

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



MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 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

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Add: 10.C. Spokane County Fire Commissioners Meeting

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 115785 through 115848 totaling \$237,194.62
- Electronic Payments 07/01/2024 – 07/31/2024 totaling \$976,704.60

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. Peer Support Policy

Chief Rash provided an updated policy and procedure to the board for the review. He requested policy 10.04.08 Peer Support Team be adopted. Commissioner Larsen motioned approval and Commissioner Boling seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Probationary Member Swearing-In and Member Welcome

Consistent with practice of swearing in members who are assigned public safety duties, Chief Rash introduced and administered the Firefighter Oath of Office to FF/Paramedic Austin Adams, FF/Paramedic Neil Carter FF/EMT Brian Myers, and FF/Paramedic Grant Presley. All four new members are recent graduates for the Spokane Regional Recruit Academy.

Chief Rash introduced the District's new Office Specialist/Social Media Coordinator RaeAnne Clark, and her husband Jason. RaeAnne has a great background in accounts payable as well as a Minor in English. She was welcomed by the Board of Commissioners and members of the District.

At 6:15 pm, Commissioner Boling called for a 15 minute recess.

At 6:38 pm, Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session.

B. District Funding- Discussion

Chief Rash provided a presentation which includes an overview of how the current district funding and what the options are. He spoke how partner agencies on the August ballot did have success in passing their levy lid lifts whereas the school districts last February/April were not as successful. Chief Rash discussed a comparison of some of the changes that have accrued and discussion of new monies that are potentially going into next year's budget. The assessed value is up less than 1% from last year and is statistically flat. 2025 is trending about the same in terms of new construction and funding. Revenue comes from fire taxes. Chief Rash explained how each of the taxes provide the funding to the fire district. The anticipated total of new monies for 2025 including new construction would be \$576,196. Chief Rash went through how the collection rate is variable from year to year. SCFD8 has a high approximate 98% collection rate each year. If the collection rate decreases due to economic factors, each 1% not collected is approximately \$120,700. Commissioner Boling asked if money not originally collected would come back to district. Chief Rash clarified, that it is not lost monies and it usually would be collected over time. Healthcare will increase 6.9% district wide. Chief Rash provided levy worksheets for the commissioners to review. He reviewed the levy types along with the election cycles: Regular Levy Permanent Lid Lift Multi Year, EMS Levy-Subsequent approval/continuation of existing EMS Levy, and Excess Operating Levy. Commissioner Boling asked if we could do a Service Benefit Charge to the Nursing homes. Chief Rash stated he does believe it could be written in, but most have been exempted out. Chief Rash will look into it further and respond to Commissioner Boling. Commissioner Larsen asked when our last Levy Lid Lift was. Chief Rash answered we did a Fire Levy Lid Lift in 2021 and collected in 2022 for the first year. He believes the last EMS Levy Lid Lift was back on 2012. Chief Rash discussed the Levy Rule Resets and amount given monies. As a District, currently we would need 2.20 per \$1000 to operate the way we have been. Chief Rash then went through all the dates we would need to file by to be on the election ballots. He also explained which ones were special elections vs the primary and general. Chief Rash provided a graph regarding the next 9-years snapshot and when new levies may occur. How can we have the most impact with the least amount of voter fatigue towards the citizen? Most people don't understand assessed value but do understand market value. We need to market what the citizen receives for the cost. Budget meeting is on September 23rd. Commissioner Rorie requested to see when items are trending. Review all including schools and then come back to only fire. The beginning discussion for the upcoming potential levy has been agreed to be discussed at the next budget meeting by all three commissioners.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Strategic Plan Update

Chief Rash provided the plan of all staff members and areas of focus as well as the progress as to where we are at. Tracking and working on the projects. Chief Rash noted the information is provided to the commissioners and district members quarterly.

B. Ready Rebound

Chief Rash apologized to the commissions for the lack of education and notified them they too are able to utilize Ready Rebound. If a member gets injured, they can either call Ready Rebound immediately to locate a provider in the area and get an expedited appointment or they can do an L&I Claim and call Ready Rebound who will assign an expediter to assist in any follow up they may need. All members and family members are included in this benefit.

C. Facility Updates

STA 81 Lights are in and can be programmed to the way we need them. Chief Boling stated the lights are not flooding the area at night and it's more subtle. And it can be dialed back down even more if needed. Painting is near completion. Station 82 is in progress of landscaping as well as water preservation. The annex at Station 82 does currently house our two new pierce engines. Station 81 and Station 85, Chief Rash has talked to the architect with specific meetings. He met yesterday with the engineers at 85. Looking for bid documents for 81 by end of the month. Bid documents for station 85 would take longer and maybe go out around the end of September/early October.

D. National Night Out

Chief Rash thanked the crews that went out.

E. Ambulance Service Board

Contract negotiations are ongoing. Since we are in active negotiations it meets the requirements for executive session.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief WYROBEK

A. Mullen Hill Fire

Chief WYROBEK wanted to take a few moments to praise our members for their actions during the fires that occurred on July 26th (Columbia Basin Trail Fire and Upper Cemetery Fire). Based on auto aid and mutual aid agreements, we had crews respond to both fires. Great job on the fire line, great tactical solutions, being smart, being safe. Numerous members came in during their off time to assist as well as callbacks. It shows how much our members care about keeping our citizens protected. Then two days later the Mullen Hill Road Fire was within District 8. And again, the members showed up and did an outstanding job. Mullen ended up being about 10.1 acres.

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

- A.** Snure Seminar – Laws update seminar – Commissioner Boling stated he could not attend, Commissioner Larsen stated he could. Commissioner Rorie is uncertain.
- B.** WFCA Annual Conference – Spokane at Davenport – All Commissioners plan on attending.
- C.** SCFCA Meeting – Hosting at Station 81 on Sept 12 – All Commissioners plan on attending.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:32 pm Chief Rash requested a 30 minute Executive Session until 8:02, **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 and **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.

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

At 8:05 pm Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Larsen would like to confirm the September 23rd meeting for Budget as well as Levy Funding. Discussion to start at 1500 instead of 1600.

Chief Rash stated in November he would like to have meeting regarding Policies and Procedures.


ADJOURNMENT

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

At 8:07 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 
Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary