

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
MINUTES
Station 81 and on Zoom
Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

July 13, 2021
6:00 pm

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 Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, and District Secretary Carol Trescott. Commissioner Andy Rorie received an excused absence. The meeting was also attended by several individuals via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOLUTION 21-04, MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: **Move to approve Resolution 21-0, Meeting Location Change.** The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 113166 through 113238 totaling \$209,302.02
- Electronic Transfers 06/01/2021 – 06/30/2021 totaling \$354,599.25

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Recommendation to the City of Spokane Valley for Development: Chief Rash presented the Board with a draft resolution outlining requirements for residential development in the Ponderosa area within the City of Spokane Valley. The draft resolution addresses the use of sprinkler systems, separation requirements, and non-resistant construction similar to those in place by the City of Spokane Valley and Spokane Valley Fire Department. The Board also received a copy of Spokane Valley Fire's resolutions applicable to the Ponderosa area. Chief Rash recommended continuing discussions on the matter and cautioned on including these same requirement for the entire fire district. He clarified the requirements of the resolution pertain to future developments and not those

currently in progress. He also noted the 30' buffer green space requirement is for an entire development and not for each house.

Chief Rash will return to the Board with additional information and statistics on residential sprinkler systems, damage, insurance rates, and cost per home.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Support Unit 80 Update: Chief Rash read the Sheriff's Office (SO) social media posting related to the accident involving the support unit. The occupant of the car was transported with nonlife-threatening injuries; the firefighter was transported POV to the hospital for examination; the SO's traffic unit was on scene to conduct an investigation; all District policy requirements were completed relative to an injury accident investigation with significant property damage. An internal accident investigation is being conducted and the matter will be referred to the Safety Committee for additional review. SU80 is currently at station 82; the District's insurance carrier has evaluated the damaged apparatus. Chief Rash shared photos of both vehicles with the commissioners.

B. Badge Pinning Ceremony: The officer badge pinning ceremony is postponed until September so that a larger group can gather for a formal ceremony.

C. Policy/Procedure Review: Several procedures of the 2020 third installment are still undergoing legal review. Chief Rash tabled this item until the entire packet is ready to present to the Board.

D. Fire Levy Lid Lift: The Proposition 1 informational mailer has been sent out and the District's second public meeting is Thursday, July 15th, 6:00 pm, at Station 81 and on Zoom. Prop 1 information will also be posted on social media and shared with local news media. Chief Rash emailed 20 homeowners groups within the District and received one response. Voter Pamphlets have arrived in mailboxes. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed Thursday;

E. Budget Development: Chief Rash is drafting parallel budgets for 2022; one with current operating status and one with levy lid lift funding. A budget meeting will be held in September.

F. Cyber Self Defense Presentation: The District contracted with Cyber Self Defense to conduct a risk assessment for the agency. Chief Rash shared information and a presentation provided by their company. Their assessment include a physical visit and a vulnerability assessment of the District's system. Staff will be evaluating Cyber Self Defense's recommendations and returning to the Board.

G. FEMA Personnel Cost Reimbursement: Staff was notified that the project submitted to FEMA for Covid-related personnel overtime and backfill costs has been approved. The District will receive approximately \$33,400 in reimbursement. Additional costs for equipment and supplies are being tracked and will be submitted for reimbursement by the end of this year.

H. Chief Cress Task Book Completion: Chief Cress has completed his 820 task book and is now taking solo command. Chief Rash said he is doing a great job and that he responded to a number of calls during his first 48-hour shift.

I. Station 82 Air Conditioning Repairs: Two of Station 82's four air conditioning units have failed. The portions of the station that house the training room and staff offices have been without AC for several weeks. The units are 40 years old and vendors are determining if they are able to fabricate new parts since they are no longer available, or if it would be more cost effective to replace the units and reconfigure the air handling system. Chief Rash said based on recent work at Station 85 he estimates a cost of \$15,000 for air conditioning replacement.

Commissioner Hesse and Commissioner Boling would like to see the equipment updated if the cost is within reason; they were not in favor of patching the 40 year old units.

Staff is currently going through the bid process and Chief Rash will return to the Board with a final cost. In the interim, it was more cost effective to purchase small portable units rather than renting them.

J. Brush 82 Pump: Brush 82's pump is installed and was pump tested earlier in the day. The project came in under budget at \$6,450. Gabe Gerhart did an excellent job on installation and the unit should be back in service by the end of the week.

K. Station 82 Well: Staff is proactively looking at ways to reduce water consumption at Station 82. Trucks are not being washed on-site, irrigation has been limited, and a variety of limitations have been enacted in effort to conserve the station's well water.

L. Recruitment Update: The District's two new full-time Firefighter/EMTs will start work on August 2nd and will begin training at the Fire Academy on August 9th. Chief Rash reported that there were no internal applicants for the Recruit Academy Instruction position and therefore Chief Wilkins will be traveling to North Bend to monitor the recruit's training.

M. Staff and Business Operations: Chief Rash reported that staff has reviewed operational efficiencies as the District begins to reopen. The current plan is to open the office in August and the community rooms in September provided mandates allow. Chief Officers may work remotely one day per week unless they are scheduled as the 820 officer. He said most people phone to schedule meetings and he proposed that admin staff continue to work a portion of their week remotely in order to maintain efficiencies in work productivity; this will allow the ability to balance project work with office work.

The commissioners would like more information regarding any District liability of staff working remotely. Chief Rash will explore the issue further and research work from home agreements that meet L & I requirements. Commissioner Boling will bring the matter to the Fire Commissioners Association and Chief Rash will consult with the State Chiefs Association; both will return to the Board with additional information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WSRMG Annual Meeting is in Ellensburg this September. Commissioner Boling will contact Pam Perkins to confirm Chief Rash's participation on the board.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you from District 3
- WSRMG Annual Meeting Agenda/Registration

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AT 6:46 pm Commissioner Hesse called for a twenty 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; and, per RCW 43.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

At 7:10 pm, Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Electronic Payment Policy/Procedure

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:11 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary