

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

October 12, 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 Andy Rorie, Commissioner Lee Boling, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Fire Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, District Secretary Carol Trescott and members of the District and the community.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Add: New Business, Item C, Electronic Payments

Move: Unfinished Business to follow Executive Session

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 113401 through 113477 totaling \$249,633.28
- Electronic Transfers 09/01/2021 – 09/30/2021 totaling \$540,505.47

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Chaplain McNally; Therapy Dog Presentation: Chief Rash reported Chaplain McNally has adopted a puppy that he plans to have professionally trained, certified, and will then be available as a therapy dog for first responders in the District and within Spokane County.

Chaplain McNally provided a demonstration on the benefits of the therapy dog program and introduced his dog, *Pierce*, through his presentation.

B. 2022 Draft Budget; Establish Date for Budget Workshop: In conformance with Policy 10.02.01, Chief Rash presented the Board with a draft 2022 budget inclusive of capital replacement projects. The proposed budget meets anticipated and real contractual obligations to the District's labor groups, and contains a cola or salary adjustment for non-represented staff.

Because the Board was not able to hold a budget workshop in September, Chief Rash asked the commissioners to consider scheduling a special meeting specifically for the purposes of conducting a 2022 Budget Workshop prior to November 5th.

The commissioners will hold a 2022 Budget Workshop on Tuesday, October 26th, 6:00 pm, at Station 82 and on Zoom.

C. Electronic Payments: An Electronic Payments Policy and Procedure was distributed to the membership for a 30-day comment period. Chief Rash reported he received no comments on either draft documents and presented both to the Board for action.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: **Move to approve Policy P10.02.20 Electronic Payments and 10.20.20 Electronic Payments Procedure as presented.** The Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Physician Advisor: The District's Physician Advisor, Dr. Michael Metcalf, will be transitioning his duties to Dr. Maika Dang. Dr. Dang is a Providence emergency physician, has experience as a Physician Advisor with other fire districts, is well established in the EMS community, and regularly attends EMS Council meetings. Staff is currently working to update the Physician Advisor contract and position description; Chief Rash will bring both to the Board for review and approval.

B. SCBA Technicians: The District's long-term plan has been to assign a SCBA technician to each shift. With the promotion of Chief Cress to Division Chief, seven internal candidates applied for the positions and a competitive interview process took place. The following full-time members were selected as SCBA Technicians: Dane Ziegler, A Shift; Jack Collins, B Shift; and, Adam Villard, C Shift.

C. Engine 87 Surplus: In 2020, the Board declared the District's 1992 LaVerne engine as surplus. Staff worked with a broker to sell the engine, but after several months of advertising there was limited interest and no bids for the apparatus. Because there was also no local interest in the vehicle, the engine was taken to auction in Post Falls.

D. Volunteer Update: As a result of the District's volunteer program transition, several volunteer members have chosen to leave the District at this time. Chief Rash is conducting exit interviews with members who wish to participate; all will be given a commemorative plaque as a thank you for their service and will be acknowledged at a future recognition event.

E. Station Public Use: Due to COVID protocols, the public has not had regular access to the stations and public meeting rooms for association meeting, etc. Chief Rash will query other agencies to learn what their public access procedure is and return to the Board with some mitigating strategies.

F. FEMA Personnel Cost Reimbursement: The District is recipient of a \$33,400 FEMA grant for the reimbursement of personnel overtime costs expended during local vaccination clinics last winter.

G. Support Unit 80: The District's insurance provider sent out a second adjuster to evaluate damages to SU80 which resulting from last July's accident. The adjuster determined the total value of the apparatus is \$75,000, and they believe the cost for repairs is approximately

\$52,000. The District has received the initial insurance company payment and staff is working to have the unit repaired.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Life Flight Thank You
- Customer Satisfaction Response and Donation
- WSRB Notification
- City of Spokane Notice Compliance for Auto Aid

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:30 pm Commissioner Hesse called for a thirty minute Executive Session 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.
- RCW 42.30.140(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 negotiation or for proceedings while in progress.

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

At 7:06 pm, Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session.

Commissioner Hesse said no decisions were made in Executive Session. He noted by Board Resolution, the Fire Chief has been given authority relative to personnel decisions.

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 table Resolution 21-08. The Motion carried unanimously.

B. Vaccination Mandate Accommodation Process: Chief Rash stated after much consideration he has determined there will be no separation of employment of the one unvaccinated full-time member and accommodations will be made available for a medical or religious exemption. He stated the accommodations will ensure the safety of District members and the community and ensure the preservation of auto aid. Accommodations will be negotiated with the labor group/s to determine if there are any negotiable impacts.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A. 2022 Budget**
- B. Recognition of Promoted Members**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four members of the public spoke to regarding the vaccine mandate accommodate process.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary