

**SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8  
Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**



**MEETING MINUTES**

March 12, 2024, 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 Andy Rorie called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Jeff Larsen, Commissioner Lee Boling, Chief Lonnie Rash, District Secretary 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 Board for allowing himself, Jack Collins, Drew Parker and Brad Mertens the opportunity to attend the NWLS Conference.

No comments were received via the website.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

- Add: Executive Report, 8G, District Photographs

A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen 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 115470 through 115531 totaling \$203,916.65
- Electronic Payments 02/01/2024 – 02/29/2024 totaling \$856,118.41

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Procedure Review Batch 1 of 2:** Chief Rash explained we gave thirty days from the last review and found a couple things he cleaned up. He asked the board if they had anything they wanted to address prior to sending out to District members. Chief Rash also noted that this fall we would be reviewing the Policies and verifying they are in line with the procedures at which time we would have another opportunity to make change.

Commissioner Larsen and Commissioner Boling had no issues or concerns.

Commissioner Rorie brought attention to one procedure regarding hair length. He stated it still seemed unresolved. Chief Rash affirmed that we would review and work with the committee to provide some clarity.

Chief Rash will share with membership and bring back as reviewed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Procedure Review 2 of 3:** Chief Rash stated this is the next installment and no action needed tonight. He asked any comments be brought back to our next meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash**

**A. Facilities Update:** Chief Rash noted the facility committee was formed on February 28<sup>th</sup> and they have decided to meet on Wednesdays at 8:30. The next meeting is on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Station 85. Chief Rash introduced Mark King from ZBA Architects should the board have any questions.

**B. Wildfire Ready Neighbors:** Chief Rash explained that Wildfire Ready Neighbors is a media campaign facilitated and funded by DNR. This campaign includes wildfire ready safety tips and links to have home assessments conducted before wildland season. The kick-off media event will be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Schaffer at 11:00 am. There will be a joint press conference with someone from DNR, FD8, and Spokane Valley Fire Department.

Chief Rash also noted a portion of the WUI Code (Wildland Urban Interface) did make it to the Governor's desk; "a portion of the WUI code be adopted into the state building code." There are a couple of things that still have to be done but more than likely, the Ponderosa would fall under this classification.

**C. 2024 Wildfire Risk Symposium:** Chief Rash commented following the Gray Fire & Oregon Road Fire, they are trying to get the elected and community more involved from the state, local and community levels. The 2024 Wildfire Risk Symposium is their event trying to do that; it will April 25<sup>th</sup>. He asked if anyone would like to attend he would register them; Commissioner Larsen stated he registered for the event. Chief Rash registered himself and Commissioner Boling.

**D. DNR Grant:** Chief Rash stated District 8 holds an Annual Debris Collection Day. Chief Rash noted Chief Long secured a grant from DNR in the sum of \$5,000. This grant helps offset the cost of the event. The event will be held at Station 82 on Saturday March 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**E. Budget Workshop:** Chief Rash reported as part of our Strategic Plan initiative to share more about the budget and to discuss budget "placeholders" we would like to have a budget workshop on March 26<sup>th</sup> 6p.m. at Station 82.

**F. Office Specialist:** Chief Rash informed the board the position is open and we will have a first review on March 20<sup>th</sup> with interviews in early April. He informed the board they were welcomed to participate in the interview panel and noted HR Manager, Danny Klocko would be reaching out to them.

**G. District Photographs:** Chief Rash stated a photographer would be here from 1600 to 1800 on March 25-27 so that all members could participate. He asked the commissioners participate prior to the next meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Rorie asked if the District considered photos with apparatus. Chief Rash will try to facilitate.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:** Chief Wyrobek was not in attendance; however, Chief Rash reported on the following items on his behalf.

**A. Avista Gas MCO:** Avista and its regional fire service partners have an opportunity to participate in numerous gas emergency training during the first quarter of 2024. Battalion Chief Wilkins noted that E84 will be participating in this training.

**B. Recruit Academy:** Five new firefighters started on March 4. Their academy will start April 1. They are here earlier than expected due to delay of academy start but is a great opportunity for them to get district familiarity. Academy is fifteen weeks with District 3, District 8, and District 9. Most of the academy will be at District 9 with some parts taking place at both District 3 and 8. Graduation will be July 11 at 2PM. Lt. Brad Mertens is the assigned recruit academy instructor.

**C. OOC Lieutenant:** With Lt. Brad Mertens assignment as recruit academy instructor, it created a long term out of class Lieutenant opportunity so, FF/PM Dane Ziegler being first on the list was offered and accepted the out of class opportunity.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Rash notified the board of the Valley Chamber Recognition of First Responders which will be held at CenterPlace on May 16, 2024.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Procedure Review**

Chief Rash noted this is a placeholder for continued procedure review.

**CLOSING REMARKS:** Commissioner Larsen confirmed that Station 85 will be discussed at the next facility meeting. Chief Rash stated that over the next four Wednesdays, the facility committee would be meeting to discuss a robust plan. Then would be brought forward through bid documents for the board to review. Chief Rash noted that the following week would be at Station 81 to discuss its plans.

Commissioner Boling asked whether or not the property line discussion was resolved. Chief Rash explained he had no new information at this time.

Commissioner Boling shared that Fire Commission Sharon Colby with District 3 has been working on District 3 history and found information regarding District 8 entering in

an agreement to service Moran Prairie area for District 3. He will be turning the information to Chief Rash so we could enter into our historical data base. Chief Rash noted FF Searle was working on historical images and he would like to involve the Office Specialist to combine with the minutes as well.

Commissioner Boling thanked the District for the opportunity to attend the NWLS Conference. He stated the classes were great and the networking was extremely valuable. Commissioner Boling also noted District Secretary Michelle Rodgers also attended and thanked her for attending.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Boling: move to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:28 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



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Andrew V. Rorie, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 

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Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary