

# **SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8**

## **Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**



### **MEETING MINUTES**

December 12, 2023, 6:00 pm

#### **CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS**

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held at Station 82 and accessible on Zoom. Chair Lee Boling called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Greg Hesse, Commissioner Lee Boling, Chief and Interim Board Secretary Lonnie Rash, Division Chief Marty Long, Division Chief Jason Wilkins, Finance Manager Michelle Rodgers, L3711 President Blaine Holman, members of the District, and members of the public.

#### **INTRODUCTIONS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

L3711 President, Blaine Holman, thanked the District for listening to their comments at the last meeting regarding the hiring of firefighters. We are all hopeful that we will be able to find six good candidates. Holman also wanted to thank the Chief and District for their collaboration on the Division Chief MOU and believes we are headed in the right direction. He also expressed that the remodel of Station 85 is a priority and he thinks it is a good time to get the facilities committee together to start the process. No comments were received via the website.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- Add: Executive Report, 8E, Legislative Day
- Table: New Business 7D, Assistant Fire Chief Contract
- Move after public comment: New Business, 7A, Swearing in Commissioner-elect Larsen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: 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 115266 through 115334 totaling \$183,312.42
- Electronic Payments 11/01/2023 – 11/30/2023 totaling \$529,836.02

A motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: move to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONER-ELECT LARSEN**

Commissioner Boling administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner-elect Jeffery Larsen.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:09 pm the Board went into Executive Session for twenty two minutes until 6:30 pm 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 RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), where the governing body is planning or adopting a strategy or position to be taken during the course of any collective bargaining.

Commissioner Boling invited Fire Chief Rash and Commissioner-Elect Larsen into the executive session.

At 6:30 pm, Commissioner Boling announced the need for an additional twelve minutes or until 6:42 pm.

At 6:42 pm Commissioner Boling called the special meeting back in sessions. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Board Secretary:** Commissioner Boling announced the interest to bring an offer to Michelle Rodgers to serve as the Board Secretary.

Commissioner Boling said prior to making the offer that the expectations of the position are that the position works for the board and not any individual of the board, attendance at training sessions, and request to serve as a representative of the board at public meetings.

Commissioner Boling expressed the interest of the board to have these positions as separate as possible but the Fire Chief would be able to authorize you to do some of the work as a function of the Executive Assistant position, ie. minutes. As part of this separation and upon review by legal, the board would like to provide a stipend for required meetings or trainings outside of your regular work hours and not adjust your hours. He provided an example that by RCW a District Secretary is authorized to be compensated or provided a stipend at the same rate as a Fire Commissioner.

Commissioner Boling asked Michelle Rodgers about her interest in the position and she expressed she still has a desire to serve in the position.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Hesse: move to appoint the Michelle Rodgers as the Board Secretary pending legal advice on compensation outside of duty hours. The motion carried unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Swearing in Commissioner-elect Larsen:** Moved after public comments.

**B. Line of Duty Policy/Procedure:** Chief Rash advised the board that the Line of Duty Policy/Procedure has previously been reviewed the board. The policy/procedure have been posted for 30 days with no comments back from our members. The policy is required to be approved by the board and subsequent to the approval of the policy the fire Chief will approve the corresponding procedure. Chief Rash expressed his

appreciation to Chief Wyrobek for leading a group of labor and management to establish a great process and procedure to move forward.

Commissioner Rorie thanked the group for their work on a difficult topic.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rorie and seconded by Commissioner Boling: move to appoint Policy 20.06.01 Line of Duty Death Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

**C. L3711 Memorandum of Understanding- Division Chief Work Schedule:** Chief Rash said that this MOU is the result of his returning to the Fire District and not being in the duty rotation. He stated the he will and is expected to take duty shift but does not fall within the rotation. This MOU will potentially move our Division Chiefs to be aligned with their currently assigned shifts. Chief Rash wanted to make the board aware that the MOU from November 2023 regarding the Division Chief compensation was still in place until such time that a new MOU is negotiated.

Chief Rash wanted to note and as expressed by President Holman in public comments, we are working collectively with L3711 to bring a comprehensive MOU and package to the board for review and this is a first look at the MOU.

Commissioner Boling requested that we add this to our unfinished business moving forward and not action is required at this time.

**D. Assistant Chief Contract:** Tabled

**EXECUTIVE REPORT:** Chief Rash

**A. Firefighter Hiring:** Recently, our lateral firefighter who was hired in September has resigned. This leaves us with five positions to fill and after review of our last conversation regarding open FTE's Chief Rash believes we can sustain a sixth position if we have a quality candidate. Chief Rash advised that we will be interviewing up to nine paramedic candidates and fifteen plus firefighter candidates. The regional fire academy for District 3, District 8 and District 9 will start in March.

**B. Santa Float:** The 2023 Santa Float is in progress. This is a great community engagement program that our community has come to appreciate and expect. Chief Rash thanked Local 3711 for their engagement in this program.

**C. SCFD 8 Annual Member Recognition:** The Awards Banquet will be on Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at the fire side room at Center Place.

**D. Custer Road Follow-up:** Chief Rash directed Division Chief Long to meet with Spokane County to discuss the process of how we got to the place we are with this project. Our goal is to understand their decision and process but the Fire District needs to be more engaged in the process to reduce the impacts to our citizens for the future.

**E. Legislative Day:** Joint Washington Fire Chiefs and Fire Commissioners Legislative Day will held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:** Chief Rash for Chief WYROBEK

**A. Chaplain/Therapy Dog** Chaplain McNally and Pierce attended a home owners association meeting. At this meeting Pierce "marked", placed his head on the persons lap as a sign of compassion, on two different individuals at the meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, we were told by those citizens that one person had lost a property in a wildland fire and the second person lost a close family member. Chief Rash expressed his appreciation and acknowledgement that the Chaplain and Therapy Dog program is a great investment for the citizens and member of our District.

Chief Rash also reported that Chaplain McNally and Pierce, as part of the First Responder Therapy Dogs, went to Lewiston Maine where a recent mass shooting occurred. Chaplain McNally previously lived in the region and was present to support local first responders.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**A.** Spokane County Fire Commissioners meeting is on Thursday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Moved prior to Unfinished Business

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A.** Strategic Plan Workshop
- B.** Policy Review Workshop

**CLOSING REMARKS:** Commissioner Boling thanked Commissioner Hesse for his friendship and years of service. Commissioner Boling reminded Commissioner Hesse that as a retired fire commissioner, he is welcome to attend all Washington Fire Commissioner Association functions.

Commissioner Rorie thanked Commissioner Hesse for his time at Fire District 8 but also his long service in the Fire Service.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:03 pm Commissioner Boling adjourned the regular meeting.

  
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Lee C. Boling, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Lonnie J. Rash, Interim District Secretary