

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



MINUTES

May 10, 2022, 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held at Station 82 and on Zoom. Chair Lee Boling called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Greg Hesse, Commissioner Lee Boling, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, District Secretary Carol Trescott, members of the District and members of the community. Commissioner Rorie attended the meeting via Zoom.

INTRODUCTIONS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Add: Executive Report, Item E, Defensible Space Assessments

Add: Operations Report, Item C, Volunteer Reintegration

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 113914 through 113991 totaling \$349,794.38
- Electronic Transfers 04/01/2022 – 04/30/2022 totaling \$766,016.43

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:

A. Part-time Program: Chief Rash is collecting data relative to the soft and hard costs of the part-time program and will return to the Board with a report at the June regular meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2022-2024 Labor Agreement with IAFF L3711 Supervisor's Unit: The District and Local 3711 have arrived on a 2022-2024 labor agreement for the Local 3711 Supervisor's Unit. Chief Rash provided the Board with a copy of the draft agreement which shows all changes to the new contract, and he provided the Board with a final copy of the new agreement. The Chief said the contract would be retroactive to 01/01/2022.

The Chief detailed changes in the new contract including language terminology, work schedules, sick leave buyback, holidays, educational reimbursement, vacancies and promotions, and salary schedule.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Hesse and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: **Move to adopt the 2022-2024 labor agreement with IAFF Local 3711 Supervisor's Unit.** The Motion carried unanimously.

B. MOU for Pilot Program to Evaluate an Alternative Work Schedule: The commissioners were provided with a MOU between the District and Local 3711 outlining an alternative work schedule for the Supervisor's Unit. Based on discussions during negotiations and in labor management, and in consultation with legal counsel, both parties have agreed to a MOU to establish a pilot program to evaluate an alternative work schedule which is designed to provide additional productive work hours to the District and a greater work/life balance for members of the Supervisor's Unit. Per the MOU, Supervisor's Unit members will receive 20 Administrative Days per calendar year, and in exchange, members of the Supervisor's Unit agree to work in the office or conducting business of the District the days that their 820 shift falls outside of their regular work schedule. Chief Rash said this will provide additional productive office hours to the District and will allow closer management of the agency on weekends.

Chief Rash walked through the details of the MOU with the commissioners. He expressed his support of the MOU which will provide weekend management of the District and a clearer expectation of when the Division Chiefs are to be in the office or doing other work of the District. He explained that "doing work of the District" means the Division Chiefs will be in the office or at District training, attending public education events, attending a live burn, or other assigned work as they are expected to complete on a regular work day.

Chief Rash stated legal provided the term "pilot program" and they said once the pilot program begins the District will need to bargain the impacts of wages, hours, and working conditions.

The commissioners wanted to see a sunset or exit option included in the MOU earlier than January 1, 2023. Chief Rash said the Local was concerned with including termination language in the original document. Legal counsel said regardless if it was in the MOU both parties will have the option to bargain the impacts of any changes.

A Motion was made by commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: **To approve the MOU and discuss the language change with the bargaining unit.** The Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Accommodations Review: Updates to member accommodations are currently being discussed with Local 3711 through the labor/management process. Accommodations impact both fulltime and volunteer members of the District.

B. FML; PFML Update: Staff and members of Local 3711 are querying comparable agencies to determine what types of leave other departments grant for the purpose of bonding after the birth or adoption of a child. The data will likely result in a procedure change after recommendation by legal counsel.

C. District Entry Road Signs: As part of the Strategic Plan, the BoFC approved the purchase and placement of "Entering Fire District 8" signs. Two of those signs have been placed on Highway 27; additional signs will be installed later this year.

D. Summer Gathering – 75th Anniversary: Plans are underway to recognize the District's 75th year of service. District members are invited to a kickoff celebration on Thursday, June 23rd at Craft & Gather in Spokane Valley. This is an informal gathering and an opportunity for members from 2020, 2021, and 2022 to get back together; service pins will be presented during the event.

E. Defensible Space Assessments: The Board received a copy of a staff report written by Chief Long showing there have been 14+ requests for defensible space assessments in 2022 to-date. In addition, there is another group interested in organizing as a Firewise community.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief WYROBEK

A. Interlocal Agreement Spokane Valley Fire Investigation: Chief Long, and Deputy Chief Rogers with Spokane Valley Fire reviewed and updated our fire investigation services agreement. The program has been mutually beneficial and ensures the District is meeting policy and procedures guidelines defining when to initiate fire investigative services. The District is able to continue this partnership with the support of Chief Rash and Chief Soto.

B. Interlocal Agreement Avista Transmission Line Response: Avista now has a wildland fire specialist who is helping to create a notification system when a transmission line goes down by identifying the latitude and longitude where the break occurs. Avista personnel are able to pull that information, take a snapshot via Google maps, and send it to SREC so that the appropriate unit is dispatched. District 8, District 3, District 4, and Cheney Fire are a part of Avista's testing process this week to ensure the mapping is accurate and that fire personnel can get to the trouble area quickly.

C. Volunteer Reintegration: Chief WYROBEK is working with Chief WILKINS on a three step process that falls in line with the District's Volunteer restructuring the classifications of Volunteer on Duty, Tender Operator, and Support Services Volunteer. The goal is to get all volunteer members back in full compliance by January 1, 2023. EVIP, wildland refresher, FIT testing for N95s and SCBAs, and pump operations for the Tender Operators will begin in the coming weeks. Much of the on-line requirements will be completed during the summer months, and Chief WILKINS will conduct a reintroduction academy in the fall to provide an opportunity for hands-on training. Everyone will then have had an opportunity to become requirement compliant and the new program will begin on January 1st.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** SCFCA meeting is Thursday, May 12th, 7:00 pm, at District 4
- B.** Fill the Boot is Saturday, May 14th at 57th Avenue
- C.** WFCA Annual Meeting, October 26-29, 2022, at the Davenport Grand, Spokane

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** FML;PFML Policy/Procedure
- B.** Policy/Procedure Adoption
- C.** Policy Workshop

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:43 pm Commissioner Boling adjourned the regular meeting.

Lee C. Boling, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary