

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 21st, 2020

Chairman Dobry
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Motzer

The meeting was open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform.

I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Dobry called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Motzer

Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

- Olympic Ambulance Director Chris Clem shared that their call volume has picked up recently. He stated that Olympic Ambulance has increased marketing for new hire recruitment.
 - o Commissioner Dobry and Commissioner Kirkbride inquired about which types of calls Olympic Ambulance is seeing.
 - Director Clem stated that there is no specific increase in the nature of the calls, as call volume has gone up overall. He also shared that calls had dropped 30% previously and that they are currently at the projected call volume numbers for 2020.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. General Fund 001 (Acct# 6630) checks numbered #22029 through #22034 in the amount of \$66,039.49
- B. 2017 Capital Improvement Project Fund 306 (Acct#6639) checks #22035 through #22037 in the amount of \$643,664.38

C. Payroll #05A 2020 in the amount of \$1,135,226.28

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Roberts

Second: Commissioner Kirkbride

Carried: Unanimous

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- There has been an increase of calls, and the District is currently experiencing call volumes at or above expected baseline. He shared that there has been a significant increase in domestic violence, suicide attempts, and suicide calls.
- There have not been any COVID-19 exposures to positive cases and members have remained healthy. He shared that through partnership with Medic One and through the Logistics team that the District has been able to procure more N-95 masks and gowns.
- Emergency Management is scaling back meetings as Washington State moves towards next phase of recovery. He shared that for five days in a row there have been no new reported positive cases in Thurston County.
- Member health screenings have continued at the beginning of each shift, however screenings will be reduced from twice a shift to once a shift.
- This week is National EMS week and leadership met with the crews to thank them for their service.
- Commissioner Dobry inquired that under Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Washington plan, meetings can resume and he asked if we can meet in person in our next meeting. Chief Brooks stated that as we begin to resume in person meetings that he would like to continue to offer the option of attending via the Zoom platform.

- Updates from the May 18th Citizen's Advisory Committee: Staff Report or Committee Representative

Citizen Advisory Committee Member, Dave Ribacchi shared:

- Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting went well and that the committee advised the Board to plan for a ballot measure related to the regular levy at the November election.

Chief Brooks reported:

- Citizen's Advisory Committee to consider the three detailed projections that Finance Director Hough is currently working on:
 - Worst case would be if the District took no action and fell back to 1%.
 - To consider the ballot measure. The revenue gap between these two decisions is \$1 Million:
 - To maintain the current levy at \$1.43
 - To restore the current levy to \$1.50
- Board to formally discuss a levy measure at their June 4th meeting. Final action needs to be prior to August 4th in order to meet the submission deadline.
- Discussion took place regarding the economy.
 - Commissioner Dobry stated that it is important to obtain factual information from the local economy.
 - He inquired if the District can obtain the number of unemployed residents in the County and in our District?
 - Chief Brooks shared that the District may be able to obtain some data regarding unemployment numbers from the County, however they may not mirror District numbers as Lacey has a high number of residents who are service members. He shared that the Thurston Regional Planning Council tracks data by fire district, but that they may not currently track unemployment. Commissioner Dobry will inquire with TRPC at their next meeting.
 - He inquired regarding trend of the CPI?
 - Finance Director Hough shared that CPI is at 1.3%
 - He inquired if the county anticipates that assessed values would go down next year?
 - Chief Brooks shared that Finance Director Hough reached out to Thurston County regarding what assessed values would be and he is presently awaiting their response.

- Commissioner Kirkbride and Commissioner Roberts discussed current and projected future unemployment rates.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Proposal for Vehicle Repair Facility Improvements: Staff Report and Proposed Action (Appendix A)
 - o Chief Brooks shared:
 - This proposal is for the 4th bay and is the outdoor enclosure to the Vehicle Repair Facility to make it usable in inclement weather. Putting up walls and two roll up doors along with a pedestrian door. Olympia believes that this change would allow them additional capacity to work during inclement weather.
 - Due to cost, it is considered a small works project. Permitting has been received and it is now a fully permitted project.
 - Commissioner Hetzler inquired if the District put this project out to bid.
 - Logistic Director Chambers shared that the project was posted to the available subscription roster list and that Kaufman was the only contractor who showed up to the open viewing and submitted a proposal.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride stated that this is an expensive project per square foot. If this work was included in other project the overall cost would drop.
 - Commissioner Dobry inquired if we could negotiate the price. Commissioner Kirkbride stated that a negotiations were unlikely, as there is significant labor costs required in the project.
 - Commissioner Dobry inquired of the items on the list of exclusions provided by the contractor, as to which still need to be done?
 - Chief Brooks responded that there are additional costs associated with COVID-19 in that there are requirements for site supervision. Not planning on doing any additional enhancements to the wiring or infrastructure. The project will align with whatever the next phase of building will be.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride asked if there was adequate lighting and heating in the space now that it will be enclosed.

