



BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

MAY 11, 2023

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

No Business

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Dale Putnam of District 9 Board of Fire Commissioners called the meeting to order at 1800 hours at the District's headquarters station, 125 Delphi Rd, NW, Olympia, WA 98502. Commissioners Dale Putnam, Len Albert (virtual), Mark Thompson, Mark Campeau and Jason Foust (virtual), Chief Leonard Johnson (virtual), AC Chris Patti, BOD Davie Kindell, new BOD Brett Warwick, Captain Jeff Novak (virtual), Board Secretary Tom McBride and guest Brent Adams (virtual) attended the regular meeting held in person and via the virtual Zoom platform using the link posted on the District's website.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None. The agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT & VISITING SPEAKERS

None.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. *Approval of Minutes:*

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 13, 2023; the motion carried.

2. *Approval of Vouchers and Payroll:*

A motion was made and seconded to approve vouchers and payroll in the amounts listed below in items a through d; the motion carried.

- a. General Fund 6690 \$510,518.21;
- b. Capital Fund 6691 \$735.00;
- c. EMS/Apparatus Replacement Fund 6694 \$2,376.23;
- d. SORT Fund 6699 \$16,967.19.

3. *Approval of Resolution 23-587:*

A motion was made and seconded to approve Resolution 23-587 Maintenance & Operations Levy; the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *M&O*

The District intends to propose a new maintenance and operations levy rate for approval by District 9 voters. The proposed rate will vary between 75 and 84 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value and maintain the overall cost of service near \$2.25/\$1,000 of AV each of the four years. This will result in a more clear and consistent levy amount to enable sustained service levels for residents in the District.

Commissioner Thompson suggested that additional historical language is added to the Explanatory statement noting previous voter approval. Chief Johnson proposed such language and BOD Kindell will add the language prior to submittal to the County.

2. *Recognition Policy*

BOD Kindell explained that the recognition policy work continues. She is working with legal counsel on language that will provide an annual recognition dinner as a de minimis employee. A final draft of the policy will be presented next month.

3. *BLS Transport Program and Fees*

Chief Johnson explained that a resolution was sent out prior to the Board meeting for informational purposes concerning the District's current transport billing process. A rate increase will only affect privately insured patients because limits are placed on Medicare and Medicaid patients. The

Commissioner Putnam asked if the District has a write-off policy and, if not, suggested that it develop and approve such a policy. Chief Johnson agreed that a policy is a good idea to clarify that those outside the District should continue to pay the fees. BOD Kindell indicated that she will review the District collection policy. Commissioner Campeau agreed with this plan.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

1. *Finance/Administration:*

The new BOD, Brett Warwick, has started training with current BOD Kindell. Transition will be progressing throughout the month.

Work continues on career member physicals. Firefighters have been asked to sign up . Of the six participating Districts, District 9 is leading with 22 sign ups so far. The District plans to impose a deadline on sign ups in order to fill the slots. The District secured 90 physical slots by partnering with 5 other Districts. The other Districts have not fulfilled their share of slots to date. If that doesn't change, District 9 will need to recruit other Districts to participate.

The Columbia Park water refill project resulted in an unusual and unfortunate fish die-off. Fish & Wildlife believes that the water aeration was not sufficient to support the fish. District 9 will also be working in the Summit Lake community to support the fishing derby on May 20. A bike rodeo is scheduled for July 1.

2. *Operations:*

AC Patti reported that operations activity for the month of April 2023 are up over March 2022 (152). There were 222 calls for the month of April 2023, composed of 87 fire and 135 EMS. BLS transports in April 2023 were at 59 and 202 for 2023 to date. The BLS number is down from 2022. Moreover, there were very few mutual aid transports.

There are a number of apparatus updates to report. The District's white Dodge has been returned with the light package installed. Training on the Hurst tools is 90% complete for career staff. The Hurst tools have been installed on the trucks with a retrofit necessary in the rear storage area. Upfitting of the ATVs is 80% complete with the units expected to be in-service within the next two weeks. New radios for all 5 stations will be installed very soon.

3. *Fire Chief:*

The Chief indicated that there are no new work-related injuries to report for April 2023. Currently only one employee remains on leave, the temporary employee was returned to full duty during April. One employee continues long-term LNI Time Loss leave. Two temporary firefighters continue to provide coverage for ongoing vacancies.

The Logistics Chief position was posted through May 8, 2023. The Fire District received six applicants for the position. Four of the applicants are being moved forward to panel interviews on May 16, 2023. Commissioner Campeau will join the interview panel.

New recruits are nearing completion of initial training. They continue to progress through the training successfully. Graduation is on June 3, 2023.

A volunteer staff meeting was held on the evening of April 21, 2023. The meeting was well attended and several items for improving the program were discussed. Those include returning to regularly scheduled training nights and providing driver training opportunities to improve availability for response. The Fire District's five new volunteers continue to progress through Recruit Academy. Class is expected to near completion in early June. EMT training is also nearing completion. One volunteer has completed the Centralia Community College Program and is preparing for National Registry. Four Volunteers are in the TC Medic One EMT Program, expected to complete training at the beginning of June. Graduation for both EMT and Fire academy is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 1300 hours at the South Puget Sound Community College. The District is planning a Pinning Ceremony, June 27 at 1800 hours.

The tire replacement project on E91/95 was resolved in late April. New tires changed the handling characteristics of the apparatus. After further review, the tire supplier provided tires from another manufacturer with the same size and design. Operators reported that the apparatus handled similarly to performance prior to the Firestone change over. Both apparatuses had the Bridgestone tires installed and both were returned to service the following week.

The District is securing a bid and customer supplied equipment for new aid cars. The District received confirmation from Braun NW that VIN numbers have been assigned to ambulances. They anticipate delivery of chassis in fourth quarter of this year. AC Patti and Captain Novak recently completed final review of change orders for construction. Ordering of customer supplied items has started in preparation for construction. The District continues to explore alternative options for high quality used equipment at a lower price.

Final release of the Station 95 roof repair/replacement project has been submitted to LNI for Prevailing Wage. Once completed this will release the retainage. We have a single warranty claim open presently on HVAC controls. The District is awaiting a response from JA Morris on resolution.

For Station 91 roof repairs, the submission deadline for price quotes is May 31, 2023. The project is anticipated to take place in August and September.

The replacement of the pump control for the Training Center fire water supply has been authorized for \$12,750.00. The repair will replace an out-of-date and non-functioning variable speed drive for the pump. The project will start in June. The Fire District replaced the pump late last year.

Work continues this summer in preparation for the District 9 maintenance and operations levy.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Putnam advised the Board that Thurston County Commissioner meetings were now being held only on the virtual Zoom platform, which should make attendance easier if interested.

Commissioner Campeau reported that West Thurston met with South Thurston and indicated that it may have interest in joining the group working on a BLS solution. A letter to St. Peter Hospital from interested fire authorities is in process. The letter seeks to address problems related to long wait times for fire authorities during BLS transports due to admission delays at hospitals.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

BOD Kindell reported that she will send a thank you letter on behalf of the District to the Washington State Fire Commissioners Association for its assistance with recent health insurance problems with the current provider Cigna. Beginning August 1, the carrier providing coverage will once again be First Choice Health..

The District was notified by the State Health Care Authority that it will be receiving an interim settlement of \$550,000 within the next 60 days.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Board meeting; the motion carried. The Board adjourned at 1847.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

For Thurston County Fire District 9:



Dale Putnam, Chair



Len Albert, Commissioner



Mark Campeau



Jason Foust, Commissioner



Mark Thompson, Commissioner



Tom McBride, Board Secretary

Date