

# Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

## MINUTES

### Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

Station 82

May 11, 2010

6:00 p.m. Draft

#### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order by Chair Hesse at 6:00 p.m. In Attendance: Commissioner Gregory Hesse, Commissioner Dennis Ross, Chief William Walkup, Deputy Chief Lonnie Rash, Administrative Assistant, Carol Trescott, members of the District, and members of the public. Commissioner Boling was in attendance by conference call.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Add New Business, Item B, Newsletter/State of the District
- Add Executive Report, Item B, District Tour
- Add Executive Report, Item C, Sick Leave Policy
- Add Executive Report, Item D, AmeriCorps Grant

Motion made by Commissioner Ross, and seconded by Commissioner Hesse:

**The meeting Agenda is approved as amended.** The motion carried unanimously

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Hesse:

**The Consent Agenda is approved as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**A. Bond Refinance and Underwriter** – Per previous Board direction, Chief Walkup worked with bond counsel and developed a Request for Information from underwriting firms which would enable the commissioners to select an underwriter so they may further evaluate whether to refinance the District's outstanding bonds. The District received proposals from Jim Blumenthal, Martin Nelson & Company, and from Jack McLaughlin, D.A. Davidson and Company. Chief Walkup told the commissioners that Jeff Nave, bond counsel with Foster Pepper, felt both firms were more than capable of performing the work and stated and that Mr. Nave was very comfortable moving forward with either firm.

Because of current interest rates, a reduction in underwriter fees, and a favorable bond rating for the District, the net present value savings and the savings over the long-term would be substantially higher than previously reported.

After review and discussion of both proposals the Board found Martin Nelson & Company to be most responsive to the District's RFI.

Motion made by Commissioner Ross, and seconded by Commissioner Hesse:

**To select Martin Nelson & Company as underwriter.** The motion carried unanimously.

Clarification was made that the motion was for Martin Nelson & Company to work with the Fire Chief to develop a formal proposal detailing the two options and return to the Board for further action.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Cost Recovery Options** – Information distributed at a WFCFA conference in March initiated discussion regarding the ability of fire districts to recover expenses it incurs when providing specific services to the public. The Board discussed the pros and cons in attempting to recoup expenses for providing public use of District facilities, tax free buildings, EMS charges for non-residents, DUI billing, DNR lands, no-man land charges and railroad fire response.

Current policy permits the District to charge a fee to groups who use District facilities, but per previous direction, that is not current practice. SCFD8 recoups costs associated with providing personnel and equipment for response to DNR protected lands. The WFCFA is addressing protection services to no-man land areas.

The commissioners will share their seminar materials with staff so they may conduct further research to determine if such services warrant viable options for cost recovery. Board action is required if current policy or procedure is changed. The Board tabled the subject for further discussion at future board meetings.

**B. Newsletter/State of the District** (This item took out of order after Approval of the Consent Agenda) - Discussion took place regarding the resources available to produce and distribute a newsletter in order to update and inform both District 8 members and its citizens of current events and issues that face the agency. Dialog included the distribution of an informational card mailed to be mailed to citizens in the community which would highlight specific events and direct readers to the District's website. Current technology is also available to send out "email blasts" in order to communicate with those who are interested in receiving updates.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Walkup**

**A. ASB** – The Ambulance Service Board sub-committee has completed its work and believes to have obtained the best rate from its current bidder. If the ASB gives its approval on May 17<sup>th</sup>, the agreement will be brought to the commissioners in June for action to finalize the inter-local. The agreement includes a single rate at today's current rate, and a \$50,000 administrative fee that will not be included in charges to the customer; AMR will absorb the administrative expense. AMR has indicated that because Medicare reimbursements have changed, the ASB should anticipate a \$175 increase in its rate. AMR will also request that the City of Spokane increase its Medicare reimbursement portion. Language in the ASB agreement states the percentage increase will be no greater in the county than it is in the city, and therefore, the county will not continue to subsidize services provided elsewhere. When the City of Spokane rebids their ambulance agreement, and if it selects the same provider, the language in the inter-local states once a rate is established in the other jurisdiction, the provider will return to negotiate a rate with the ambulance cooperative.

**B. District Tour** – The Board and Fire Chief will coordinate schedules to select a date in June to conduct a tour of the District's facilities.

**C. Sick Leave Policy Review** – As earlier directed by the Board, staff is working to gather information from other agencies regarding employee use of sick leave for well baby care. Data will be presented to the Board at the regular meeting in June.

**D. AmeriCorps Grant** – Spokane Valley Fire was successful in securing an AmeriCorps grant. They will partner with SCFD8 to share the services of an individual for one year to work on projects such as an update of the District's risk assessment. Both agencies will move forward with the selection of an individual to fill the position. Total cost to the District will be less than \$3,000.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Attached**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**None**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:55 pm for matters of contract negotiations with Local 3711. Chief Rash was asked to attend.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Gregory A. Hesse, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

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William A. Walkup  
District Secretary