

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

November 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. 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

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. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 115975 through 116038 totaling \$423,789.27
- Electronic Payments 10/01/2024 – 10/31/2024 totaling \$547,037.97

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. 2025 Budget and Public Hearing: At 6:02 pm, Commissioner Rorie closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the purposes of receiving comment on the 2025 revenue sources.

Chief Rash reported both the assessed value and new construction have increased. Fire taxes on new construction are estimated to be \$95,279; EMS taxes on new construction are estimated to be \$19,948. Revenue from the Fire levy is projected to be \$7,964,563 (inclusive of the new construction); revenue from the EMS levy is projected to be \$1,641,270 (inclusive of new construction and 1% allowed by the collection by law in Resolution 24-03); revenue from the M & O levy will be \$2,938,178, and state asses

property taxes are projected to be about \$5,000. Total 2025 projected revenue is \$12,549,011.

Commissioner Rorie called for public comment. With no public comment, Commissioner Rorie closed the Public Hearing at 6:06 pm and resumed the regular meeting.

Chief Rash presented highlights of the 2025 budget which include: meeting all labor contractual obligations and salary adjustments, a 2.6% COLA for non-represented staff, increase of 6.9% healthcare, funding for Ready Rebound, Peer Support, station computer replacements, Station 82 extractors, replace and purchase physical fitness equipment, training and professional development, company officer professional development, capital projects including Station 81 maintenance and architect, Station 85 remodel, facility and infrastructure projects, Brush 82 and 85 replacements, thermal imagers, and cardiac monitors.

The 2025 General Fund revenue and expenditures total \$15,412,056; the General Reserve Fund 2024 ending balance is projected to be \$1,013,820, which includes the 8% of estimated annual revenue per policy; and, the Capital Improvement Fund 2025 ending year balance is projected to be 4.9M. A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen: move to adopt the 2025 budget and expense plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen; move to adopt 2025 Contingency Reserve Budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen; move to approve Resolution 24-03, authorizing an increase in the District's tax levy from the previous year-EMS. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Resolution 24-02 Surplus Equipment: Chief Rash asked for authorization to dispose of the identified surplus by staff. Most of the items not designated as MAKO Compressor would follow the process to J. Stout Auctions. The MAKO advertisement is provided to send it out to bid. As well as how to surplus the couple engines off the list and whither to send them out to bid. Commissioner Rorie asked for clarification on the items valued at \$0? Per Chief Rash it would be the recommendation at the Commissioners on whither those items should go to auction or be disposed of. Chief Rash feels as though there is enough items of value to send off to surplus auction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Boling; move to adoption of Resolution 24-02. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration of a Special Board Meeting on November 19, 2024: Chief Rash discussed a possibility of a Special Meeting to review the bids for the Storage and Maintenance facility. He is proposing a meeting at 3:00 pm on 11/19/24. During this meeting the opening bids would be read and the commissioners would then go through the evaluation process with the possibility of a decision. This would be the public opening of bids. Commissioner Boling will be traveling during that time. If he is unable to be

contacted via phone for the meeting. He would like the record to reflect he is in favor of following the Chief's suggestion. Commissioner Larsen stated he would be available by phone and would also like the record to reflect he is in favor of following the Chief's suggestion as well.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Facility Projects: Chief Rash stated maintenance 81 is out to bid. There were 12 general contractors at the walk through. Station 85 the final documents are being submitted to the county next week. Our hope is to be out to bid on or around 12/16. With the bid opening for maintenance there will be an overlap. Station 84 initial site development planning will start in the first part of 2025.

B. SREC Update: Chief Rash reported the letter drafted and authorized by the commissioners was sent. SREC has had no productive meetings recently due to cancellations by the City of Spokane.

C. Human Resources Manager Recruitment: Renee Scacco has been selected as the District's new Human Resources Manager and will start on December 2nd. Her prior experience includes Spokane Public Radio as well as WSU HR Services. She has a bachelor's degree in human resources and a master's in business administration.

D. Recruit Firefighter Graduation: Chief Rash recognized and thanked Commissioner Boling for his attendance. Firefighter Miranda and Firefighter Motika-Thomas graduated from the Washington Fire Academy in North Bend on 11/1. Both probationary firefighters are currently completing their second week of day orientation. Next week they will be starting the 24hr shifts.

E. Wildfire Mitigation Efforts: Chief Rash highlighted two mitigation efforts. First one is a fuel mitigation at Morning Star Boys Ranch and includes cutting down trees less than 8" in diameter, removing brush, and other fuels. This project is being funded via DNR and today and started today, 11/12. The second is strategic undergrounding to reduce wildland risk. Avista is taking lines off the power poles and burying those lines underground. Moran Prairie is one of the first priority projects. Communication lines will still be at the poles at this time.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief Wyrobek

A. None

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

A. NWLS-Holiday Inn-March 4-7, 2025: All commissioners have been registered. Commissioner Rorie wanted to make sure the hotel email situation had been resolved. Per Commissioner Boling and Commissioner Larsen, the hotels have been taken care of.

B. WSRMG-Leavenworth November 5-7, 2025: Commissioners were made aware of dates and location.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Commissioner Boling stated he will be going over to the State Fire Marshals Summit on the 20th. They are asking if we have any input or letters.

B. Chief Rash thanked Commissioner Rorie and Commissioner Boling for attending the Push-In ceremony

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:35 pm Chief Rash requested an Executive Session for fifteen minutes 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 negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

Chief Rash, Assistant Chief WYROBEK, and Finance Manager Michelle Rodgers joined the commissioners in the Executive Session.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Recruit Swearing-In at the next meeting on December 10.

ADJOURNMENT


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

At 6:52 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:



Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary