

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

August 10, 2021, 6:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Greg Hesse. In Attendance: Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Division Chief Kristopher Cress, and District Secretary Carol Trescott. Commissioner Andy Rorie and Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek attended electronically. The meeting was also attended by several members via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOLUTION 21-05, MEETING LOCATION CHANGE

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: **Move to approve Resolution 21-05, 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 113329 through 113319 totaling \$199,041.00
- Electronic Transfers 07/01/2021 – 07/31/2021 totaling \$383,298.13

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:

A. Recommendation to the City of Spokane Valley for Development: Chief Rash summarized previous discussions regarding mitigations enacted for fire flow and sprinkler systems in a development in the Ponderosa neighborhood within the incorporated areas of the City of Spokane Valley.

Greg Rogers, Fire Marshal for Spokane Valley Fire Department, shared the background and history of SVFD's resolution relative to the Ponderosa's access points and SVFD's residential sprinkler system requirements.

Chief Rash stated there is currently no residential sprinkler system requirement within Spokane County. A developer believes the hearing examiner's decision and SCFD8's stance many years ago has made his land in the Ponderosa unbuildable. The developer has asked what mitigations can be put in place so that he is able to develop the land. Chief Rash said the draft resolution before the Board is consistent with Spokane Valley Fire Department's requirements within the City of Spokane Valley.

Commissioner Boling asked that the District's resolution be edited to clarify that a 30 foot green space is required around a development and not around each home.

Chief Rash will return to the Board with a final resolution in September.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy and Procedure for Electronic Payments: Chief Rash presented the Board with a draft policy and a draft procedure which address electronic payments to District personnel and to District vendors. The commissioners requested no changes to the draft documents; Chief Rash will post the draft policy and draft procedure for a 30-day comment period.

B. Interlocal Agreement with the City of Spokane Valley for Acquisition of Real Estate: Chief Rash provided the Board with an Interlocal Agreement between the District and the City of Spokane Valley for the purchase of three acres of land in the Ponderosa. The cost per acre is \$88,983.05; and with closing costs and environmental assessment fees, the total for three acres is \$266,949.15. The agreements also calls for approximately \$300 per year in weed control fees until the site is developed. A final decision on the exact amount of acreage will be determined based on a site development plan. Chief Rash said the City of Spokane Valley is excited to work jointly with the District on additional potential projects at the site such as parking and a community room.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioners Hesse: **To authorize the Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners to sign the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Spokane Valley for Acquisition of Real Estate.** The Motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Fire Levy Lid Lift: The District's Levy Lid Lift request passed with positive support from the community and with preliminary numbers of 68.29%. Chief Rash extended his appreciation to the Local and all members of the District for their efforts in sharing important lid lift information with the community. He also expressed President Wilkins' thanks to the Board for their courage in making the decision to place the measure on the ballot.

B. Staff and Business Operations: Chief Rash said due to the resurgence of COVID he will not be opening the stations at this time. Several gatherings, including the Washington State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service, have been cancelled recently due to concerns about the increase in COVID cases. Today in Spokane, 277 people tested positive for COVID. Chief Rash sent the Board information relative to the Governor's proclamation on vaccinating employees. Staff is working with labor on the impacts of the mandate.

C. Grant Opportunities: Chief Rash reported that grant submissions have been placed on hold for a period of time due to a glitch in FEMA's system. Some awards were posted last Friday and are expected to be posted each Friday for the next several weeks. The District submitted a \$400,000 SCBA grant request.

Chief Rash said the new infrastructure bill has monies for fire station grants, in addition, there is a house bill being introduced specifically for fire stations and emergency services funding. The Chief will draft a letter for the Board to send to the legislature in effort to help them understand the importance of the bill. He also plans to call for Requests for Qualifications for Architectural Services for Station 84 to help the District develop a site plan in order to qualify for a fire station grant.

D. Volunteer Programs: The District is in the process of changing the volunteer program including member participation requirements. Five volunteer suppression members have chosen to retire or resign; two who have not been active for several years will exit; one is undecided; and several suppression members have moved to Support Services or Tender operations. The District will recognize those who are leaving during their exit interview and also at the next awards banquet.

E. Ambulance Service Board Agreement: AMR and the Ambulance Service Board previously agreed on a one year extension to the response agreement. Chief Rash said negotiations are actively underway and he anticipates a draft agreement for the Board to review within the next 30 days.

F. Budget Workshop Dates: Chief Rash will send the Board several date options for the September budget workshop.

G. SAO 2019-2020 Financial Statement and Accountability Audit: The District is currently undergoing its biennial audit. Commissioner Hesse, Chief Rash and Carol Trescott have or are scheduled to complete individual risk assessments. An audit entrance meeting will take place August 17th, at 11:00 am.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** Thank You from “Brother Dale”
- B.** Spokesman Review article on area fire levies
- C.** Thank You from Ms. Goldsmith for a scholarship from Local 3711

EXECUTIVE SESSION

AT 6:37pm Commissioner Hesse called for a fifteen minute Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; and per RCW 4.30.140(4)(b) that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposal made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

At 6:55 pm, Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary