



THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 9

September 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Dale Putnam of District 9 Board of Fire Commissioners called the meeting to order at 1805 hours. Commissioners Mark Thompson, Mark Campeau; Rich Milligan; Chief Steve North, EA Davie Kindell, Lt. Chris Patti, and Board Secretary Ferol Max attended the regular meeting held via the virtual Zoom platform. Viewing of the meeting was made available to the public with the Zoom meeting link posted on the District website.

Commissioner Dale Putnam welcomed members of the public who were present, and introductions were made.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

CHIEF'S BRIEFING

Chief North is currently in Davenport at the Whitney fire but was able to take a short break to attend the meeting and address concerns about Summit Lake Station staffing. Currently emergency response is provided by career and volunteer staffing at the two primary stations, 91 and 95. Station 93 was built to house six resident firefighters. Stations 92 and 94 have combination staffing of six members to meet requirements for the Survey and Rating Bureau.

Major reduction in the pool of candidates for Residents is a result of the ending of the Fire and Emergency Services Technology (FEST) program and hiring of some of the volunteers as career firefighters when the Maintenance and Operations levy was approved by voters. Residents and volunteers cycle through and move on with life changes or employment as career firefighters. Efforts are underway to find new candidate pools for resident and volunteer firefighters. In the event the County recruit academy is unable to accommodate the number of new McLane volunteer firefighters the District is willing to instruct its own academy. Previous efforts have been made to attract new firefighters with posting and recruiting videos without success. Summit Lake has been staffed with overtime staffing for the last two days because of increased wildfire danger, and would be staffed during weather events in winter, but full-time career staffing is not possible within the constraints of the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND VISITING SPEAKERS

Joni Fuchs – Summit Lake Community Association (SLCA): Joni wished to thank MBLFD for service to the community during this time. St 93 staffing has been of special concern during the pandemic and recent wildfire danger. Members have asked what the current response time is for fire and EMS without having St 93 staffed. Members are also requesting that more than three

recruiting signs be posted and want to hear more about the qualifications and duties of a volunteer firefighter. Community residents would like to be an active part of re-staffing St 93, and be included in future plans for the station.

Chief North reported the response time is approximately 13 minutes, though outlying calls to the back side of the lake can be as much as 17 minutes. Staffing can only be done currently through overtime because there aren't enough personnel to cover shifts at all the stations. No personnel have been removed from St 93 to work elsewhere.

Terry Brannberg – SLCA: Regarding St 93 and new levies that were passed with the promise that station would be manned, the problem is better understood now due to Chief's briefing. The SL community was instrumental in obtaining the dry hydrants, paying for installation and regular testing. Terry states it feels like MBLFD doesn't have any interest in protecting the SL area. Terry asked if the fire department originally installed the 'no parking' signs by the hydrants and wondered who took them away and whether they will be reinstalled. He believes it would be valuable to have McLane Black Lake Fire Department's name on the signs in addition "No Parking."

Chief North stated he believed hydrants are being tested as part of the yearly program and will verify if they have been checked this year. He doesn't know the origination of the 'no parking' signs because they were installed before he joined the district. He was not aware the signs had been removed and will see that they are reinstalled.

Craig Edwards – President of SLCA: Craig asked if the 'no parking' signs can be marked with MBLFD so they are identified as official; Chief North noted that as long as they are on private property (as in this case, because it's park property) that is appropriate.

Craig stated he feels if the goals for staffing St 93 are put in writing it would be more efficient to manage. He would like SLCA to be informed in the future if there are staffing issues and what the plan is to fix it and felt there should have been some dialogue about why the station was unmanned.

Commissioner Putnam apologized and pointed out that when organizations rely on volunteers there will always be some lack of control; at this time, volunteerism is down everywhere.

Craig stated he understands that from the point of SLCA volunteer participation, but that it's necessary to have a plan. Commissioner Putnam asked EA Kindell to provide info about the volunteer program, training time, and commitment, and reassured the group that Chief North will be willing to set up a training session. EA Kindell will provide relevant info to Joni who will distribute it to SLCA members. She pointed out that recruiting is a lot different than retention; volunteers are required to fulfill many hours of shifts and continued training exercises. Craig says it's important for the community to understand what the requirements are.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief North is being called away and quickly reported the district has been very active with ten wildfire mobilizations going on; he was in central Oregon and is now in Davenport WA. One engine is out on a strike team, and one was in California but has returned. Oregon is much worse than Washington, but it will be a while before MBLFD can free up resources to go help. Chief North has authorized full staff callback because of weather which allows MBLFD to keep stations staffed while some members are on mobilizations.

There was a COVID scare but testing was negative; there are currently two others who are still in quarantine awaiting a second test. MBLFD is operating with an abundance of caution and there have been no positives cases.

Brush 91 had some mechanical issues while out on mobilization but did make it home.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 13, 2020; the motion carried.

Approval of Vouchers and Payroll:

A motion was made and seconded to approve vouchers from Fund 6690 totaling \$411,314.74; and from Fund 6694 totaling \$959.60; the motion carried.

Cancellation of Warrant: A motion was made and seconded to authorize cancellation of warrant #15305075 in the amount of \$436.07 as it was a duplicate payment; the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Vacant Commissioner Position: Applications were received from Leonard Albert and Jason Berman. EA Kindell would like to set up interviews before the next meeting and will send an email to board members with available times.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Finance:

EA Kindell reported work on the budget continues with budget requests due by September 30. There is potential this may be delayed due to staff assignments on mobilizations. Preliminary values are in for the District, showing an increase of 4.8% in assessed value over last year. By statute the District will be able to collect 1% over last year's general expense fund levy. The Seattle, Tacoma, Bellevue CPI for June 2020 is .9 over last year, which will entitle the bargaining unit to a 2% COLA.

The recruitment process is ongoing, and EA Kindell is looking into new ideas as well as what other departments are doing. The demographic has changed and what the District has done in the past is no longer effective.

Fire safety week will concentrate on fire safety in the kitchen. EA Kindell is working on an online presence for fire prevention week. There has been a lot of trouble with hacking on the website, but EA Kindell is hoping to get that addressed in time for a virtual open house.

Commissioner Milligan would like to help with recruitment efforts. EA Kindell said it may be important to eliminate the requirement that all residents must be both EMT and FF1 certified.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Putnam reported TCFCA is still meeting via conference call to conduct immediate business only.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Thanks to Joni, Terry, and Craig for bringing their concerns to the meeting. EA Kindell reiterated that she will send out the requested information so it can be shared with members of SLCA. Commissioner Thompson wondered if SLCA members were familiar with the term FEST and

explained the acronym, Fire and Emergency Services Technology program, and how its demise affected the resident firefighter candidate pool.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners adjourned at 1850.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

For Thurston County Fire District 9:


Dale Putnam, Chairperson


Mark Thompson, Commissioner


Mark Campeau, Commissioner


Rich Milligan, Commissioner

Vacant


Ferol Max, Board Secretary
September 10th, 2020



125 Delphi Rd NW
Olympia, WA

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

6:00 PM

The Board of Fire Commissioners shall convene at 6:00 PM and immediately adjourn to Executive Session for an anticipated 60 minutes, for the sole purpose of considering the qualifications of an applicant to fill vacant Commissioner Position 3. Upon adjournment from Executive Session, the Board will immediately reconvene the Special Meeting and take any action in open session as required. The meeting will be held via Zoom at the following link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87635515301?pwd=bDZFa2FxQTVkYThLRDd2K0dUQnAwZz09>



THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 9
Special Meeting

September 30, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting was called to order on the Zoom platform at 1802 hours. In attendance were Commissioners Dale Putnam, Chair, Commissioner, Mark Campeau, Commissioner Rich Milligan and Commissioner Mark Thompson. Assistant Chief Leonard Johnson and Executive Assistant Davie Kindell also attended the meeting.

AGENDA

The meeting was held for the exclusive purpose of considering candidates to fill vacant Commissioner Position 3. Commissioner Putnam called the special meeting to order at 1802 hours and immediately adjourned into executive session for an anticipated 60 minutes, to consider the qualifications of two candidates for public employment, as authorized by RCW42.

The executive session adjourned at 1852 hours, and immediately reconvened in open session to announce the selection of the new Board member. The Board selected Dr. Leonard Albert to fill Position 3, Commissioner Putnam agreed to notify both candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners adjourned at 1855.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

For Thurston County Fire District 9:

Dale Putnam, Chairperson

Mark Thompson, Commissioner

Mark Campeau, Commissioner

Rich Milligan, Commissioner

Vacant

Attest: Davie Kindell, Executive Assistant
October 10, 2020