

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 19th, 2020

Present:

Chairman Dobry
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Motzer

The meeting was open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform; no members of the public joined via the platform.

I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Dobry called the meeting to order at 5:34pm and followed with a salute to our Nation's flag.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published:

Motion: Commissioner Motzer
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

- None present.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the March 5th, 2020 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
- B. Draft minutes of the March 5th, 2020 of the Board of Volunteer Firefighters meeting.
- C. Draft minutes of the March 7th, 2020 of the Board of Fire Commissioners Workshop.

D. Warrants

- General Fund 001 (Acct# 6630) checks numbered #21928 through #21942 in the amount of \$104,492.37
- 2017A Capital Projects Fund 306 (Acct#6639) checks numbered #21943 through #21947 in the amount of \$443,988.62

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Motzer

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Carried: Unanimous

Commissioner Kirkbride inquired about the special use permit cost. Chief Brooks explained it was necessary for a review related to the Station 33 annexation.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One E.M.S. Council

Commissioner Kirkbride reported:

- The County Commissioners have suspended all meetings, but the EMS council held a conference call meeting.
- Director Hardin gave a briefing describing the rapidly changing situation with Covid19.
 - o He noted that costs associated with Covid19 have to be clearly identified.
 - o Medic One is supporting the county EMS efforts in a variety of ways.
 - o He also noted the national stockpile has been released so that Washington should be receiving additional supplies.

B. Thurston 9-1-1 Communications (TCOMM) Administration Board

Commissioner Roberts stated the next meeting is scheduled for April 1st.

C. City / District Liaison

No report, next meeting on April 21st, anticipated to be at City Hall.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Motzer attended via a phone conference. He reported that:

- The Commissioners discussed the format for an emergency declaration resolution.
- The Commissioners discussed firefighter physicals – the expense and the difficulty of smaller districts to afford them. The also noted they do not include cancer screenings.

Commissioner Dobry discussed his efforts in getting Washington Fire Commissioners insurance trust to cover the costs or at least reimburse for the costs of the medicals.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)

Commissioner Dobry reported:

- TRPC considered a suggestion from the retreat held in 2019 regarding initiating an Education and Housing subcommittee. TRPC decided that an education subcommittee was not needed but created a 4-person housing subcommittee to look at potential involvement and scope of work.
- Briefings were provided on Thurston Stream Flow restoration, Capitol Campus travel and the Regional Transportation plan.

F. Community Outreach Status Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- The recent changes in the Community Outreach Program necessitated by Covid19.
 - o Two paramedics and training staff visited 16 long term care facilities and 4 urgent care facilities to educate on LFD activities, MPD directives and to answer questions.
 - o Through the group of County Medical Services Officers (MSO), Capt Weiss is now the point of contact for care facilities; other groups have a Tumwater or Olympia MSOs as their POC.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks reported

- Station 34 is progressing well.
- Staff has re engaged in conversations regarding VRF. The original plan proposed extending the existing building; staff is also cautiously exploring the possibility of leaving the existing VRF alone and building a second building. Both options have advantages and disadvantages.
- Station 33 annexation is in the hands of the City. The Chief reached out in person or by mail to the other property holders then submitted final paperwork so that the City could move forward with a hearing.

- Travel to Wisconsin for plan review of the Truck has been postponed; Pierce is only allowing a trip to the factory for final inspection. Planned arrival of the apparatus has been pushed out a few months.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution 875-03-20 Declaring a Local State of Emergency

Chief Brooks explained the purpose of executing a declaration of emergency. He noted he had sought review and counsel from legal, who provided several pertinent legal citations supporting the validity of such an action. Steve DiJulio, District's counsel, noted the only thing he felt that could be challengeable was whether or not the situation constituted an emergency. Chief Brooks noted most other governmental agencies in the county were also implementing declarations of emergency.

Chief Brooks noted that the intent was to give more flexibility to the Board in the event of a short notice meeting. The District would still provide all regular notifications and postings so that public participation could still occur, but the 24-hour notice would be waived. He stated that the District was implementing new technologies to assist in remote public participation as well; tonight's meeting was opened to the public via Zoom.

MOTION: To accept Resolution 875-03-20 Declaring a Local State of Emergency.

Motion: Commissioner Roberts

Second: Commissioner Hetzler

Commissioner Kirkbride expressed serious concerns but noted he would support the resolution. The main concern relates to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), where violations place the Commissioners personally financially at risk. He stated his preference would be a "just in time" declaration rather than a blanket declaration as intended by this resolution.

Commissioner Roberts stated we are living in unprecedented times. She noted that school districts have passed emergency declarations then rescinded them when the circumstances had passed.

Chief noted that when the emergency has abated, the resolution could be superseded or revoked or otherwise ended. If Board requested, a revocation

clause could be included, but none of the model resolutions available had one included.

Commissioner Motzer expressed concerns about the legal ramifications of violation of the OPMA. Chief noted the meetings are still open to the public, but that technology would be implemented to accomplish that.

Commissioner Dobry noted that relative to the OPMA, the proposed resolution only waived the notice requirements and meeting location restrictions. Commissioner Dobry further requested that the words "more than" be added to the resolution preceding the CDC confirmed cases numbers.

Commissioner Roberts amended her motion to include the words "more than" in front of the CDC confirmed cases in paragraph seven.

The amended motion was seconded by Commissioner Hetzler.

AMENDED MOTION: To accept Resolution 875-03-20 Declaring a Local State of Emergency as amended.

Carried: Unanimous

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks provided the following updates:

- A phone conference with the equivalent of the financial planner for ESCI will produce a couple different models for the financials for the Tumwater Regionalization study. ESCI understands the perceived issues and concerns about the accuracy of the original projections.
- Covid19 circumstances continue to change frequently; Chief is still serving as the Fire and EMS rep to the County ECC. A daily briefing occurs each morning.
- The District has opened new meeting options with the Zoom platform for remote meetings
- Stations have closed to outside meetings, public tours, etc with signs posted on all the stations.
- Partners arise from interesting places in the community. For example, from a local distillery - Sandstone Distillery, which has stopped production of product to switch to producing hand sanitizer. They requested a photo with District apparatus, or de-identified apparatus if a logoed vehicle was not an option. The Chief queried the Board and received favorable support. Community Outreach will coordinate those efforts.

- Chief Brooks thanked Logistics for all their work in supporting both the Covid efforts and continuing the great coordination with the Station 31 project.

Chief Schmidt reported:

- Operations have been completely changed with a focus on emergency services and decontamination procedures.
- Training has been suspended.
- Employee screening will be implemented on Saturday, with all crews and Admin being screened prior to work.
- Spirits are well and the crews are supporting each other and the Balance Team assisting as well.
- The Training team is working on information podcasts that will be shared internally.
- Community Outreach is serving as the point of contact for external messaging through social media.

Commissioner Dobry inquired if there was a contingency for staff to work from home. Chief Brooks noted that IT was working on solutions for that, and that the District was trying to be flexible and creative in solutions that allowed staff to be productive from home.

Commissioner Hetzler inquired about the PPE situation – was it really a problem and did the District have a sufficient amount. Chief Brooks noted that the crews were practicing PPE conservation and that for now we were okay, but that supplies were diminishing.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hetzler – no comment.

Commissioner Kirkbride noted that Lee Brooks and the Family Support program wonderful and critical – he extended his thanks to all. He also noted he had received a mailer from Dispatch Heath and hoped the district, to the extent possible, could be good partners with them.

Commissioner Motzer – no comment.

Commissioner Dobry – we are living in historic times; He thanked the Chief and members for their work.

Commissioner Roberts – thanked the Chief and members for continued efforts. She noted that we do well for disaster planning, but the scope of this was unprecedented; she appreciated all the planning that was occurring.

X. OTHER INFORMATION

- A. Suggestion Box – None.
- B. Correspondence – None

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None

XII. ADJOURNMENT

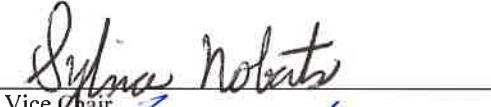

The Board of Fire Commissioners meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

*Next Regular Meeting: April 2, 2020– 5:30 p.m.
In person and available via remote meeting*


Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner


Vice Chair

Commissioner


ATTEST: District Secretary