- Logistics Director Chambers shared that the lighting was upgraded prior and that it would be an unheated space once the project is completed.

MOTION: To authorize Chief Brooks to sign the contract with the Kaufman for an amount not to exceed \$87,096.21 and proceed with work for the outdoor enclosure.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Carried: With 4 voting yea, 0 nay votes, and 1 recusal.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks provided the following updates:

- New Engine 34 has had a continued emissions failure issue. The District engaged a lawyer to look into the Lemon Law, however it is not likely covered as it is a commercial vehicle. He shared that Hughes Fire Equipment is doing everything they can do to remedy the situation and Pierce reports 16 engineers are currently working on the issue. The engine does have a 1 year overall bumper to bumper warranty and a 5 year powertrain warranty. Chief Brooks shared that he requested a log of complaint, as the District is nearing the one year mark on the bumper to bumper warranty. He requested that Hughes and Pierce issue an extension of the one year warranty regarding this issue, since it has remained unresolved, even though he believes the issue would be covered under the 5 year warranty. The District is currently awaiting legal advice.
 - o Commissioner Dobry asked if they could swap out the power plant portion as a remedy of the situation.
 - Chief Brooks shared that it was a remedy the District could accept: to swap the Detroit engine to a Cummins engine.
- The District was contacted by the City of Olympia Public Works office requesting a water quality well be considered at Station 32. The surveyor can assess the land at no cost to the District. Chief Brooks also shared that there would not be an impact to Pattison Water District.
 - o Commissioner Kirkbride shared that it is an ongoing project which is a critical part of maintaining water quality. He shared that a well should go near a property corner as far away from where we could be developing in the future. He inquired if there were any restrictions regarding development within a certain distance from the well?
 - Chief Brooks shared that he inquired regarding the development in relation to the well and he was awaiting that information.

- o The Board shared their agreement to take the project to the next phase by allowing survey work to go forward.
- Discussed changes to public meeting space, and the District will not make changes to facility use space until Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Washington plan.
- Outreach request was received regarding Flag Day at South Sound Center on Sunday, June 14th and it was asked if a District engine could attend.
- Shared it has been a very active week in the District and he applauded the crew for their hard work.
- Commissioner Dobry inquired about volunteer recruit academy.
 - o Chief Brooks shared that recruit academy is being conducted via remote learning and they are working on consolidated skills training. There will be a remote graduation this year, and they hope to be a new recruit session for the fall. He also shared that EMT academy had to be cancelled.
- Commissioner Dobry stated that Steve Slater had inquired with him as to when SOP meeting could resume at Station 34 under Phase 2.
 - o Chief Brooks shared that he would speak to Staff and look at dates.
- Chief Brooks has been officially appointed to the State Chiefs Board.

VIII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kirkbride – He shared that this week has been a busy week for EMS Council regarding their budget meeting in which they were asked to consider the reduction in the budget for this year and 2021. The County has directed all agencies to reduce their budget by 15% for the remainder of this year and for 2021. He shared that there had been discussion regarding need for a ballot measure and discussion took place regarding the 60% majority needed for a permanent levy restoration. He shared that he noted an increase in call volume in our District regarding mental health and substance abuse matters.

Commissioner Motzer – He shared that he attended the Fire Commissioners meeting on the 18th where they discussed communications, ALS negotiations, and the 15% budget reduction. He shared that there will be a commissioner webinar May 30th and June 5th.

Commissioner Dobry – He wanted to remind everyone that Lt. Heikes is having his retirement on the 30th. He inquired if Lt. Heikes is the longest serving member with the District.

- Chief Brooks shared that Lt. Heikes is the longest serving member of the District at 43 years of service.

Commissioner Roberts – None.

Commissioner Hetzler – She shared that she was grateful to be able to view the recordings and thanked to Commissioner Kirkbride for his effort and time he

placed into the research of the Tumwater Regionalization Study, and that she appreciated his reporting.

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

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

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District has received several emails and thank you notes from citizens.

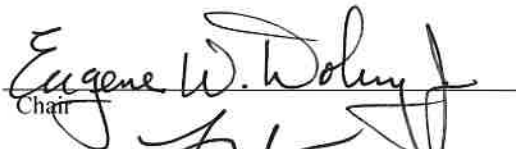
X. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

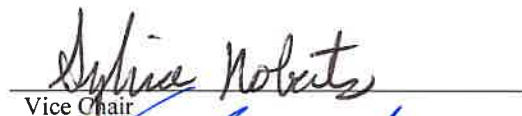
The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

*Next Regular Meeting: June 4th, 2020– 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting or potentially in person at Station 31, located at 1231 Franz St.
SE.*


Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner


Vice Chair

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary