

Spokane County Fire Protection District 8
MINUTES
Station 82 and on Zoom
Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting

September 28, 2021, 5:30 pm

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was called to order at 5:31pm by Chair Greg Hesse. In Attendance: Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Commissioner Andy Rorie, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, and District Secretary Carol Trescott. The meeting was also attended by a number of District members and the community, both in person and via Zoom.

INTRODUCTIONS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Hesse read a document provided by legal counsel outlining the proceedings of the Special Meeting; he stated public comments would be taken after Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 5:35 Commissioner Hesse called for a fifteen minute Executive Session per:

- RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Litigation Potential Litigation, or Enforcement Actions – Proclamation Mandates, to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.
- 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.

Chief Rash, Chief Wyrobek and Carol Trescott joined the commissioners in Executive Session.

At 5:48 pm Commissioner Hesse called the Special Meeting back in session. No decisions were made in Executive Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chief Rash shared the process in place in which employees could apply for and receive an exemption to the governor's COVID 19 healthcare workers vaccination mandate. He explained the District is taking steps to provide due process to an employee to determine if reasonable accommodations can be put in place for that employee while still maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for all District members, and ensure safety for the public. The Chief said the special meeting is a part of that process.

Commissioners Hesse asked that those who wish to speak step to the podium, state their full name and address, and limit their comments to three minutes.

A total of thirty-four people spoke in both person and via Zoom.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:10pm Commissioner Hesse called for a fifteen minute Executive Session per:

- RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) Litigation Potential Litigation, or Enforcement Actions – Proclamation Mandates, to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.
- 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.

Chief Rash, Chief Wyrobek and Carol Trescott joined the commissioners in Executive Session.

At 7:27 pm, Executive Session was extended for five minutes.

At 7:37 pm, Commissioner Hesse called the special meeting back in session.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 21-08, Mandatory Vaccination for Members of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 8:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **Move to defer Resolution 21-08, Mandatory Vaccination for Members of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 8.** The Motioned carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORT:

A. Vaccination Status Update: Chief Rash said the District is continuing to provide information to employees relative to deadlines and how to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. There are currently 42 full-time employees; 36 of those have provided documentation affirming they are vaccinated against COVID-19.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hesse thanked all those who attended the special meeting. At 7:31 pm he adjourned the special meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary