

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



**MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 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 encourages everyone to come to the recruit graduation this Thursday.

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 115728 through 115784 totaling \$196,374.15
- Electronic Payments 06/01/2024 – 06/30/2024 totaling \$559,052.51

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**

None

**Executive Report: Chief Rash**

**A. Avista Community Resources Center**

Chief Rash stated after further discussion with Avista and some of the concerns from the previous meeting, the decision was made to decline the opportunity for this year, with an option to look into it next year. Chief Rash has notified Avista and they were appreciative of District 8 considered it.

**B. Station Inspections**

Chief Rash discussed how along with Chief WYROBEK and a couple division/battalion chiefs, they went to the different stations to not have necessarily station inspections, but more of a robust discussion on the state of the district. The discussions included but not limited to administration and operational updates. Chief Rash mentioned how due to the season, they were not able to see everyone they had hoped to. With this in mind, a media relating to the discussions will be released within the next week or so.

**C. Facility Updates**

Station 81 and Station 85 maintenance projects are moving forward. Chief Rash verified with the architect they will have a timeline moving forward with the inclusion of advertisement and bid docks by July 15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Rash anticipates bid docks to the Commissioners for Station 81 prior to August. Commissioner Boling requested an updated status of the painting and lights at Station 81. Chief Rash stated the painting is completed. The lighting project will be starting mid next week. Chief Rash went on to discuss the irrigation system failure at Station 82 which is being worked through.

**D. Firefighter Hiring**

Chief Rash discussed how the first round of interviews were Monday and Tuesday of this week. Upcoming is the Chief's interviews on Thursday and Friday. There is the goal of hiring a couple paramedics, which may not be achieved, but a minimum of 2 firefighter EMTs. Once hired they would start at the State Fire Academy on August 8<sup>th</sup>. This fall we will be opening up recruitment for Support Services and Volunteer Tender Operators.

**E. District Funding- August Meeting**

Chief Rash has requested to postpone the conversation until the August meeting. CPI (consumer price index) will be out on July 15<sup>th</sup>. This will provide a June to June snapshot. Also there are 3 districts (Districts: 4, 9, & 13) currently out for levies and should know the results in August. This discussion will be brought back as a New Business item in August. Commissioner Larsen wanted to verify with Chief Rash the timeline for discussion is appropriate or if an additional meeting prior to the August meeting would be needed. Chief Rash clarified the information received would allow the timeframe of the current August meeting and no additional meeting currently would be necessary.

**F. Annual Report**

Chief Rash mentioned the Annual Report is in their Commissioner packets this evening. It is a little behind the self-imposed deadline, but it is ready for publication. Commissioner Rorie and Commissioner Larsen both agreed the Annual Report looked good.

**Operations Report: Chief WYROBEK**

**A. Ambulance Service Board**

Chief WYROBEK stated the contract expired on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the process

coming up with a proposed contract with our negotiating team, it did go to AMR. They have had it for several weeks. They are ready to start talking specific negotiations, which will begin tomorrow. In the exchange of setting all of this up, Chief Wyrobek noted they have in writing that AMR has committed to do good faith effort to not only negotiate this contract but for continuation of service uninterrupted until the new contract is executed. Commissioner Larsen asked if we are expecting a big increase to the tax payer. Chief Wyrobek stated this information is not yet known. There were 19 agencies compared as well as payer mixed for our county as well as comparable counties. There is a discussion currently regarding the metrics and how it's all going to look like. Commissioner Larsen expressed his concerns especially since CPI has been high over the last couple years. Chief Rash stated he would be surprised if we did not see a significant increase regarding the starting cost. Chief Boling asked if the decision of District 4 and Valley to exit the Ambulance Service Board adversely affected the negotiations in this contract. Chief Wyrobek commented not necessarily. District 4 already has an executed AMR contract. Valley's intent is to do no harm with their Auto Aid border neighbors. Chief Rash stated he believes the service delivery will be the same, but the actual cost will increase.

#### **B. Apparatus Cost Increase**

Chief Rash asked Chief Wyrobek to briefly discuss the current apparatus cost increase. Chief Wyrobek mentioned how we purchased the 2 new apparatuses at 750k a piece 18 months ago. This exact same apparatus if we were to purchase today would cost over 1 million. Not only has the cost increased, but the delivery time would have doubled as well. Instead of looking at a 2 year delivery time, it would be at least 4 years for delivery. Commissioner Larsen asked if we had to pay a price increase. Chief Rash stated it was negotiated up front the cost of the apparatuses.

#### **District Secretary**

District Secretary Michelle Rodgers requested to know which commissioners are interested in the WSRM – Wenatchee Conference during September 26 & 27. She mentioned how Commissioner Boling is already signed up. Commissioner Larsen stated he would also be able to attend.

#### **Announcements and Correspondence**

- a. Recruit Academy Graduation July 11, 2024 – 2:00 pm at Mead High School
- b. Commerce State of the City of Spokane Valley July 24, 2024 from 11-1 at CenterPlace. Chief Rash asked if anyone has interest in attending. Both Commissioner Boling and Commissioner Larsen have declined due to prior engagements. Commissioner Rorie stated he will get back to Chief Rash if he is able to attend.
- c. Commissioner Boling requested to speak regarding Mason 12. Mason 12 was with the risk management group and they went in and canceled their insurance. They therefore were no longer a fire responding agency. Their county commissioners declared it an emergency and took it over. They are now reappointed and back on board. Things are looking much better.

### **Executive Session**

At 6:21 pm Chief Rash requested a 20 minute Executive Session until 6:41 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.

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

At 6:41 pm, Michelle Rodgers announced Executive Session would be extended for an additional 15 minutes.

At 6:57 pm Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session. No decisions were made in Executive Session.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Chief Rash stated we are still on the schedule for the policy review on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Next item mentioned is at the August meeting we should have the recruit swearing in.

Commissioner Boling is leaving on Friday for the board meeting if there is anything needed to be sent over or to be discussed. He also spoke regarding the fire commissioners have a grant program for smaller districts pertaining to free education. He is pushing forward to also give a scholarship program to send a member to conferences. Commissioner Boling asked wither or not it would be acceptable to ask fire commissioners to donate personal monies regarding funding these scholarships. Both Commissioner Larsen and Commissioner Rorie agreed it would be acceptable.

### **Adjournment**

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

At 7:00 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



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Andrew V. Rorie, Chair  
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 

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Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary