

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8 Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MINUTES

March 8, 2022, 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held at Station 81 and on Zoom. Chair Lee Boling called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary Carol Trescott, members of the District and members of the community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOLUTION 22-01, Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Location Change: A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: **Move to adopt Resolution 22-01 as presented.** The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- **Add: Executive Report, Item D., Lieutenant Promotional List**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hesse 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 113755 through 113834 totaling \$243,174.77
- Electronic Transfers 02/01/2022 – 02/28/2022 totaling \$407,002.55

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Part-time Program: Chief Rash said the District has maintained a part-time firefighter program for many years. Part-time personnel are currently organized under Teamsters Local 690 with a contract term of January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023. The program has diminished over the past three years due to a variety of factors. Two of the District's part-time firefighters were recently hired by the District into full-time positions which leaves one part-time firefighter in the program.

Chief Rash consulted with legal counsel and spoke with Local 690's business agent regarding the status of the part-time program. The Fire District has been advised to consider what it see as the future of the program, and if the District intends to continue to recruit to fill part-time positions. The Teamsters union does not require a minimum number of personnel in order to maintain a group's association status; and, a group can be maintained with zero members if an employer plans to fill vacant positions in the future.

Chief Rash said as the number of part-time numbers have declined those personnel allocations have been transferred to the full-time program to help offset full-time hiring costs. The Chief asked the Board to provide direction on whether the District should maintain the part-time program long-term, should continue to reduce reliance on the part-time program, or should defer a decision at this time.

Chief Rash said the challenge of the part-time program is in scheduling and the ability to drop or release shifts in a timely manner. The Chief believes there is a break point at which it would be efficient to maintain the program if the District could train and maintain part-time personnel, versus the alternative of paying part-time employees just to be trained. Chief Rash will return to the Board with additional data relative to the part-time program.

B. SCBA Purchase; Cooperative Purchase Compliance: The District was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant in 2021 to be used for the purchase of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Both the District and the selected vendor are members of a cooperative purchasing group. Because the purchase will be over \$75,000, staff has affirmed the District is in compliance with current bid laws and has the ability to purchase from the vendor through a purchasing cooperative.

Chief Rash provided the Board with legal counsel's written opinion relative to the SCBA purchase. Brian Snure advised the District can move forward with the purchase by sole source or by using the selected vendor since both parties are signatories to the cooperative purchasing agreement.

C. Policy/Procedures Review: Chief Rash presented the Board with the second installment of twelve (12) procedures as reviewed and edited by the Policies and Procedures Committee.

The commissioners had no comment or discussion relative to the twelve procedures. Chief Rash will post the procedures for a 30-day comment period.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Vaccination/Safe Start: On January 21st Chief Rash distributed updated Safe Start Guidance to all District members which will reduce mask requirements on March 21st. That guidance will now be updated to reflect reduced masking requirements on March 12th. There will be no change to current requirements for accommodated members as the accommodation process is separate to that of the masking requirements. Legal counsel said the District could remove masking requirement for members who are in the presence of an accommodated member; however, accommodated member/s are still required to wear a mask. The new Safe Start Guidance will also refine cleaning processes.

Chief Rash reported that two of the District's volunteer members have requested religious accommodations. In addition, two members stated they would not get a vaccination, would not request an accommodation, and would not resign. Staff is working with legal counsel toward a resolution for those members.

B. Support Unit 80: The support unit has not yet returned to service as expected because the shop is waiting for parts to complete the repairs. Staff will continue to monitor the progress weekly.

C. Spring Newsletter: The Spring 2022 newsletter is in development; the target mailing date is late March. Chief Rash will send the commissioners a copy of the newsletter electronically for their review and comment.

D. Lieutenant Promotional List: The District recently ran a lieutenant promotional exam; the list will be posted 03/09/22. Chief Rash met individually with the four candidates on the list, and Chief Cress plans to speak with each candidate to help them understand their strengths and their weaknesses within the assessment process. Although there are currently no openings, the promotional list is valid for one year and could be extended for an additional six month (18 months total).

CORRESPONDENCE

January Response Statistics

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:15 pm, Commissioner Boling called for a 20 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 proceeding or reviewing the proposal made in the negotiations or proceeding while in progress. Chief Rash and Carol Trescott joined the commissioners in Executive Session.

At 6:35 pm, Executive Session was extended for an additional ten minutes.

At 6:45 pm, Commissioner called the regular meeting back in session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- BoFC Workshop is Wednesday, March 9, 6:00 pm at Station 81 and on Zoom
- Commissioner Boling recognized the day as International Women's Day and thanked all of the women in the Fire District in all classifications

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Policy & Procedure Review
- B.** Glenrose Prescribed Burn
- C.** Juneteenth Holiday

PUBLIC COMMENTS

IAFF 3711 President, Blaine Holman, said Local 3711 is not looking for the part-time program to continue due to the time and costs involved in training part-time personnel and the strain it puts on their members to train new employees.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:52 pm Commissioner Boling adjourned the regular meeting.

Lee C. Boling, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary