

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
MINUTES
Station 82 and on Zoom
Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

January 11, 2022, 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Greg Hesse. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary Carol Trescott, members of the District and of the community.

INTRODUCTIONS and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **Add: Executive Report, SVT Fire Science Advisory Committee**
- **Add: Executive Report, FTE Hiring**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to approve the Agenda as amended.** The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 113617 through 113684 totaling \$243,226.06
- Electronic Transfers 12/01/2021 – 12/31/2021 totaling \$362,256.18

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **Move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.** The Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Badge Pinning and Swearing-in Ceremony: Chief Rash shared the history and significance of a fire officer's badge. He then individually called forward each District officer who had been promoted within the last two years. Ceremoniously receiving their badge from their family were: Division Chief Jason Wilkins; Division Chief Kristopher Cress; Lieutenant Drew Parker; Lieutenant Shayne Hanson, and Lieutenant Brad Mertens.

Chief Rash then administered the Firefighter Oath of Office to new recruits Ryan Newcomb, and Austin Powell. Firefighter Newcomb and Firefighter Powell were also pinned by members of their family.

At 6:25 pm Commissioner Hesse called for a five minute recess.

At 6:30 pm Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Voter Pamphlet Publishing Costs Notice: The 2020 state legislature passed a bill specifying that every county must publish a local voter's pamphlet. Spokane County Elections notified the District that they will be publishing a local voters pamphlet for the February and April 2022 Special Elections, the August 2022 Primary Election, and the November 2022 General Election. The expense of producing and mailing the pamphlet will be considered elections costs and will be shared proportionately by jurisdictions running ballot measures in each election.

B. SREC Board Appointment Alternate IEFCA: Chief Rash has been appointed to serve as an alternate board member to the Spokane Regional Emergency Communications Board. As a representative he will be attending all SREC board meetings and executive sessions to help articulate the direction and the future of SREC. Meetings are held once a month.

C. State of Washington Financial Audit: The State Auditor's Office has completed a 2019-2020 Financial and Accountability audit of the District. The District passed the audit with no findings or management letters. Chief Rash and the commissioners thanked Carol Trescott and staff for their work on the audit.

D. Final 2021 Budget Review: The District received 98.75% of anticipated 2021 property tax collections. Chief Rash said staff did a great job articulating the needs of the District and helped the agency realize savings on many 2021 expenditures which will allow approximately \$400,000 to be carried forward into 2022. Expenditures totaled 93.21% of the 2021 expense plan.

E. 2021 Response Statistics: The District responded to 4,186 calls for service in 2021 which is a 15% increase over the 3,641 calls for service in 2020. Chief Rash acknowledged the increase in response has likely impacted both response crews and staff and he expressed his thanks to all members of the District.

F. Washington State Long Term Care Act: Because of the conflicting direction on the Long Term Care Act, legal counsel has advised to not collect the LTCA tax until the legislature takes further action. There will be no penalties or interest collected if the legislature ultimately requires payments should begin January 1st. A bill is currently in legislature to suspend the Act in order to provide time to look at it more in-depth.

G. SVT Fire Science Advisory Committee: There is Fire Commissioner opening on the Spokane Valley Technical Fire Science Advisory Committee. One meeting is typically held per quarter with the goal to help promote and guide Fire Science and EMT at the high school level. Chief Rash currently serves as a Fire Chief Representative. He asked if any of the commissioners had an interest in serving on the board, or if they would like more information on SVT.

Commissioner Rorie stated SVT has a very good program and he expressed an interest in serving on the Board. Commissioner Hesse was also interested in serving if Commissioner Rorie is unable to.

H. FTE Hiring: Chief Rash made offers of employment to three full-time Firefighter/EMTs and two full-time Firefighter/Paramedics. The District experienced significant overtime in 2021 due to long and short-term injuries and Covid-related absences. Two of the new hires are coming from the part-time program; funds will be reallocated from that program to offset some of the full-time costs. Chief Rash said there is also the potential for retirements in the future and by hiring now it will allow the new hires to be in position proactively and avoid large hiring gaps in the future.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:44 pm Commissioner Hesse called for a thirty minute Executive Session per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposal made in the negotiation or for proceedings while in progress.

Chief Rash and Carol Trescott joined the commissioners in Executive Session.

At 7:13 pm Executive Session was extended for an additional 10 minutes.

At 7:23pm Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session; no decisions were made in Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Selection of 2022 Board Chair and Vice Chair
- B.** March Capital Replacement Review
- C.** SCFCA Annual Dinner Meeting, January 13, 2022 at
- D.** WFCA Board Meeting is January 22, 2022
- E.** WFCA Legislative Zoom meeting is January 27, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:24 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary