

**Spokane County Fire Protection
District No. 8 Board of Fire
Commissioners Meeting**



MEETING MINUTES

June 11, 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. Commissioner Andy Rorie called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Jeff Larsen, Commissioner Lee C Boling, Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris WYROBEK, 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 stated he is looking forward to the discussion with the District and Locals regarding the Battalion Chief Job description and encourages the discussion to continue.

Commissioner Rorie stated no comments were received via online or on the website.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen: 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 115661 through 115727 totaling \$294,973.90
- Electronic Payments 05/01/2024 – 05/31/2024 totaling \$566,253.88

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

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Peer Support Policy and Procedure: As part of our ongoing mission to support the physical and mental well-being of our members, Chief Rash provided the Commissioners with a package proposal for the Peer Support Program. At this time, the Commissioners can review the Draft Policy and Procedure. Following Board approval, Chief Rash will send out for a 30-day review. This agenda item will be moved to the next meeting as unfinished business to allow Commissioners additional time to review and/or comment.

Executive Report: Chief Rash

A. Spokane Regional Emergency Communications

Chief Rash clarified the SREC board sent a letter to the mayor and to the city asking to make a determination if the police department to come into SREC and if they were going to continue service to City Fire. Mayor has asked SREC for a 90 day extension and additional information. Chief Rash explained if the city were to stay in with SREC, then when a person calls 911 it would all be centralized. If the city were to remove from SREC, they would establish their own PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) for within city limits.

B. Ambulance Service Board (Operations)

Chief Rash stated Chief Wyrobek is serving on the negation team. We have been in the assistance with Consultant Mike Lopez. The negotiations should be within the next week or two.

C. Local 690

Chief Rash informed that PERC (Public Employee Retirement Commission) has made a ruling by order and has officially dissolved the Spokane County Fire District 8 part-time bargaining unit which was organized under Local 690 without contest.

D. Avista Community Resources Center

Chief Rash mentioned Avista has approached SCFD8 regarding scheduled outages based on fire behavior. Avista will be putting out community information about planned power outages as well as where to go if resources are needed during these outages. Chief Rash may have the Board consider Station 81 to be a community resource center. This would mean an Avista employee would come to Station 81 during the planned outage. We would allow the community to come in and provide information as well as warming/cooling. A formal request will be made at a later date in the form of a contract. Commissioner Boling asked if the grange across the street from Station 81 has been approached or may have the ability. Chief Rash stated Avista is focused on places that have sustainable power during these outages and that he could follow up and verify if the grange is available. Commissioner Boling also expressed his concern about Station 81's size regarding the amount of public that could arrive and also still needing to do business in the emergency capacity. Commissioner Boling stated to be cautious when entering the conversation.

E. District Funding

Chief Rash decided not to bring forward the funding conversation, but would love to do it at a larger capacity where it is the focus/action item of the meeting. Three agencies are going out in August. Request to have the conversation in July. Commissioner Larsen discussed how we would not want to put it on the ballot for November, but to start the conversation for the Spring ballot. Chief Rash stated we would need information in by early November for the February ballot.

F. Facility Updates

Chief Rash talked about the following projects:

- Station 82: DC/BC office is still under construction is being finished up. The security entrance and overflow conference room is almost completed.
- Station 81: The painting is in mid-project. The hallway and bedrooms are

completed. Restrooms are currently being worked on. The quality of work is very satisfactory with the quality of work and attention to detail.

- Station 81 and Station 85 maintenance is in a lull currently as they are checking in every other week regarding engineering pieces. This is to get all the documentation together to be able to go and get the bid costs.

Commissioner Larsen asked if the lighting at Station 81 is being completed at the same time as the painting. Chief Rash clarified currently the painting is underway, then the lighting will come in, lastly the painting will come back to do touch up around the light fixtures. Unfortunately, it didn't work out where it could be done simultaneously due to delivery timing of product.

G. Firefighter Hiring (Human Resources)

HR Manager Danny Klocko spoke of being approved for two new firefighter positions. The positions were posted on 6/10/24. It is a very condensed timeline we are trying to follow with the closing deadline of 6/26/24. There has already been quite a bit of interest since posting. Application review 6/27-6/28. Interviews 7/8/24. With a possible start 8/1/24 and an 8/8/24 start at the Washington Academy. Chief Boling asked if these are Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic positions. Danny stated these positions are for both and we could hire any combination of the two. Chief Rash mentioned some of these candidates may be lateral recruits.

H. Special Board Meeting Dates

Request to add a Special Board Meeting made by Chief Rash. Commissioners confirmed the date of 6/26/24 at 4:00 pm.

Operations Report: Chief WYROBEK

A. Spokane County Fire Mitigation Group

Chief WYROBEK spoke about a project within the Prevention Division that Chief Long has been involved with the Wildfire Ready Neighbors program. It is a DNR project, they are looking to expand. Specifically for Wildfire prevention. This is putting information at the DNR level instead of each individual websites. DNR would be able to route the public within which district they could contact regarding: defensible space, address signs, etc. Commissioner Larsen thanked Chief Long for his work within these programs.

Announcements and Correspondence

- A. Fill the Boot June 29, 2024 – Saturday at 57th and Regal
- B. Recruit Academy Graduation July 11, 2024 – 2:00 pm at Mead High School
- C. Passing Former Member – Ron Cato Service June 21, 2024 at Calvary Church at 1:00 pm
- D. Greater Spokane Valley Chamber of Commerce Thank You

Executive Session

At 6:35 pm, Chief Rash requested a ten minute Executive Session until 4:13 pm, 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 negotiations or proceedings while in progress; and per 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for

public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

Chief Rash, HR Manager Klocko, and Assistant Chief WYROBEK joined the commissioners in Executive session.

At 6:45 pm, Michelle Rodgers announced Executive Session would be extended for an additional 5 minutes.

At 6:50 pm Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session. No decisions were made in Executive Session.

Future Agenda Items

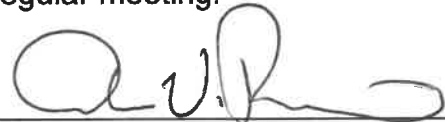
Chief Rash spoke regarding the levy funding and September board workshop for budget. Tentatively scheduled 9/17/24 for budget workshop. Nothing has been scheduled yet for policy review. Chief Rash is going to bring it to the next meeting to be able to schedule the next few months.

Commissioner Boling asked for two minutes to update everyone on a few items. Commissioner Boling mentioned July 2nd is the executive session for the Washington Fire Commissioners Association and July 12th is their board meeting. Commissioner Boling also stated a retired Highway Patrolman reached out to him regarding the possibility of renaming the 395 Wandermere Bridge after Cody Traber and stated if anyone wanted to assist in the process could reach out to him directly.

Adjournment

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

At 6:54 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:



Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary