

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

February 9, 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, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, District Secretary Carol Trescott, members of the public and members of the District.

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **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 112794 through 112873 totaling \$360,553.87
- Electronic Transfers 01/01/2021 – 01/31/2021 totaling \$388,380.99

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. Swearing in Ceremony & Recruit Presentation: Commissioner Hesse administered the Fire Chief Oath of Office to Chief Lonnie Rash; Chief Rash then administered the Oath of Office to Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, Division Chief Jason Wilkins, Lt. Drew Parker, and Firefighters Joseph Schweiger and Chris Rodgers.

On behalf of recruit class 2020-1, Firefighters Rodger and Schweiger, and in appreciation for the support the recruits received throughout their time at the academy and during their probationary year, Division Chief Wilkins presented the Board with a framed vintage wall map of the District. The map, thought to have been printed in the 1950's, was discovered by the recruits when they were completing a service project Station 82.

B. Apparatus Refinance: Chief Rash stated the District acquired two pumpers on a 15-year lease/purchase agreement with PNC at an interest rate of 3.99%. Jim Nelson with D.A. Davidson was in attendance and provided the Board with a presentation on options for a possible bond refinance which would save the District approximately \$85,000 over the remaining life on the contract. Mr. Davidson said interest rate are near historic lows and are expected to remain low for the rest of the year. He provided options for both a public bond sale and a direct placement to a bank. Mr. Nelson also provided a timeline with target dates to move forward before the May 11th 2021 annual payment deadline.

The commissioners authorized Chief Rash to continue discussions with D.A. Davidson regarding the apparatus refinancing and directed him to return to the Board based on those findings.

C. Policy and Procedure Review: Chief Rash said the District is committed to reviewing one third of its procedures annually. The Procedure Committee has completed their 2020 review of 93 procedures. Of those reviewed, 45 contain recommended changes. Chief Rash provided the Board with the first of three installments of those procedures for review.

The Board had no additional commentary; Chief Rash will post 15 of the edited procedures for a 30-day member comment period.

D. Selection of 2021 Board Chair and Vice-Chair: A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to select Greg Hesse as Board Chair for 2021.** The Motion carried unanimously.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hesse and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to select Lee Boling as Board Vice-Chair for 2021.** The Motion carried unanimously.

This is year two of Chair Hesse and Vice-Chair Boling's term.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. COVID-19 Update: The first responder second dose vaccine clinic started February 5th. There were some initial challenges signing up but those have been resolved and members are now able to obtain their shots. The District has submitted invoices totaling \$231,500 to Spokane County for CARES Act grant reimbursement; to-date we have received \$227,900. The BoFC may be asked to adopt a budget adjustment when all funds have been received.

B. FEMA Grant/s: The District was successful in obtaining an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG Supplemental) for approximately \$22,000. These funds will be used for reimbursement of PPE expenditures. Because the original purchases were reimbursed by the CARES Act grant, Chief Long is working with FEMA to request that the District be allowed to purchase additional PPE with the AFG funds.

In addition, staff has submitted a \$410,000 AFG Grant request. If successful, the monies will be used to purchase replacements for the District's aging SCBAs.

C. BoFC Workshop: Chief Rash asked the Board if they would like to conduct a workshop to discuss future funding options, development and changes in the Ponderosa neighborhood, and City of Spokane Valley/Central Valley School District land acquisition.

The Board responded in agreement; Chief Rash will provide the commissioners with several date options to hold a workshop.

D. Cyber Defense Project: Staff began working with Cyber Defense in 2020 to conduct a security assessment. A meeting between Cyber Defense and the District's IT vendor is scheduled in order to work toward completion of the project. Chief Rash will provide the Board with a report of their findings in March or April.

E. Engine 81 Repair: Engine 81 is now in repair status at Hughes Fire's facility and should be completed by late February or early March.

Chief Wyrobek reported E82 has a failed EGR which allowed coolant to bypass the system and get into the engine oil. The sensor worked as designed and Maintenance Technician Gerhart diagnosed the problem using the Valley's software; in that process he discovered the problem. The engine was towed to Cummins and is currently undergoing a teardown in order to get a full repair estimate.

F. Volunteer Program: Chief Rash deferred this item until the BoFC workshop.

G. Fire Comm. Dispatch Terminology Change: Chief Rash shared a letter from the City of Spokane Fire Department which specifies a name change in their dispatch system. In conference with Spokane Fire and other automatic aid partners consistent guidance was agreed upon to share with all response crews. Fire Chiefs and Operations Chiefs within automatic aid partners will meet in effort to work toward further operational consistencies. When District 8 response crews radio the City they are to refer to their dispatch as Fire Comm; when dispatch communication is within District 8 or one of the other districts, SREC is referred to as Dispatch. Both operations are currently in the same building and in the same room. Fire Comm may move with police dispatch into another part of the building and separate from SREC Fire Dispatch. Both Fire Comm and Dispatch have committed to answering the radio even if the wrong name is used.

H. Division Chief: The District received three internal qualified applicants for the position of Division Chief of Support Services. An assessment center and oral interviews will be conducted on March 23rd. Chief's interviews will be on March 2nd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Policies and Procedures Review

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- As the region's representative to the Washington Fire Chiefs, Chief Rash will be traveling to Malden, WA on February 16th to present a \$20,000 grant from the WFC to be used for the purchase of firefighting equipment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary