

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8

MINUTES

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting

August 11, 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 6:02 pm by Chair Greg Hesse. In Attendance: Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Tony Nielsen, Assistant Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary Carol Trescott, and Division Chief J. Wilkins. Commissioner Rorie was absent.

INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Add: Executive Report, Item F., Recruit Academy

Add: Executive Report, Item G., Insurance Renewal

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

None

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Nielsen

A. COVID-19 Update: Spokane County remains in Phase 2, and Chief Nielsen extended Phase 2 of the District's Phased Approach to Safe Start for an additional three weeks. District 8 Crews have been in contact with 92 suspected COVID patients; 29 have been confirmed. Chief Nielsen recently recognized the District's 100th Daily Directive posting. MSO Chavez has kept the agency well stocked with PPE, and staff has updated the District's exposure form.

Chief Nielsen reported the Covid line-of-duty-death of a 55 year-old firefighter from Naples, FL this morning, bringing the total confirmed by the USFA to fifteen.

B. 2021 Budget Process: A 2021 Budget Workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 22nd; Chief Nielsen will confirm the date after speaking with Commissioner Rorie.

C. Teamsters Local 690 Negotiations: The District received a letter of notification from Teamsters, Local 690 stating their desire to begin negotiations on a new bargaining agreement. The current contract expires 12/31/2020.

D. Station 82 Backup Generator: Chief Rash reported the generator's transfer switch is on order and the vendor has received a shipping confirmation. Once the transfer switch is received, installation is expected to take approximately six hours.

E. Ambulance Service Board: The Ambulance Service Board is continuing to meet to negotiate a fair contract. The current contract with AMR has been extended for one year.

F. Recruit Academy: The District's two recruits will begin their training at the Fire Training Academy this week. The Recruit Academy Instructor is currently in North Bend for initial orientation. Chief Wilkins is exploring academy cost recovery methods through the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) program. Because of the work already done with professional development and the Local, reimbursement for basic training could be \$10,000, and up to \$25,000 based on 2020 wages for the apprenticeship piece.

Commissioner Hesse expressed the Board's thanks and appreciation for the work staff is doing to recoup training expenses.

G. Insurance Renewal: Continental Western (FirePak) is leaving the state of Washington. The WSRMG will be moving to VFIS, an affiliate of AIG. The District received official notification from Continental Western of their intent of non-renewal. Karen Miltenberger believes the annual WSRMG meeting in September will be moved on-line.

Commissioner Boling said there is a possibility WSRMG officers will meet in person in Riverside and then move into a Zoom meeting with the general membership. Discussion is currently underway on whether to also add a small block of training for commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:15 pm the Board entered 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. Chief Nielsen, Chief Rash, and Carol Trescott joined in Executive Session.

At 6:25 pm, Commissioner Hesse called for an additional ten minutes.

At 6:35 pm, Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session. No decisions were made in Executive Session.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chief Nielsen announced that Drew Parker has been promoted to Lieutenant. Parker was successful in the District’s competitive promotional process and will assume the role of lieutenant beginning 09/01/2020.
- Commissioner Hesse thanked the staff and MSO Chavez for their efforts in keeping the community and members of the District safe during the Covid pandemic.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Commissioner Hesse expressed his appreciation to the District’s chaplains for the service they performed for Spokane Firefighter, Ed Foster. He noted that District 8’s chaplain, Aaron McNally, will also be performing chaplain services for Spokane Valley Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:36 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary