

# Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

## MINUTES

### Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

June 9, 2020  
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 Tony Nielsen, Assistant Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary Carol Trescott, and Division Chief Marty Long.

#### INTRODUCTIONS

#### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

#### APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

**A. Policies and Procedures Review:** Chief Nielsen reported he received comments on several procedures after they were posted for the initial 30-day comment period. Most of the suggestions were minor or related to grammatical changes. Chief Nielsen will incorporate the updates and repost the procedures for a new 30-day comment period.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Nielsen

**A. COVID-19 Update:** Spokane County is still in Phase 2 of the Washington Safe Start plan. Chief Nielsen said during the recovery group's meeting earlier in the day Dr. Lutz did not feel the county is a place where he is comfortable applying to move to Phase 3; much of his reservation centers on testing and the increase in new reported cases. Chief Nielsen shared District 8's phased reopening document which outlines what activities are allowed during each of the four phases. He said the agency was originally scheduled to move to Phase 3 June 16<sup>th</sup>; however, it will most likely to be pushed out further. In Phase 3 Daily Directives will be sent out Tuesdays and Thursdays; training will be expanded; and address sign installations will resume. Phase 4 permits public access to the stations; in-person board meetings; and business inspections. There have been 60 suspected and two confirmed

COVID cases to-date within District 8. MSO Tom Chavez has returned to shift work but is still very active assisting with COVID response, putting together directives, and coordinating with Dr. Nania, Dr. Lutz and Mike Lopez. Chief Nielsen expressed his appreciation to Chavez and the Local for their willingness to move MSO Chavez to a day shift. Amanda Austin is on light duty and has been very helpful coordinating PPE supplies.

Spokane County's tax deadline was extended to June 15<sup>th</sup>. As of June 7<sup>th</sup>, the District has collected \$111,000 in taxes in June; \$572,000 in May; and, \$2.59 million in April. The District's total collections through June 7<sup>th</sup> is \$3.27 million, which is \$365,000 short of the \$3.6 million that was anticipated. The county treasurer distributed a document on June 4<sup>th</sup> showing that 47.5% of taxes have been collected countywide; in 2019, 53% of taxes were collected in the same period.

At the request of the Washington Fire Chiefs, and on behalf of the Chiefs Association and Fire District 8, Chief Nielsen sent a letter to our US Senators and US Representative. When the CARES Act legislation (the Corona Virus Relief Act) was signed it didn't specifically allow for reimbursement to fire districts or regional fire authorities. Fire Chiefs across the state were asked to write to their legislators petitioning to be eligible for aid.

**B. Summer Newsletter:** Chief Nielsen said the District would normally be mailing a summer newsletter in June. In effort to curtail expenses, he asked the commissioners for their thoughts on sending the newsletter out electronically. The estimated cost for production and postage of a printed newsletter is \$3,125, plus \$1,450 for layout and editing. Chief Long negotiated with the editor to reduce his price to \$800.

The commissioners elected to distribute the summer newsletter electronically.

**C. Station 82 Backup Generator:** Chief Rash reported Valley Electric will be on-site Wednesday through Friday of this week to hookup the generator; Northwest Pump is scheduled to install the pump on June 15<sup>th</sup>; Branson Morris Concrete will drill the holes to secure the generator by June 17<sup>th</sup>; and fuel delivery is tentatively scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The generator load test and first run will be June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**D. County Ambulance Contract:** The current county ambulance contract expires June 30<sup>th</sup>. The Ambulance Service Board (ASB) has the ability to renew or extend the current contract on a year-to-year basis as long as the provider is meeting performance standards. The City of Spokane is currently in negotiations with AMR; the ASB agreed to wait one year to see what happens with the City's negotiations. The ASB sent a letter to AMR and received a reply calling for a 57% increase. AMR stated they needed to increase their prices in order to maintain a 6% increase after Medicare payments. Chief Nielsen stated the large increase is not acceptable and the Ambulance Service Board will continue to meet. Any proposed contract changes will be presented to each fire district's Board.

**E. Avista MOU:** Nearly all fire districts in the county, City of Spokane Fire Department, and Spokane Valley Fire are signatories to a MOU with Avista on a pilot program for wildfire prevention. Per the MOU, if Avista receives an interruption notice fire department resources will be sent to that location in an effort to suppress any fire that may have previously gone undetected. Avista currently has indicators to determine when they send out their crews for a service interruption. However, if

their trigger is not long enough to prompt their phasing they will contact dispatch and a fire unit will be sent to investigate. Approximately 30 calls are anticipated county-wide per year; the MOU runs to November 30<sup>th</sup> through high fire season. Chief Rash said if fire agencies were to stop one event it would make a significant impact. Each party to the agreement assumes individual risk of assumption during the pilot program.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Attached

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Procedure Review

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: Move to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:22 pm. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Hesse adjourned the meeting.

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Gregory A. Hesse, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary