

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

July 14, 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 Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **Move to approve the Consent Agenda as written.** The Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Firefighter Recruit Academy: Chief Nielsen said because of the Corona virus, the District's two new career firefighters were unable to attend a regional recruit academy as local academies have been cancelled or postponed. The subsequent plan was for the recruits to attend an academy with Valley Fire in August. However, limitations were also placed on that academy because of the Corona virus. Both recruits have been training in the District since May and both have previous volunteer experience with the District.

Commissioner Rorie reported that the size of Valley Fire's academy was minimized in order to increase social distancing and accommodate the capacity of the facility that is available. Recruits who have at least IFSAC FF1, Hazmat Awareness and Ops will train in-house, and those that do not will attend a 12-week recruit academy in North Bend to earn their IFSAC certifications. District 8's two recruits and eight recruits from Valley Fire are scheduled to go to North Bend. The cost of the academy is \$8,000 per student and includes the 12-week academy, room and board.

Chief Nielsen asked the Board for direction and/or approval of the unanticipated training expense.

The commissioners felt the cost savings this year due to cancelled seminars, trainings and travel expenditures, in addition to the backfill and overtime savings that would have been expended for academy instructors, would offset the cost of the North Bend academy. The Board approved the expenses associated with sending the District's two recruits to the Fire Training Academy in North Bend.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Nielsen

A. COVID-19 Update: Spokane County remains in Phase 2, and District 8 remains in Phase 2 of its Phased Approach to Safe Start plan. Chief Nielsen reported District Crews have been in contact with over 70 suspected COVID cases; the Fire-Dex PPE suits are working well. The District has received a little more than half of 2020 collectible tax receipts. Staff will continue to monitor expenses and work on contingency plans in anticipation of fall revenues. A few District members have had possible off-duty exposures; each person has been evaluated and has been cleared to return to work.

Commissioner Rorie said two firefighters with Valley Fire tested COVID positive within the last ten days.

B. Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application: Chief Rash reported he and Michelle Mazzola have been working collaboratively on a SCBA grant application. Ms. Mazzola is helping to assess the District's needs in order to determine the right fit. The grant application period is expected to open mid-August and close shortly thereafter.

C. Station 82 Backup Generator: Chief Rash reported he was informed on July 1st by Valley Electric's general manager that the previous owners of the generator had changed out the main breaker to 600 amp and it needs to be an 800 amp breaker. Valley Electric did not catch this in their original project bid; they have ordered the breaker from two different vendors and will install whichever one comes in first. Chief Rash said he has had conversation with Valley Electric regarding mitigating the impacts of the delays.

D. Ambulance Service Board: The Ambulance Service Board (ASB) contract with AMR expired June 30th. On June 1st the ASB send a letter to AMR requesting to exercise an option of the contract to renew for one year. Due to the Corona virus and City of Spokane negotiations, they felt a one-year renewal would provide the time needed to negotiate a fair contract. AMR responded with a letter stating the contract expired June 30th, and that beginning July 1st they were going to implement a 52% increase in rates, and a 24% increase in mileage. Brian Snure reviewed the contract and on July 2nd sent a cease and desist letter to AMR advising them they were not in compliance with the contract. Snure believes the ASB has the right to extend the renewal, and that if AMR wants to change rates they need to negotiate through the framework established in the contract. AMR has subsequently said they will not implement the increased rates and they would like to negotiate with the ASB. The Ambulance Service Board met with Brian Snure yesterday; he will continue to advise the ASB moving forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Procedure Review

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Boling thanked 81's crew for their work and for supporting his granddaughter's Girl Scout cookie sales.

Chief Long said the summer newsletter was sent out electronically yesterday. The District's firewall blocked SCFD8 members from receiving it through their District email. Chief Long is working with Cycrest to resolve the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:21 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary