

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO 8

Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2025; 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 (via zoom), members of the District, and members of the public.

INTRODUCTIONS & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lieutenant Villard thanked the relationship between SCFD8 and Spalding for the training program. Spalding provides as well as removes cars for training purposes at no cost to us. Due to the extrication training, at a MVA the first patient was able to be extricated in seven minutes and the second patient three minutes later.

L3711 President Blane Holman wanted to encourage the commissioners to review the funding of two brush trucks and Station 85 remodel and to keep these projects moving forward.

Commissioner Rorie 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 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 116099 through 116148 totaling \$241,863.70
- Electronic Payments 12/01/2024 – 12/31/2024 totaling \$564,393.33

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

PROCLAMATIONS

A. Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month: Commissioner Rorie read through the Proclamation and SCFD8 declares January as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month adopted on 14th day of January, 2025. A motion was made by Commissioner Boling and seconded by Commissioner Larsen; move to adopt the proclamation as read. The motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:08 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 6:30 Commissioner Rorie called the meeting back in session. No decisions were made during Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ambulance Service Board: Chief Rash stated over the last several months the ASB has been working through contract negotiations with our current ambulance provider. Both SVFD and SCFD 4 withdrew from the ASB. Chief Wyrobek provided an overview beginning with the expiration of contract on June 30, 2024. He explained there were material changes with SVFD and SCFD 4 exiting, which would have triggered renegotiations anyway, their exit and the contract expiring just happened to occur at the same time. Chief Wyrobek went through a list of material contract changes that are but not limited to: removed remote rural and agreed to the new updated map, established a formal working committee, 5-year term, the AP will provide a coverage plan for situational awareness, added liquidated damages for failure to meet response standards for both ALS and BLS, enhanced preceptor training program, establish an ASB liaison who will act as the primary point of contact for the P&QI committee, reimbursement per transport for PLG agencies expendable medical supplies, supply ordering discounts through GMR purchasing power, liquidated damages for utilization of ASB personnel, agreement maintenance fee moved from \$150k to \$120k for the remaining ASB PLGs, and removed language dictating cost per transport as it was unnecessary given the Balance Billing Act. Chief Rash recommends the Commissioners consider a three year term vs. the five year term to the environmental changes occurring relative to the Balance Billing Act, wages, and transport. There will most likely continue some negotiations but conceptually move forward with this type of contract.

B. Procedure Review 1 of 3: Chief Rash explained each year the policy and procedure committee review 1/3 each year. The first installment of 20 procedures to review and approve are in the commissioners packets. And then he will send out to the members for the 30 day comment period.

C. February Meeting: Commissioner Boling verified in February is the election of officers. Chief Rash confirmed it is. Commissioner Boling has requested a date change for the February meeting as he will be out of town the entire week. He suggested either after the workshop on 2/4 or on 2/18. After discussion amongst the Commissioners, the

February meeting will be held on 2/4 at 1800 and the workshop originally scheduled will be on 2/21 at 1500.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Chief Rash

A. Welcome HR Manager Scacco: Chief Rash introduced the District's new HR Manager Renee Scacco. She comes to us with a great background in human resources and business from WSU through their HR group as well as Spokane Public Radio. Renee has a Bachelor's degree from WSU in business administration and human resources as well as a Master's degree from EWU in business administration. She was welcomed by the Board of Commissioners and members of the District. Chief Rash and Commissioner Larsen thanked Commissioner Boling for being on the hiring committee for this position.

B. 2024 Budget Review: Chief Rash explained we are finalizing the reconciliation for 2024. There were a couple capital projects not completed in 2024 as part of the approved budget for last year which includes the facility placeholder of 1.2 million, the purchase of two brush trucks which we have not completed for 570 thousand and lastly the key lock changes. Side note, regarding the brush trucks, in legal review, the state auditor is being very careful with the piggyback laws. In this instance we were going to piggyback onto another contract, but there was enough substance changes that it no longer would meet the threshold. So it was retracted back after legal review and we are now moving forward and going to purchase our own chassis with the 2025 build. .

C. SREC Update: Chief Rash began with two items. First, SREC purchased the building on Mirabeau Park Drive and have closed that particular deal. This saves 9 million to purchase an existing building with renovation then a new build out in Medical Lake. Secondly, it had been stated earlier there has not been much progress between the City of Spokane and the City Police Department coming into SREC.

D. EMS Levy: Chief Rash stated we will be ready to launch the EMS Levy marketing very shortly. We did slow a little bit though due to Freeman School District currently having a Levy on the ballot for February 11th.

E. Facility Project Update: Chief Rash discussed for Station 81 there is a prebuild meeting tomorrow, 1/15 with the contractor who was awarded the bid. We are currently working through some issues with the City of Spokane, due to having a well onsite. For Station 85 we had a pre-bid meeting today where the contractors were able to walk through and had 40 people representing 10 contractors. Commissioner Boling stated he is not in favor of abandoning the well at Station 81 for multiple reasons. He mentioned once you are on city water you are no longer allowed to drill for a well. Chief Rash mentioned he is having a meeting with the city planning department as to give us reasons why and mitigating circumstances especially since the well has been in consistent use the entire time. It is not our intent to abandon the well.

OPERATIONS REPORT: Chief Wyrobek

A. Alarm Statistics: Chief Wyrobek provided a quick update regarding alarm statistics. For 2024, Fire District 8 ran a total of 4,209 calls which is up 33 calls or .06% increase from 2023. The statistics show the call volume has been relatively flat in 2024 when compared to 2023.

DISTRICT SECRETARY: Michelle Rodgers

A. WFC/WFCA Legislative Day February 6, 2025: Michelle provided information stating we have been able to book half the appointments and are currently waiting on updated contact information on two other individuals. Chief Rash explained the first day of legislation was 1/13 and thus not all of the administrative has been assigned quite yet. We will continue to work on contacting the remaining appointments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- A.** Firefighter Association Donation – Chief Rash shared that a \$1,000 was provided to the Firefighter Association from some citizens who we provided services to over the holiday break.
- B.** Vice Chair Position – Chief Rash wishes a congratulations to Commissioner Larsen on his newly appointed Vice Chair position for the Spokane County Fire Commissioners.
- C.** Santa Float – Commissioner Boling would like to thank the crews participated in the Santa Float. He received a lot of positive comments from his neighborhood.

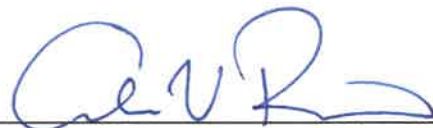
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- A.** Special Meeting January 28, 2025 – Station 85 Renovation Bid Opening 10:00 a.m.
- B.** Meeting February 4, 2025 – New date for Board of Commissioners Meeting
- C.** Workshop Meeting February 21, 2025 – New date for Workshop

ADJOURNMENT

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

At 7:11 pm Commissioner Rorie adjourned the regular meeting.



Andrew V. Rorie, Chair
Fire District 8 Commissioner

ATTEST:



Michelle Rodgers, District Secretary