

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

January 12, 2021
6:00 pm

*This meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom
due to Governor Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order*

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, Assistant Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary Carol Trescott and members of the District.

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 112717 through 112793 Totaling \$346,676.43
- Electronic Transfers 12/01/2020 – 12/31/2020 Totaling \$361,464.34

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2021-2023 Labor Agreement with Teamsters Local 690: Chief Rash said in September the District began negotiations with Teamsters L690, the bargaining unit for its part-time firefighters. After several sessions, and in consultation with the Board, and a review by legal counsel, an agreement has been reached for a 2021-2023 labor contract. The estimated new money over the three-year life of the contract will be \$36,915. Chief Rash reviewed changes that were made to the existing contract, including: (1) Article 10, Union Security, relative to the 2018 Janus Decision and an employee's right to opt in or out of paying dues to a bargaining unit. (2) Article 20, Shifts, defines changes in consistency with shift scheduling and timeframes for notification of dropped and released shifts. (3) Article 24, Wages, allows part-time members to be within \$1.34 of their 2020 comparables today over the life of the contract, and will maintain a part-time hourly wage above the state of Washington minimum wage rates.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to approve the 2021 – 2023 labor agreement with Teamsters Local 690.** The Motion carried unanimously.

B. Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3711 – Article 28, Health and Fitness: Chief Rash said Article 28 states the District will support an annual fitness evaluation for L3711 members. Because of Covid-19 precautions, the District has worked collectively with the bargaining unit to modify daily activities. Both parties have agreed to postpone the 2020 annual fitness evaluations until 2021, or if necessitated by Covid, beyond 2021 by Letter of Understanding. The MOU has been reviewed by legal counsel.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3711, Article 28 Health and Fitness.** The Motion carried unanimously.

C. Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3711 – Extended Absence: Chief Rash said over the last several years the District has had officers out on extended leave. The District and Local 3711 recognize that having continuity of leadership at the fire stations is critical to maintaining training expectations, response, and managing routine personnel issues. The intent of the MOU is to provide the ability to temporarily assign a member to an officer position. There is also an opportunity for professional development for those members who are currently on an established list, have prepared to be an officer, and may benefit from the experience. This MOU provides the opportunity to temporarily assign a consistent person to a leadership position when needed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3711, Article 32 Extended Absence.** The Motion carried unanimously.

D. Resolution 21-01, Agent to Receive Claims: Per Chapter 4.96 RCW, each local government entity is required to appoint an agent to receive claims for damages made against it. The current resolution on file with the county appoints retiring Fire Chief Tony Nielsen as the District's agent. Resolution 21-01 appoints Fire Chief Lonnie Rash as its new agent to receive claims. The Resolution will be filed with Spokane County.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **Move to adopt Resolution 21-01, Agent to Receive Claims.** The Motion carried unanimously.

E. BVFF Pension Certification: Former Volunteer Firefighter, Jeff Hite, retired from the District in 2005 after 14 years of service has now applied to receive his pension from the Board for Volunteer Firefighters. Chief Rash said the District's Local Board must certify that Mr. Hite is eligible to receive his BVFF retirement.

A Motion was made by Chief Rash and seconded by Volunteer Bob Lundy: **Move to certify that Jeff Hite is eligible to receive a pension from the Board for Volunteer Firefighters, and approve the Certificate of Eligibility and Invoice Voucher for his pension.** The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. COVID-19 Update: The First Responder vaccination clinic is underway. To-date, 44% of District 8's members have received their initial dose of the vaccine; the clinic concludes on Thursday. Chief Rash said first responders have been assured they will receive their second dose of the vaccine beginning the end of January. There was a great collaboration from the EMS Council and the Vaccine Task Force and all of the EMS community to get the clinic in operation. Chief Rash recognized the District's members and MSO Tom Chavez for their work. In an agreement with L3711, MSO Chavez has been moved to a day shift as part of the vaccine clinic operations.

Fire District 8 has requested \$214,000 in Covid expense reimbursement expenses from Spokane County through CARES Act funding. To-date, the District has received \$137,000 of requested monies. Cares Act PPE and equipment has been purchased; the first LUCAS mechanical CPR train-the-trainer took place earlier today with the manufacturer. A plan is in place to have the equipment to the crews by mid-February.

B. Division Chief Recruitment: Per policy, the Division Chief of Support Services position will be posted internally. Chief Rash asked the Board their thoughts on reposting the position if the District does not receive a minimum of two qualified, internal applicants.

The Commissioners felt it would be advisable to repost the position externally if two qualified internal applications are not received; if that were to take place, both internal and external applications will be accepted.

C. Volunteer Recruitment: Based on Safe Start guidelines, there is no plan to move forward with a spring 2021 volunteer recruitment at this time. Dependent on restrictions, the timeline for a volunteer recruitment and volunteer academy may be extended into 2022.

D. Engine 81 Damage Repair: E81 sustained exterior damage last November. After working with Nicholson & Associates and Continental Western Insurance it was determined that repairs should be completed by the vendor, Hughes Fire Equipment. Hughes Fire will transport E81 to its facility in Caldwell, ID the end of January. The unit will be out of service six weeks. The District has received an initial claim reimbursement of \$8,940 from Continental Western based on the estimates of repair and transport. Hughes will drive the apparatus, weather permitting, and will assume liability when the engine is in their possession.

E. CCC Funds: The Interlocal with the City of Spokane and the former CCC allows for CCC reserves to be distributed back to each agency who contributed to it. The District received \$123,209 which will be designated for future communications, dispatch, and EMS expenses per the Board's direction last November.

F. Legislative Day Cancellation: WFC/WFCA Joint Legislative day has been cancelled for 2021.

G. Revenue-Expenditure Update for 2020: The District received the last installment of 2020 tax receipts in December. Approximately 96% of expected revenues were collected in 2020, which is

approximately \$267,000 less than anticipated. Year-end expenditures totaled 91% of budgeted expenses. Staff will continue to monitor and will be conservative with spending where possible.

Chief Rash said the District's regular fire levy is at \$1.23 per thousand; the EMS levy is at \$0.40 per thousand; and, the M&O is at \$0.47.

The commissioners felt it was important look at the needs of the District and monitor the levy rates as they have continued to decline over time. They would like to have further discussion in the next several months regarding a possible levy lid lift and a potential bond measure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Recruit Graduation Presentation
- Swearing-in of the Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Officers, and new Firefighters
- Policies and Procedures Review
- Levy Lid Lift

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Commissioner Boling said the WSRMG representative will be vacated upon Chief Nielsen's retirement. He suggested nominating Chief Rash to fill the vacancy. Chief Rash said he would be happy to accept the nomination. Commissioner Boling will contact Karen Miltenberger regarding the vacated position.
- Chief Rash stated the District had a significant increase in calls for service in 2020; from 3,227 in 2019 to 3,614 in 2020. He expressed his appreciation for the work that District members do in responding to the increase in calls for service from the community. He stated they do a great job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:38 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary