

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 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 noted he was happy the strategic projects are on track or at least moving forward and encourages them to continue. He is looking forward to working with the District and Commissioners at the budget workshop.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- Add: 8.E Human Resources Position

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 115849 through 115910 totaling \$237,761.18
- Electronic Payments 08/01/2024 – 08/31/2024 totaling \$645,328.91

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. **Ambulance Service Board:** Chief Rash stated the only update is that they are

continuing negotiations. There is a meeting on 9/11/24 regarding a business action point. Spokane Valley Fire Department is no longer part of Ambulance Service Board. The ASB has moved and agreed to have District 9 be the contract administrator. Chief Rash believes by the end of September we will have a negotiations update from the negotiations committee.

B. Spokane Regional Emergency Communications: Chief Rash discussed the response to a letter sent from the mayor of the City of Spokane to the SREC board. The letter states the mayor the City of Spokane had a 3rd party consultant to evaluate SREC. The governance: the city of Spokane feels they would not be represented equally based on a couple items. Originally, when SREC was put together by the Board of County Commissioners, it was to keep elected positions out of the operations and governance on this board. Chief Rash stated Commissioner Kuney of District 4 stated that was still the intent. Currently, all the appointed members of the board are not political in nature except for the Sheriff. The Sheriff is currently one of the largest law enforcement users in the county. The SREC board made a recommendation and it was affirmed by the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs, the current representation seems adequate and appropriate as well as keeping in mind that if the City of Spokane Police Department comes in then they would have 3 of the 10 voting positions. A bit of disparity in numbers in the taxing regarding 1/10 of 1% that comes in. The City of Spokane believes that 65% of the taxes are generated in the City of Spokane, however the Department of Revenue feels that it is more around 48% as a total. Chief Rash stated 10/31/24 is the final date SREC has put on to continue to the process. Commissioner Larsen asked what the increase would be in user fees if the city left SREC. Chief Rash mentioned a lot of numbers are going around. If the City of Spokane Police department comes in then it could reduce our user fees significantly. If the City of Spokane Fire Department leaves, there could be a 14%-15% increase.

C. Facility Updates: Chief Rash met with the architect on 09/05/24 and it is not moving as quickly as he would like. Station 81 maintenance is at 90% completed and expect the bid documents to go out by the end of September. Unresolved is the septic and water at Station 81. Commissioner Boling asked if we knew of any idea what is going on across the street from Station 81 with hopes it may be bringing the sewer closer. The answer currently from Chief Rash is no, but there will be research looking into it. Commissioner Boling stated it appears to be commercial instead of residential. Research is needed as this could be beneficial for the construction at Station 81. Station 81 painting and lighting is completed other than a light cover in the training room. Overall, it is a wonderful project and Avista would love to do a public service announcement for us as it is one of the larger lighting projects completed. Chief Rash discussed how Station 82 landscape and water distribution is now completed including green grass. Currently, there has not been water restrictions. Station 85 in the remodel planning is nearing the 80% completion for engineering. There is a facilities meeting on September 23 with the goal to bring it to 90% completion and are pushing for bid documents by early to mid-October.

D. Commissioner Minutes Archiving: Chief Rash announced all the commissioner minutes from formation have been electronically archived and are now in PDF searchable format.

E. Human Resources Position: Chief Rash stated after an internal review the position for Human Resources will be posted within the next day or two.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief Wyrobek

A. 2024 Wildland Season Status- Cimarron Fire: Chief Wyrobek provided a quick update of the Cimarron Fire in the Dishman Hills. The fire had troubling access and topography. There was a great auto aid response and were able to get aircraft on it quickly. Granted it was a long overnight for Brush 82. Challenging but successful. Chief Rash mentioned this was near the development area where the new construction would require sprinklers. No level 3 evacuations, but there were level 1 and level 2 evacuations in place. Commissioner Boling asked if there had been any determination of the cause of the fire. Chief Wyrobek stated DNR has the investigation and there has not been a determination yet.

B. Quarterly Alarm Statistics: Chief Wyrobek noted the June and July alarm statistics were in the commissioners' packet. Chief Wyrobek compared the year to June alarm runs: total in 2023 was 2042 runs vs total in 2024 there have been 2072 runs. Currently, District 8 is up 1.45% in 2024 vs. 2023. For EMS calls it is nearly flat at 0.6% increase from last year. There is a statistically significant in both Fire and MVA calls at 7% each. Overall though the call volume had flattened out from first quarter and thus there is not a statistically significant % increase in total call for 2024 in the first half of the year over the first half of 2023.

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

A. Upcoming Conference Status - Commissioner Boling requested to attend Snure Mtg.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

A. Spokane County Fire Commissioners Meeting; September 12, 2024 at Station 81

B. 9/11 Ceremony; all stations. Chief Cress conducting ceremony at Station 81.

C. Driving Records request form.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:30 pm Chief Rash requested an Executive Session for twenty minutes per 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 6:50 Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Workshop- Funding and Budget; September 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

At 6:52 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew M. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST: 

Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary