004 which states, "WCE suggests SCFD8 has reviewed the emergency evacuation conditions and understands completely the implications." It further reads, they "recommend the City obtain a letter from SCFD8 and the police department indicating they have reviewed the evacuations prepared by WCE and are satisfied the proposed developments will not overburden first responders in the event of an emergency." On April 22, 2005, SCFD8 sent a letter to Spokane County Planning Department and to the City of Spokane Valley Planning Department with a concern that the analysis is predicated on the normal usage of ingress and egress and most likely does not consider the impacts of emergency situations or the cumulative impacts from development. The district's letter encouraged a comprehensive look at the cumulative impacts from development in all areas of the district with respect to ingress and egress.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo said his goal was to ask the citizens what they needed from the district and then evaluate those requests to see what can legally be done to help the community today.

Marcia Sands said the citizens need the fire district to support them in slowing development until there is adequate egress. She asked that District 8 stand with Valley Fire and the Sheriff's office until a time when there is additional egress for the residents, not just emergency vehicles. Commissioner Ferraiuolo clarified that the groups request is to slow development until time when additional roads are in place for future development.

Mike Davisson said traffic engineers use guidelines as a theoretical model but they are not written in stone. His concern was for the safety of firefighters and their access to the area. Deputy Chief Blystone said the roads in the new development are 20' – 24' wide and are designed for access and turnaround of a fire engine.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked Chief Walkup what the legality was of the district sending a letter similar to one sent by SCFD1 and the Sheriff's office. Walkup responded there is always a risk of

being sued, but that legal has informed him if the district can prove with evidence in the record that the action the district is taking is for public health and safety reasons, the risk of loosing is greatly reduced.

Boling said Valley Fire's resolution did not state they are enforcing a moratorium but rather they are recommending or suggesting there be a moratorium on development until a third access is available and that their letter was specifically worded for those reasons.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked how many situations in the district are similar to that of the Ponderosa development. Chief Walkup said there is an evacuation concern and continued development in the Painted Hills area and felt that area has the highest potential risk based on the fuel loads. Bella Vista has one road both in and out. There is development in the Saltese area that has limited access as does Hangman Valley and the area along Qualchan and Hatch. In addition, there are areas in 7-Mile, 9-Mile, SunCrest, Northwood and Legacy Ridge with similar concerns. Chief Walkup felt the issue is a county-wide planning problem and is supportive of action that would have a cumulative impact. He said if they want the county to consider development in a consistent manner that addresses the district's concerns, he felt a wider approach would be the way to make an impact and change.

In hopes of making that larger impact, Commissioner Ferraiuolo recommended bringing the issue before the County Fire Commissioners Association in order to address the subject in a larger forum which would involve all fire commissioners in Spokane County as well as the County Fire Chiefs.

Van Spradley asked what agency is responsible for fighting a fire and vacating the area in the event of a situation similar to Fire Storm. Commissioner Ferraiuolo said it is the fire department's responsibility to fight fire and the Sheriff's Department's responsibility to manage public safety, traffic and see that everyone is evacuated safely. Mr. Spradley asked why the two agencies could not work together to request a traffic study instead of a study being conducted by the developer's representative. Chief Walkup responded that the City of Spokane Valley said an independent study was completed and indicated that the level service would not be compromised from a capacity standpoint. Their study showed an evacuation of 1,200 homes could be completed within 30 minutes.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo said the letter District 8 sent in April of 2005 was very similar to that sent recently by Valley Fire and the Sheriff's office and added a letter could again be sent by the district readdressing those same concerns. In addition to that letter, the issue could be elevated to the Spokane County Fire Commissioners level where they could request a dialog with county commissioners and city council members. Commissioner Boling added that Joe Dawson, Spokane Valley Fire Commissioner, is the president of the Washington State Fire Commissioners Association.

Commissioner Boling stated both the district and the community were in agreement and affirmed the request that the Fire District draft a stronger letter in the support of the community. He asked the Chief to confer with legal counsel and confirm that any steps taken by the district are appropriate. Commissioner Ferraiuolo reiterated that as the community and district move forward all should be focused on the future and those actions that can be taken to move forward.

Jerry Crispin thanked the commissioners and Chief Walkup for their openness, knowledge and expertise in support of the community.

Commissioner Boling closed the public comment portion of the meeting and called for a 5 minute recess.

Commissioner Boling called the meeting back to order at 7:56 pm.

Unfinished Business

A. 2007 Budget Authorization, FTE – Chief Walkup reminded the board that the 17th and 18th FTE positions were budgeted for in the 2007 budget - budget dependent. He informed the board that with the year half complete the district's overall budget is 4% under expended and he requested authorization from the board to fill the two additional FTEs as authorized in the 2007 budget.

Both Commissioners Boling and Ferraiuolo were in support of the additional FTEs and recommended the Chief continue with his budget plan as previously authorized.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Sub-Recipient Agreement with Spokane County – The district is required to enter into a standard Sub-Recipient Agreement, administered by Spokane County, with Department of Emergency Management (DEM) because it allows DEM to pass federal dollars or assets to the district such as the decon trailer, Assistance to Firefighters Grant, and a variety of other federal grants. The agreement states the district will be good stewards of the assets assigned to it and track those assets by going through the appropriate disposal procedures. Chief Walkup requested authorization to sign the Sub-Recipient Agreement.

Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to allow the Fire Chief to enter into a Sub-Recipient Agreement with Spokane County. The Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. 60th Anniversary Update – The location, date and time for the 60th Anniversary barbecue has been printed in the newsletter and is scheduled to be held, Saturday, August 11th at Station 82 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm. Sonnenberg's has been secured to cater the barbecue portion as recommended by the board. Carol Trescott shared progress from the planning committee. Scheduled events include an open house at each station from 10:00 – 12:00. MedStar will land with a demonstration at 11:00 at Station 81; auto extrication demonstrations are scheduled at Stations 84 and 85, along with station tours and informational brochures at all stations. DNR will send one of their engines along with Smokey the bear and an outdoor activity to Station 82. AMR will equip an ambulance for display; District 11 has agreed to lend one of District 8's former engines for display. The committee is working on securing pictures and memorabilia for a historical display. Several former members and retirees have been contacted and informed of the event. Local news media is to be contacted to help inform the community of these activities in recognition of the district's 60th anniversary.

B. Firefighters Association – Chief Walkup informed the board the Firefighters Association has been reactivated. The group has been meeting regularly, elected new officers, and is working on updating the association bylaws. They have a number of ideas in process such as posting meeting minutes on the intranet and a golf fundraiser event to be held late summer or early fall. Don Malone will act as the association's liaison with the district. The association has asked the district's approval on design for a t-shirt they would like to market as a fundraiser. Chief Walkup's said his guidance to this point has been if the group wanted to support an activity as the firefighters

association that does not directly tie to Fire District 8 they would have that freedom as their own organization. If the association ties an activity to the name Fire District 8, the district would like to have an awareness of that activity. Because the district has a policy stating badge, logo, and patch are sole property of Fire District 8, the association would like approval on a t-shirt design currently in process which will be used as a fundraiser. The Chief asked the board for their thoughts.

Commissioner Boling suggested the association move toward a shirt that clearly indicated it is distinctive and representative of the association and separate from the official SCFD8 shirt. He felt the average individual would not be able to separate the proposed association design from that of an official district t-shirt. He suggested the association's design state the bearer was a member of the firefighter's association of Fire District 8 and that the verbiage be clear. Commissioner Ferraiuolo liked the design and logo but felt the flames on the design as submitted may not represent the professionalism desired. Chief Walkup said the policy issue he was attempting to bring forward was the association identifying themselves with the district. He said if they are truly an association the district may not have a lot of influence on what the design looks like. Boling said the reason for making a distinction between the district's current shirt and an association t-shirt is that the district is using its t-shirt as a duty uniform. He felt if they are associated with the district, then the district would have some responsibility to approve or not approve their functions. Chief Walkup asked the board what the association could do to express their pride as an association, their affiliation with the fire service, and still be able to market those products. He asked the board if they need the district's approval on a design or if it should simply not make reference to Spokane County Fire District 8 specifically. Boling responded if it was the Spokane County Fire District 8 logo in question it would be an issue. The item can be affiliated with the district but must be distinctly the associations'. He said they can still be affiliated and show pride but off set it from district attire. Chief Walkup said he wants to encourage the association and believes many good things will come out of it but at the same time be cognizant and maintain the reputation of the fire district.

C. 860 Implementation – The district has initiated a mentoring program for volunteer officers which provides training with an 820 officer. The outcome is to have volunteer officers who are qualified and able to pull an 820 shift and act as chief officer for the district. This program will provide that responsibility and authority and provide the staff an occasional break. There are currently three members in the program. Chief Ladd will determine what the knowledge, skills, and abilities required are and make an evaluation before any 860 officer is ready to pull duty shifts.

CORRESPONDENCE

1) Various e-mail correspondence from community members. 2) A letter from the City of Spokane's attorney relative to the district's public records request. 3) A letter from the State Fire Marshal thanking Chief Walkup for his participation in the assistant State Fire Marshal process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Board of Volunteer Firefighters meeting will take place immediately following the regular meeting.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18th, 6:00 at Station 82.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Boling adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Lee C. Boling
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

William A. Walkup
District Secretary