

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

December 14, 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.

INTRODUCTIONS and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 113549 through 113616 totaling \$223,354.70
- Electronic Transfers 11/01/2021 – 11/30/2021 totaling \$390,133.38

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 21-08, Mandatory Vaccination for Members of Spokane County Fire Protection District No. 8: Chief Rash said Resolution 21-08 was brought before the board in August and has been tabled since that time. The Board's decision to adopt or not to adopt the vaccination resolution has some impact on current volunteer members, as well as on volunteer recruitment and retention. The Chief said there have been no changes in the vaccination accommodation process as it was originally thought there may be. Should the Board chose to adopt the resolution the notification and accommodation process for volunteer members would be much the same as it was for fulltime and part-time members; if the Board were to chose to not adopt the resolution, Chief Rash said he would recommend the same process be implemented for the District's volunteer members. Either way the District will continue to comply with all proclamations and guidelines issued by the governor.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: Move to adopt Resolution 21-08. The Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Oath of Office – Commissioner Boling: In November, Commissioner Lee Boling was re-elected for a six-year term as Fire Commissioner Position #2. Board Chair Greg Hesse administered the Commissioner Oath of Office to Commissioner Boling.

Governance/Member Survey: Since 2013, the District has provided an opportunity for members to provide feedback through a formal satisfaction survey. The survey criteria has been based on the Baldrige for Performance Excellence framework. Chief Rash said because the survey was not provided in 2020 or 2021 staff feels it may now be more meaningful to ask our members specific questions about their shift, the organization, and the leadership transition. He said the Baldrige survey would again be distributed mid-2022 so that the District can maintain that criteria. A copy of the draft survey was given to the commissioners for their review.

The commissioners suggested changes be made to the survey.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A. Contractor Certification – Vaccinations: The District provided member vaccination certifications to WSP State Mobilization, DNR, and the City of Spokane. The certifications declare the District will make every effort to ensure that all District 8 members who respond to incidents under those agencies control will be vaccinated.

B. Maintenance Technician: Gabe Gerhart will return to the District after a short break in service. Chief Rash said Gerhart did excellent work for the District prior to his short absence and he is excited to have him back.

Accommodation Process Update: Chief Rash reported the vaccination accommodation process is working at this time. Staff will continue to look for ways to be more efficient and cost effective relative to overtime and service delivery.

C. Baltimore Property Update: Chief Rash reported the property covenants for the Baltimore Road property are written stating only a fire station can be built on the parcel, and the homeowners are a little reluctant to allow any other type of building. An adjacent landowner may be interested in the property.

Commissioner Hesse asked that legal review the land covenants for the Baltimore Road property.

D. Leary Foundation Grant: Chief Wilkins was successful in obtaining a Leary Foundation Grant for approximately \$20,000 which will be used for the purchase of two forcible entry props and the associated costs of establishing a training cadre for the props.

E. Hazard Mitigation Grants Submittal: In 2019, the District became signatories to the Spokane County Hazard Mitigation Plan. As a member, the District is provided the opportunity to apply for hazard mitigation grants to reduce the impacts of a hazard, or to recover from one. Staff has applied for \$240,000 in grant funding, and if successful, it will be used for the purchase of a generator at Station 84 and a generator at Station 85. The District has advanced to the second round review.

F. Awards Banquet: Because of COVID restrictions, the District was unable to hold an awards banquet in 2021. Chief Rash asked the Board if they have an interest in hosting some type of event when the weather is warmer.

The commissioners would like to see a less formal, outdoor event this spring or summer.

G. Swearing-in Ceremony: Chief Rash said he would like to hold badge pinning and swearing-in ceremonies on January 11th for those members who were hired or promoted in the last two years.

CORRESPONDENCE

Attached.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Response statistics show the District is on track to respond to over 4,000 calls for service in 2021, which is a 17% increase over 2020.
- The Inland Empire Fire Public Educators will meet at Station 82 on Thursday, December 16th to host a media day on the topic of Christmas tree fire danger.
- Chief Rash recognized Local 3711's outgoing president, Jason Wilkins, and the incoming president, Blaine Holman, and incoming vice-president, Jack Collins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:23 pm Commissioner Hesse called for a thirty minute Executive Session per 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 6:53 pm Executive Session was extended for an additional 15 minutes.

At 7:09 pm Commissioner Hesse called the regular meeting back in session; no decisions were made in Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. Fire Chief's Annual Review

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 pm Commissioner Hesse adjourned the regular meeting.

Gregory A. Hesse, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol L. Trescott, District Secretary