

**Spokane County Fire Protection District 8**  
**Minutes of Regular Commissioners Meeting**  
**February 17, 2009**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Chair Hesse at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Commissioner Gregory Hesse, Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Jonathan Ferraiuolo, Chief William Walkup, Deputy Chief Lonnie Rash, Administrative Assistant Carol Trescott and members of the District.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to approve the meeting Agenda.** The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion: Ferraiuolo/Boling to approve the Consent Agenda.** The motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair Positions** – Chief Walkup reminded the Board of the recently adopted Rules of Governance and a Resolution Establishing the Chair and Vice Chair Terms of Office which states the Board of Fire Commissioners shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually at their first meeting in February.

Commissioner Boling began discussion stating he was inclined to consider which of the Board members may have the time necessary to devote to the position of chair. He noted recent circumstances in which it was necessary for the Fire Chief to contact and work with the Board chair, such as the roof collapse at Station 82. He felt the present makeup and work commitments of the Board necessitated they look at the best interests of the Fire District and of the community.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo asked if there was any significance to having the Board member who is up for election serve in the position of chair during that year.

Commissioner Hesse stated in his opinion there was not.

Commissioner Boling said that may have been the case in prior years but he felt it had no current bearing. He stated Commissioner Hesse has done a fantastic job as chair, was available when the Chief needed to contact him, and has represented the District well. Commissioner Boling added, with the adoption of the Board Policies and Procedures for Rules of Governance, the position of chair has evolved into a one of who can be available when an emergency situation arises, will represent the Board well, and will facilitate the Board meetings.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo echoed Commissioner Boling's comments and added he did not necessarily look at who has the available time but rather who has the experience needed to react to specific situations and can bring the Board together. He said he liked what Commissioner Hesse has done as chair and felt comfortable with the current makeup of the Board.

**Motion: Commissioner Ferraiuolo nominated Commissioner Hesse to serve in the position of Chair and Commissioner Boling to serve in the position of Vice Chair during 2009. Commissioner Hesse seconded the nominations.** The motion passed unanimously.

**B. Military and Active Duty Leave** – Chief Walkup reviewed policy as adopted by the Board in July of 2003 that addresses active duty and military leave for District personnel. The Chief said previous documents clearly state the Board's intent is to comply with the requirements of law. In 2007, the Board reaffirmed that intent and stated any Salary Continuation Period in excess of six months shall be granted at the sole discretion of the Board. Because one of the District's current members has been assigned to active duty for a period of one year, and that member is nearing the six-month service date, the Chief asked the Board if they wished to extend the member's Salary Continuation Period through his military leave period. Chief Walkup noted it was his preference to support our members while they are serving our country for the benefit of us all.

Commissioner Hesse clarified that Salary Continuation is the difference between what the military pays the member during their active duty service and their regular District salary.

Chief Walkup then asked if the Board's intent was to include the 21 days of federal leave allowance in the Salary Continuation Period, or if the 21 day federal leave allowance was exclusive of the Salary Continuation Period.

Commissioner Hesse was of the opinion the two leave allowances were separate and he felt it was very important that the District support its members in any way possible because of the service those individuals give to the District, to the country, and to the community. He was in favor of not including the 21 days of federal leave in the Salary Continuation Period.

Commissioner Boling agreed and pointed out it could be possible for a member to serve a full 21 days military service and then be called to active duty. For that reason, he believed it was the Board's intent to separate the two forms of leave.

Commissioner Boling addressed the third question put before the Board: Shall the Board direct the Chief to ensure the District's leave policies are regulated by law, are current, and are in compliance with law? He recalled discussion at the time the Board initially granted the Salary Continuation Period to ensure that pay was not considered a gifting of public funds. Commissioner Boling said the District was in compliance at then and wanted to make sure that was still the case.

**Motion: Boling/Hesse 1) to accept the Salary Continuation Period for Military Leave as in past practice; 2) the Board does not consider the 21-day Active Duty Leave as part of the Salary Continuation Period; 3) the Board directs the Fire Chief to ensure that the District's leave policies are within compliance with current law.**

Chief Walkup asked the Board to clarify if it is their desire to grant a leave extension to the District member who is currently on active duty military leave.

Commissioner Hesse replied it was.

Commissioner Boling said the intent of his motion was to take action affirmatively on the three items listed in the Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet, 6B.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**A. Station 82 Update** – Chief Walkup reported the remodel at Station 82 is progressing. He said the office staff has moved out of the training room and into their offices, and the crews have moved out of the quarters and into the training room. The day room/resident quarters is currently undergoing remodel.

Commissioner Hesse asked if the rain gutter on the building was complete. Chief Walkup said it is and the contractor is currently working to complete some quality of work issues.

The Chief reported mold was discovered in the sleeping quarters which may have developed as a result of moisture that got into the building at the time the apparatus bays were unheated. The walls have been opened and an evaluation will be conducted in the affected areas to determine when the damage occurred.

The concrete counter tops in the kitchen and bathroom have been poured and will be sealed and buffed after the concrete cures.

**B. PDC Reminder** – Chief Walkup reminded the Board to file their PDC reports by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**C. Lock Box and Binders** – Chief Walkup asked the Board for authorization to move and store the lock box containing fire chief testing materials from its present location in a cabinet in the copy room to secure storage in the file room. Staff would like to use the space where the lock box is currently housed for storage.

The Commissioners had no objection to moving the lock box on the condition it would remain available to them.

The Chief also asked the Commissioners if they would like to keep their previous years' individual meeting binder. He added the District does retain the official copy of meeting minutes and materials as a permanent record.

The Commissioners chose not to keep their previous years' individual binders and the materials will be shredded and discarded.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1) A thank you letter from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church for responding to a structure fire at their offices in December.
- 2) A schedule of WFCAs 2009 Saturday Seminar Series.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**None**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1) Chief Walkup announced the Board and several members of the District will be attending the Northwest Leadership Seminar in Portland, March 4 – 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Commissioners Boling and Hesse, and Chief Walkup will be attending the Joint Legislative Workshop in Olympia, March 9<sup>th</sup>. Appointments have been confirmed for the Commissioners and Chief to meet with Senator McCaslin, Senator Marr, and Representative Driscoll.

Commissioner Ferraiuolo said he is unable to attend the workshop in Olympia but will contact Rep. Driscoll in order to request his support. Chief Walkup said the District has a relationship with Senator McCaslin and would like to cultivate a relationship with Senator Marr as well.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**None**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Commissioner Hesse adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.

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Gregory A. Hesse, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

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William A. Walkup  
District Secretary