

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

June 8, 2021
6:00 pm

This meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice Chair Lee Boling. In Attendance: Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, Carol Trescott, and Division Chief Kris Cress. Commissioner Greg Hesse received an excused absence.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Add: Executive Report, Item I, DNR Interagency Agreement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **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 113102 through 113165 totaling \$195,713.31
- Electronic Transfers 05/01/2021 – 05/31/2021 totaling \$346,827.58

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. Volunteer Job Descriptions: The Board reviewed three updated volunteer job descriptions which are to be implemented along with revisions to the District's volunteer program. All three documents have been vetted through legal counsel.

The commissioners had no changes to the content of the three volunteer job descriptions.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Fire Levy Lid Lift: Chief Rash said there will not be a robust citizen's advisory committee as reflected in the previous Fire Levy Lid Lift timeline. A voter education campaign will launch at the end of the week and will include website postings, short informational videos, social media blasts, and contact with homeowners groups. Chief Rash spoke with Fire District 3 and Fire District 4 in order to coordinate messaging. The District's first public informational meeting will be held Tuesday, June 22nd, with a second to be held mid-July. Chief Rash has had several conversations with citizens as a result of the article written in the District's summer newsletter.

B. Budget Update: The District has received 47.2% of 2021 collectable property tax; current expenses total 40% of the amount budgeted for the year.

C. Safe Start Update: Based on Labor and Industries (L&I) guidance, and the District's Safe Start Plan, members who are fully vaccinated and attest or show proof of their vaccination will no longer be required to wear a mask in the stations or in apparatus. Long term conversations about Healthy In-Healthy Out are taking place and a review of station zone designations has been delegated to the Safety Committee for a recommendation. Thirty-seven of the District's 64 career, part-time and staff members are fully vaccinated.

D. Brush 82 Repairs: Brush 82 repairs have stalled and are awaiting parts. The total repair cost will be approximately \$7,000.

E. Station 85 AC Repair: Replacement of the air conditioning at Station 85 has been deferred for several years in anticipation of bond or levy funding. Chief Rash said replacement can no longer be delayed and a new air conditioning system will be installed.

F. Volunteer Meeting: The District will hold an in-person all-volunteer meeting on Thursday, June 10th. Topics will include volunteer job descriptions, expectations of the program, and member feedback. Chief Officers met last month with volunteer officers and volunteer coordinators to hear their suggestions relative to program changes.

G. Promotional Badge Pinning Ceremony: Chief Rash said the District is getting close to being able to hold in-person badge pinning ceremonies for those members who were hired or promoted over the last year. Commissioner Boling and Commissioner Rorie were in favor of moving forward with in-person gatherings provided guidelines are followed.

Commissioner Boling said the District should also return to in-person board meetings. Commissioner Rorie was in agreement and would like to see a virtual component to allow for those who would like to attend the meeting but can't or are not able to.

H. Career Firefighter Hiring: The District is in process of hiring full-time firefighters and full-time firefighter/paramedics. Chief Rash said for the last several years it has been a challenge to find viable candidates, however, he believes the District will be able to move several people forward in the current process. Candidate interviews and skills assessments are now complete, and Chiefs interviews will take place within the next several weeks. Chief Wyrobek and Chief Cress will be looking at long-term options for finding qualified paramedics.

I. DNR Interagency Agreement: The District is revising its agreement with DNR relative to Incident Management Team activity and the ability to receive reimbursement for all hazards responses. The current agreement speaks specifically to fire incidents, and has been updated to include such events as the vaccination clinics and other non-fire environments. WFCA and WFC asked Brian Snure to review the document. The new agreement is generally for agencies who do not already have a DNR agreement in place in the wildland arena; it does not have a lot of impact for District 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Boling said at the state level, Joe Schmidt is looking at volunteer member retention, including incentives, and an extension of the BVFF pension program He encouraged volunteer members to contact him with their thoughts.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank You from Seth

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Boling called for a five minute Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(c) to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of decreased price. At 6:21 pm the commissioners, Chief Rash, Chief Wyrobek and Carol Trescott entered the Zoom breakout Executive Session

At 6:27 pm, Commissioner Boling called the regular meeting back in session.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Cyber Self Defense Report
- Policy/Procedure Review Batch 3 of 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:28 pm Commissioner Boling adjourned the regular meeting.

Lee C. Boling, Vice-Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary