

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2026; 5:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

A regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners was held at Station 82. Commissioner Jeff Larsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie, Commissioner Jeff Larsen, Commissioner Lee C. Boling, Fire Chief Kenneth Erben, Deputy Chief Kristopher Maynard, District Secretary Michelle Rodgers, HR Manager Renee Scacco, and members of the district, and members of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

The following warrants and electronic transfers were approved for payment:

- Warrant Numbers 117232 through 117293 totaling \$268,919.08
- Electronic Payments 07/01/2026 – 07/31/2026 totaling \$796,122.30

The following Minutes were approved as presented:

- July 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Erben

A. Promotion Ceremony and Pinning of Lt. Collins – Chief Erben noted Lt. Jack Collins was not present at the June pinning ceremony and the pinning would be done during the current meeting.

MEETING ADJORNED FOR PINNING CEREMONY

5:07 PM

MEETING RESUMED

5:15 PM

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Erben

A. UDS: Chief Erben reported that the ultrasound portion of the physical for the District had mostly been done and there would be a second round later in the year. He

noted HR Manager Renee Scacco did a great job organizing all District staff and there was a 100% compliance rate for the appointments – everyone was on time and followed instructions. Renee Scacco reported that UDS would be at Station 82 on November 4th and 5th for anyone, including family members, who wanted to sign up and take advantage of the service.

B. Lateral Hiring: Chief Erben reported the District would be hiring a lateral firefighter/paramedic. The position opened August 10, 2026. Chief Erben indicated there had already been interest and some applications had been received. Renee Scacco reported the position was posted on Daily Dispatch on August 1.

C. Essential Personnel: Chief Erben reported the District would be implementing new software called Essential Personnel (EP). He also indicated EP would be here to train members and administrative staff on Wednesday, August 19 through Friday, August 21, 8:30 am – 10:30 am and 11:00 am – 1 pm. Chief Erben noted all Commissioners and District Employees were welcome to join in any of the training sessions. Chief Erben said EP would assist in yearly evaluations, exposure reports, and many other District functions.

D. Chaplain Aaron McNally: Chief Erben reported the yearly Chaplain Academy was held at the Valleyford Community Church by Aaron McNally and the District staff assisted in fire-scenario presentations at Station 82. Chief Erben also noted Chaplain McNally had volunteered his time to visit members who had been deployed and he had made visits to the Kaiser Fire as well as the Spokane Complex Fire.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief Maynard

A. Station 85 Beds: Chief Maynard noted that in the previous month, the beds at Station 85 had been replaced.

B. HVAC Systems: Chief Maynard reported the air conditioning was not working properly at Station 82. He got 3 bids to replace the unit and the third company was able to repair the A/C unit without replacing.

C. Station 82 Water Testing: Chief Maynard stated the initial testing of the water at Station 82 showed the presence of bacteria. He said further testing was being done and the results were not back yet. He noted the lab recommended annual testing of the water at the station.

D. Gabe Gerhart: Chief Maynard commented that Maintenance Technician Gabe Gerhart had been a valuable asset to the District by assisting Austin Adams with a water pump repair in the field at the Kaiser Fire.

E. Spokane Complex Fire: Chief Maynard reported in anticipation for the fire danger resulting from the red-flag warnings, District 8 was the first in the State of Washington to request mobilization. He reported the mobilization was requested by District 8 on Friday, July 31. Chief Maynard reported Chief Wilkins was able to go out as leader of a strike team and Wilkins and others were still out on the Spokane Complex Fire. Chief Maynard said the vehicles used on the fires were Brush 81, Brush 84, Engine 82, Engine 86 and Tender 82. Chief Maynard also commented on the difficulty for the crews to have lost so many homes. Chief Maynard said he had spoken to a reporter from the Spokesman Review whose home was saved. Chief Maynard said there was a story in the Review the previous week about Todd Wood and the crew.

F. Deployments: Chief Maynard reported that there had been multiple deployments. Chief Erben mentioned that these deployments are reimbursable and gave credit to Finance Manager Michelle Rodgers on all the paperwork as a result of the deployments.

Chief Erben also said that anyone who wanted to deploy would have the opportunity and it would be good experience for the District.

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE: Chief Erben

A. Letter of Gratitude: Chief Erben reported the District received a letter from Casting Stones along with glass hearts for all the members of the District. He reported that the stones and letter were a thank you for the District's response to the Northwood fire.

B. Wilkins and Crew Efforts Email: Provided in packet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Resolution 26-03 Surplus Equipment/Property/Vehicle – Chief Erben reported that with all the current fires and vehicles out on deployment, he wanted to discuss with Gabe Gerhart about what should be sent to auction.

ADJOURNMENT

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

At 5:40 pm Commissioner Larsen adjourned the meeting.



Jeffery A. Larsen, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 
Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary