

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



MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 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 Jeff Larsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. In Attendance: Commissioner Andy Rorie (Zoom), 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 thanked the Board as well as mentioned three topics. First, President Holman spoke of the MOU for Out of Class trades and how it would benefit the community and members allowing the most appropriate personal for trades. Secondly, President Holman reminded the Board of the two positions currently available and noted he is hoping the District will attempt to fill the positions this fall. Lastly, President Holman spoke regarding the shop project being over budget due to the cost of supplies in the current economy and requested approval even with the project currently being over budget.

Commissioner Larsen stated no comments were received via the website as of 2 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: 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 115596 through 115660 totaling \$296,659.24
- Electronic Payments 04/01/2024 – 04/30/2024 totaling \$552,441.10

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

A. Memorandum of Understanding; Out of Class Pay: Chief Rash noted for Local 3711, the Out of Class Pay if a trade were to occur to an out of class, the district would pay for 2 out of class trades. Currently, for an out of class trade, we pay \$40 for a full shift trade and \$20 for a half shift trade, the estimated cost is less than \$1,000.00. With potential of sunset on it, it could be negotiated into the contract. It was agreed to sunset through the end of the contract for the next 6 months as Local 3711 might be able to include it as part of the package with the negotiations. Commissioner Larsen suggested to send to the local to sunset 12/31/2024 to re-evaluate the cost and effectiveness of out of class pay. Chief Rash agreed to go to local regarding the sunset of 12/31/2024.

A motion was made to approve the Out of Class MOU pending both legal and Local 3711 approval by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Boling. The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Report: Chief Rash

A. Facility/District Projects Presentation

Chief Rash started out by discussing Station 85 and how it is in the finalizing of the layout for the interior including one update with the kitchen, cost savings as a need vs. want, and finalized the finishes. Chief Rash mentioned the current progress is to finalize the exterior. Facilities committee requested the architect go back review brick vs. no brick, horizontal vs. vertical, with or without siding, etc. Station 85 is a work in progress with bid docs coming around August. Commissioner Boling thanked the facilities committee and is very pleased. Chief Rash discussed the update to Station 81. This entails the maintenance drain field/sewer roughly \$300,000 budgeted for this project and \$410,000 is estimated by architect. Commissioner Larsen mentioned Lee Campbell may have some ideas to help funding this project. The lighting project has been secured and painting should be starting around mid-next week (5/20-5/24). Chief Rash reported on Station 82. The new BC office renovation is in full swing; even with a slight delay with the egress window. The front office has come in below the budgeted amount and should be completed within the next couple weeks.

Chief Rash stated the strategic plan was approved last year, the deliverables to move forward starting in July for that program. Another item mentioned is the PPE review regarding the PFAS. We are going to try to mitigate through the process and procedures with the Health and Safety committee as well as RD committee. 820 task book and training is moving forward and in the process; the BC and Captain descriptions are being reviewed and work for a promotional process regardless of positions available for personal development. 2025 budget process will be kicking off at the end of next month. Chief Rash noted in June/July there would be a Levy review. Chief Rash mentioned how the Baltimore property is back on the radar for sale, thus income for next year.

B. Recruit Academy Progress/ Firefighter Hiring

Chief Rash spoke highly of the new recruits with only two months to go before their July 11th graduation. Chief Rash noted that the budget will sustain the hiring of the 2 open positions, however Chief Rash stated that he is wanting to be more conservative due to the unknown changes in assessed value for 2025 and the impact of negotiations. Chief Rash will not be bringing forward additional FTEs in 2025, if filled in 2024. Chief Rash mentioned the next recruit academy is Aug 8-Nov 1. Commissioner Boling is pushing forward to hire the 2 FTE positions. Thus to continue forward with the process and committing to hire 2 people, with hopes we would hire. New recruits may need to be sent to North Bend for training.

C. Local 3711 Contract Negotiations (Firefighters and Supervisors)

Chief Rash stated the kick off meeting for contract negotiations will be at end of May. Chief Rash asked if any of the Commissioners would like to be part of the current contract negotiations and all Commissioners declined to be part of the negotiations. The Local 3711 contract negotiations will be from June-December 2024.

D. WSCFF Surplus Items

Chief Rash mentioned Gabe Gerhart and Joseph Zarazua were sent with a U-Haul and the whole process was seamless. Chief Rash was appreciative the district was able to surplus items legally due to federal dollars.

E. Ambulance Service Board

Chief Rash mentioned the contract for the Ambulance Service expires at the end of June. Consultant Mike Lopez was hired to objectively review content. Chief WYROBEK discussed how this will be vastly different due to the withdrawal of Valley Fire and District 4 from the Ambulance Service Board.

F. Fire Chief Report

Chief Rash asked if the Fire Chief Report is needed both as verbal and a written report. Commissioner Larsen stated the verbal report is very informational. The written report is no longer being requested.

Operations Report: Chief WYROBEK

A. First Quarter 2024 Response Statistics

Chief WYROBEK went through the statistical analysis as provided: The Call volume is up 7% call volume since last year. 34% higher in fires. EMS up 3.14% and MVA up 51%. The call numbers for Fire were 88 in 2023 and 118 in 2024. The call numbers for MVA is 33 in 2023 and 50 in 2024. These are potentially statistically significant. Chief WYROBEK mentioned anything between the 5%-7% range is statistically significant as it starts to show the budgetary impacts.

Commissioner Larsen asked if there is information out there regarding how many times our stations have been out on a call and another one in the same jurisdiction came in? Commissioner Boling added on to Commissioner Larsen's original question with the following questions from a tax payer: 1. How many times are we on a call out of our

district and another district has to come back in? 2. How many number of calls do we go out of district for another agency? 3. The number of calls the other agencies whether it's to assist us or come into District 8? Chief Wyrobek showed where to find the monthly statistical report of jurisdiction calls. District 8 responded into the City of Spokane 116 times, whereas the City of Spokane responded into District 8 43 times. Chief Wyrobek stated there is not a current system to show the back to back calls. Chief Wyrobek states there is a new system either coming 4th quarter or early 2025 that will be able to break down the data even further.

Announcements and Correspondence

A. WFCA Chelan Seminar- May 30th- June 1st. please let us know as soon as possible to get reservations. Meeting/Training is 31 and 1st

B. Greater Spokane Chamber of Commerce First Responder Recognition- May 16th 7am -9am

C. Custer Rd - June 6th meeting with the county engineer, local developer, and HOA to talk about what's going on regarding the complications with the road.

Executive Session

None

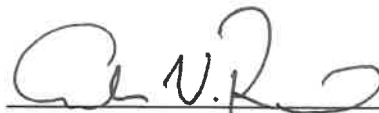
Future Agenda Items

A. Levy Funding Timeline

Chief Rash mentioned this is an ongoing conversation. Chief Rash requested grace until June to provide additional information; which was granted by Commissioner Larsen.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Boling: move to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. At 1858 pm Commissioner Larsen adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:


Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary