

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2025; 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 (via Zoom), Commissioner Lee C Boling, Chief Lonnie Rash, Assistant Chief Chris Wyrobek, District Secretary Michelle Rodgers (via Zoom), L3711 President Blaine Holman (via Zoom), members of the District, and members of the public.

INTRODUCTIONS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

L3711 President Blaine Holman expressed his enthusiasm about continued progress within the fire district in the coming months and said he looks forward to collaborating with the commissioners and the district to support that progress.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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 116390 through 116451 totaling \$539,608.89
- Electronic Payments 05/01/2025 – 05/31/2025 totaling \$633,453.81

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. Wellness Coordinator: Commissioner Rorie has shared his concerns with the other commissioners and will table this item for discussion at a later date.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Meeting Campbell Road Annexations: Commissioner Rorie opened the meeting to public comment pertaining to the annexation. No public comments made.

B. Resolution 25-05 – Resolution Providing for Annexation: Commissioner Boling moved to approve Resolution 25-05, a Resolution Providing for Annexation, as presented. Commissioner Larsen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Surplus Apparatus – Bid Opening: Chief Rash stated two bids were received for the 2009 Ford Escape which had been surplus. First bid is of \$5,000 from Jason Wilkins in Pullman, WA. Second bid is of \$2,000 from Pend Oreille County Fire District in Cusick, WA.

D. Fire Chief Position: The first item of business was Chief Rash submitting his retirement letter to the commissioners. Commissioners Boling, Rorie, and Larsen extended their best wishes to Chief Rash. Following this, Chief Rash gave an overview of the ongoing projects scheduled from June through December 2025. Chief Rash will share the project timeline with the commissioners. Chief Rash has formally requested the commissioners accept his retirement letter. He is also recommending Assistant Fire Chief WYROBEK be appointed as the interim Fire Chief.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Burn Permit/Procedures Website: Chief Rash explained, to improve communication with the community, District Secretary Michelle created a section on the district's website where residents can check if burning is permitted. The site also allows users to submit a written notice of intent to burn, which is then automatically emailed to the appropriate personnel. Commissioner Boling inquired whether the website would include details about the types of burning allowed. Chief Rash clarified the website is designed to answer both whether burning is permitted and, if so, what materials can be burned. HR Manager Renee noted, over the past week, the members' page of the district website has been secured with password protection. She stated the goal of this page is to provide members with the most up-to-date information, making it easy to access forms and benefit details.

B. Custer Lane Response: Chief Rash addressed an ongoing concern regarding terrain fires on Custer Lane. In 2023, a road obstruction permit was issued, and barriers were installed, preventing passage from one side of Custer Lane to the other. This has led to delayed response times due to the mistaken belief the road is still a throughway. While 911 mapping systems reflect the road break, it is not accurately displayed on Google or Apple Maps. Spokane County owns the property, and if someone were to develop it into an apparatus access road, there would be no need for further extension beyond that point. Chief Rash suggested the district consider advocating for the road to be designated and maintained as an apparatus access road, even without ongoing maintenance from Spokane County. Commissioner Boling explained, from the public's perspective, the concern is about increased traffic and "people" using their road. However, he noted if the road were opened, more traffic would likely flow directly from 57th to 65th, reducing the need for vehicles to travel up the private road only to turn around. He recalled witnessing a fire in the area where emergency apparatus had to turn around and find an alternate access point due to the road closure. Commissioner Boling recommended approaching the property owner and the developer to request the closed section be assessed with potential to turn into a designated fire lane, with no cost incurred by the county. A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Rorie to approach the land owner and the county to remove the current temporary barrier and establish fire access.

C. Paul Leforgee Retirement: Chief Rash recognized Firefighter Paul Leforgee and announced his upcoming retirement at the end of the month, acknowledging and

expressing appreciation for his many years of dedicated service. Chief Rash expressed his appreciation for the support HR Manager Renee provided in guiding Firefighter Leforgee through the retirement process.

D. BPAS and Employer Deferred Compensation Transition: HR Manager Renee addressed the challenges members are experiencing with VEBA BPAS and the proposal to transition to HRA VEBA. She also discussed the possibility of switching from Nationwide to Decision Point.

E. Training/Commissioners Meeting Room Configuration: Chief Rash asked the commissioners for input on what they would like to see or have included in the commissioners' meeting room. Chief Wyrobek is exploring ways to improve the room's layout to better accommodate both training and meetings, including considerations for preferred seating locations. Commissioner Boling and Commissioner Larsen requested a larger monitor or better configuration to improve visibility and readability during meetings. Chief Wyrobek said the objective is to provide clear audio and visual access regardless of where someone is seated in the room.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief Wyrobek

A. ASB Contract: Chief Wyrobek reported the ASB contract negotiations with AMR are still in progress. Over the past two months, the pace has slowed somewhat as member agencies have been operating at higher capacities than usual. The draft contract has already gone through legal review and has now been sent to AMR for their review. He noted progress is being made and the agreement is nearing completion. Chief Wyrobek expressed hope a resolution will be reached soon. Chief Rash shared his appreciation for the hard work put into the ASB contract negotiations. However, he emphasized it's important for everyone to understand the future of EMS and transport services in Spokane County will likely look different from how they operate today.

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

A. None

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Recruit Academy Graduation 25-01 – Thursday June 26th, 2:00 P.M. Mead High School. Commissioner Boling stated he will be unable to attend the graduation and extended his apologies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:00 pm Chief Rash requested an Executive Session for fifteen minutes 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, Per **RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)** To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

Chief Rash and Assistant Chief Wyrobek joined the commissioners in the Executive

Session.

At 7:15 Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session. A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen to accept Chief Rash's retirement letter as written. A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen to appoint Chief WYROBEK as Interim Fire Chief beginning on July 3, 2025. Both motions were carried unanimously.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Chief Rash presented Commissioner Boling with a plaque in recognition of his 40 years of dedicated service.

ADJOURNMENT

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

At 7:19 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 

Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary