

# **SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8**

## **Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting**



### **MEETING MINUTES**

October 8, 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 6:05 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**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Larsen and seconded by Commissioner Rorie: 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 115911 through 115974 totaling \$235,128.70
- Electronic Payments 09/01/2024 – 09/30/2024 totaling \$849,792.81

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. 2025 Draft Budget Review:** Chief Rash conformed to policy 10.02.01 in presenting our draft 2025 budget which is inclusive of the 2025 capital projects. The 2025 budget contains remaining funds that offset any changes in our contractual obligations. Currently, we are still in negotiations with Local 3711. Chief Rash stated the draft does include a 2.5% increase Cola for non-represented staff and a 6.9% increase in medical insurance. Currently, Chief Rash is looking into the wellness program and plans to present it in totality at the next meeting. There is also a placeholder input for firefighter physicals inclusive of cancer screening. Commissioner Larsen stated he is glad these placeholders are there. Chief Rash stated we saw a significant increase in our insurance both in apparatus and facilities. Commissioner Boling stated the Risk Management

meeting voted on changing the billing date by 2 months. He then asked if this budget includes the 2 months on the old cycle and the 12 months new cycle starting in January. Chief Rash stated he has already received next year's invoice which is for 2025 and the numbers presented reflect that. As for the 2 months we are prorating what we still owe and would pay it out of this year's budget. Chief Rash then ran through all of the potential Capital projects for the 2025 year and stated there has not been any changes since the last discussion on these items. Chief Rash stated he would like to share some information regarding the LARRO program. Chief Rash received a letter from Lieutenant Mertens regarding a call on 10/2/24 that required the deployment of the ropes to rescue a trapped victim down an embankment. Chief Rash read "a huge shout out to Lt. Kern, the LARRO cadre, and Chief Wilkins for pushing us on training for a potential rope rescue incident. Honestly, I never would have thought I would have a rope rescue. But with the training and support from our Commissioners, Chief Wyrobek and yourself, we were able to safely remove a patient from a difficult situation and get them to the care they needed." As was mentioned at a previous workshop, RTF and LARRO, they are real and do occur. Commissioner Boling requested this letter be put in a file for the commissioners to review around the Awards Banquet.

**EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash**

**A. Ambulance Service Board:**

Chief Rash wanted the Board to be aware that we are currently still in negotiations. He wanted to thank Chief Wyrobek publicly for doing a great job and keeping the negotiations group on task. There is a meeting with negotiations on 10/9/24 to continue making progress in process.

**B. SREC Update:**

Chief Rash stated that there have been no significant changes in the negotiations between SREC and the City of Spokane. There is still the executive committee from SREC having conversations with the appointed committees from the City of Spokane. The final date to make recommendations at this point is in late October and that may change due to the speed of the negotiations. Letters have been sent by Spokane Valley Fire Department as well as District 9 in support of SREC to current Mayor of Spokane, Mayor Brown. Chief Rash asked the commissioners how they would prefer District 8 proceed? All commissioners were in an agreeance and the recommendation is to have Chief Rash draft a letter to provide to the commissioners to approve and sign. Commissioner Larsen made a motion to have Chief Rash draft a letter and the commissioners preview prior to sending. Commissioner Boling seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Rash mentioned that the SREC board has authorized SREC staff to look into an existing building to purchase for SREC use and not build a new building in Medical Lake/Airway Heights area. SREC is making an offer on a building located at 12809 E. Mirabeau Parkway. The cost savings is roughly 9 million.

**C. Facility Projects:**

Chief Rash mentioned the Maintenance 81 is down to two items. One is the Perc test at 81 and two is where are they going to bring power in. October 15<sup>th</sup> is when bid docs should go out. Station 85 is at 90% and is progressing nicely. Engine 84 is going into service on 10/9/2024 and will be in service at Station 84. A Push-In Ceremony is being planned for the first week of November.

**D. HR Manager Recruitment:**

Chief Rash informed the Board the application closes end of day on October 14<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> will be the first review. Interviews will begin on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is a committee put together and will be screening the applicants. Chief Rash is confident we will have 6 or 7 good candidates to interview. Chief Rash thanked Commissioner Boling for being on the committee.

**E. Facility/Liability Insurance Review:**

Chief Rash wanted to reiterate the review and explain the increase due to the three components mentioned earlier.

**OPERATIONS REPORT:** Chief Wyrobek

**A. None**

**DISTRICT SECRETARY:** Michelle Rodgers

**A. None**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- A.** Washington Fire Commissioners Association Conference-
- B.** Recruit Graduation: November 1 at 1200 at the Snoqualmie Golf Club. Chief Rash asked if there was any interest in attending. Commissioner Boling is interested in attending. Commissioner Larsen also mentioned he may already be in the area.

**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 7:00 Commissioner Larsen called the meeting back in session. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Final Budget Adoption:** November Meeting
- B. 2025 EMS Levy:** Draft Considerations
- C. Policy Workshop:** Chief Rash asked the commissioners if it is preferred to have the next policy workshop in October/November or next year. Commissioner Boling suggested that with all the different projects currently in motion, the policy workshop would be a priority for next year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

At 7:03 pm Commissioner Larsen 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