

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

June 18th, 2020

Chairman Dobry
Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Motzer

The meeting was open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform. Citizen Advisory Council members were in attendance.

I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

Chairman Dobry called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride
Second: Commissioner Hetzler
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

- Olympic Ambulance Director Chris Clem shared that call volume has dropped with hospital discharges are down, but 911 calls are up. They are conducting final preparations for wildland season and one unit is available to deploy for wildland medical assistance.
 - o Commissioner Kirkbride shared his thanks to Director Clem for attending our meetings.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- General Fund 001 (Acct# 6630) checks numbered #22067 through #22081 in the amount of \$150,312.99
- 2017A Capital Improvement Project Fund 306 (Acct#6639) checks #22082 through #22085 in the amount of \$963,384.72
- 2017B Capital Improvement Project Fund 307 (Acct#663B) check numbered #22086 in the amount of \$523,572.36

- 2017C Capital Improvement Project Fund 308 (Acct#663C) checks #22087 through #22089 in the amount of \$264,323.26
- Payroll #06A-2020 in the amount of \$ 1,191,463.22

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Roberts

Second: Commissioner Kirkbride

Carried: Unanimous

- Commissioner Kirkbride inquired regarding the warrants as to what an Israeli bandage is.
 - Chief Brooks shared that it is a tourniquet.
- Chief Brooks shared that with these expenditures the District has exhausted two of the three capital improvement project funds and is transitioning to our third fund. The District is roughly 50% through our expenditures and more than 50% through actual construction. Discussion took place regarding expenditures, projects and bond funds.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- That the total number of positive cases in the County has been rising, however those cases almost exclusively trace back to the cases which have been tied to the area assisted living facilities. Thurston County is now at 205 cases and 5 individuals have passed away. He shared that those numbers don't appear to represent community spread. Thurston County has applied to move into Phase 3.
- District is currently at or above normal response volumes and call volume is somewhat less predictable.
- Discussed the June 8th masks for all employees directive set forth by Governor Inslee, which went into place. The District asked for an L&I review of a policy that the District has developed and L&I agreed to have a joint conference call with the District, the State Chiefs, State Fire Commissioners, the State Council of Firefighters, and some other fire agencies.
- Discussed that purchase card purchases above \$1,000 and that the report added a COVID related expenses column for tracking.
 - Commissioner Dobry asked if reimbursement for COVID expenses would be from the state.

- Chief Brooks clarified that reimbursement would occur through FEMA.
 - Finance Director Hough is in the process of submitting FEMA requests. He shared that turn-around time for reimbursement is unknown at this time.
- Potential Levy Ballot Measure Discussions

Chief Brooks shared:

- Staff got together to discuss core messaging if the Board chooses to proceed with the levy lid lift. He shared that Director Hough looked into budget impacts to citizens. The payoff of previous bonds is set to decrease the overall levy rate \$0.04, so the net increase of a full levy restoration would be \$0.03 to taxpayers. He shared that other comparable districts generally have higher total levy rates and many also bill citizens for EMS transport services.
- Community Outreach Coordinator Chris DeBell is looking at previous levy messaging and is working on current educational information.
- This week's overall unemployment was down approximately 3%. Chief Brooks recommended waiting until just after the August Primary Election for moving forward with messaging regarding a General Election ballot measure.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride shared that he would like to include the Tumwater Regionalization Study in our messaging to show the AV of neighboring fire districts, as it is an already published document.
 - Chief Brooks stated that sharing planned actions with citizens such as the recently funded station due to growth in Station 34 area can be included in messaging such that the Districts wants to be able to keep pace with community. The Chief shared that messaging should be simplistic citing the comparative value and efficiency of the District.
- Commissioner Motzer posted a poll on his social media page following consultation with the PDC regarding the potential levy increase. He shared the results: 38.5% for yes, and 61.5% for no. He shared messaging is going to be paramount. He shared he will keep the poll up for others to respond and wants to go with the public wants.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride asked how many people responded.

- Commissioner Motzer shared it had been up for about 20 hours and there were 13 respondents.
 - Commissioner Roberts agreed that the levy messaging is critical and the District needs to share with the public that it is a restoration or continuation of the levy. She also stressed the importance of sharing all of the services the District provides to the community.
 - Commissioner Hetzler stated constituents are happy with level of service and want to continue with that level of service.
- Commissioner Dobry updated the Board that he inquired of the unemployment numbers at the TRPC meeting last Friday and he was referred to Economic Development Council. He reached out to them and is awaiting to hear back.
 - Chief Brooks shared that he received the Economic Development Council numbers from another meeting and that the City of Lacey is trending at or below current Thurston County unemployment numbers namely due to number of citizens who serve in our military and our retiree population.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride inquired as to when it should a decision should take place as to whether to proceed with the levy or not.
 - Chief Brooks shared July 16th would be latest regular BoFC meeting to act before the deadline.
 - Discussion took place regarding unemployment and recent state government furloughs. It was decided to make decision regarding the District levy at the July 16th meeting of the Board.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- ALS Contract
 - Coordination of limited number (1) out of service units for no longer than four hours.
 - Proposed two year agreement through 2022.
 - Increases number of District paramedics one paramedic to 28 paramedics because includes MSO.
 - Changed contract a continuous baseline payment to be billed regardless of staffing levels and more predictable for District budgeting.
 - Annual and periodic vaccinations to be maintained.

- 80% reimbursement for annual physicals.
- Paramedic school funding; can bill half when start school and second half if successful when completed for total of \$35,000.
- Allow us to have up to three additional paramedics above 28 and difference between FF vs. PM and same rights for educational funding by Medic One would be supported.
- Allowance for paramedic and EMT staffing for occasional special circumstances (i.e. mass casualty incidents, high call volumes)
- 6% of wages/benefits as an allocation to cover OT.
- Contract is going through legal review with the County.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride suggested to add a provision to the contract language in the event that there isn't funds in order to open the contract for renegotiation.
 - Commissioner Roberts shared that the language should address the financial impact of the contract instead of reopening the whole contract if no funds available to support the contract.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride requested the consensus of the Board to add language above.
- The contract was reviewed at the June EMS Council and will be up for action at the July EMS council meeting, with the County Commissioners to review in late July or early August for ratification.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks provided the following updates:

- Flag Day on Sunday and the District participated in virtual Flag Day ceremony. Thank you received from Thurston County Realtors.
- Open Public Meetings restrictions by the Governor extended until July 1st at least.
- Station 31 modified to be ready to accommodate the public in limited volumes during Phase 3.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kirkbride – Suggested old Board agenda template to include Committee Reports. Very full agenda in Medic One Budget Committee. For the current budget for 2020 cut \$700,000 out of the budget reduced purchases and hiring. Existing funding sources for 2021-2022. Asked to preserve the employees. Still have enough in funds to be able to cover increase in cost to contract, biggest impact in 2022 in terms of ALS and BLS contracts. EMS Levy Committee was appointed.

Commissioner Motzer – He shared County treasurer sent out 3,500 past due notices. County cannot ban fireworks except for severe fire conditions.

Commissioner Dobry – He attended the City District meeting with Scott Spence and Deputy Mayor Cynthia Pratt. Discussion took place regarding social distancing with public hearings during Phase 3 and Phase 4. Shared that Long Lake has no lifeguards as training was not available due to the pandemic. City is planning for a 30% reduction in sales tax or \$6.6 million reduction. To date it has had no furloughs except P/T recreational staff. The City is convening a homeless committee and invited a member from Lacey Fire District 3. Shared Hawks Prairie drive through COVID testing site is expensive to operate and St. Pete’s not funding entirely.

- Many urgent care centers now able to do rapid testing.

TRPC report is in compliance with Washington DOT. Commercial aviation study for statewide locations/ six different site proposals by January 2021 and will be down to two sites by December 2021 for a decision by January 2022. They conducted a 2020 transportation call for projects and discussion took place as to what was already submitted.

Commissioner Roberts – No updates other than the virtual meeting with the city.

Commissioner Hetzler – No comment.

VIII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Suggestion Box – None.

B. Correspondence –

Chief Brooks shared:

- District team traveling to Pierce manufacturing on Sunday to review ladder truck specs.
- Commissioner Dobry asked about the engine with recurrent issues. Chief Brooks reported it has remained in service with no additional issues since repairs. Issues under five year warranty.
- Chris Clem received word Capital Medical Center was willing to accept some patients no ETA when current problems restricting capacity would be resolved.

IX. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT




- None

X. ADJOURNMENT


The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: July 2nd, 2020– 5:30 p.m.

Available via remote meeting or possibly in person at Station 31, located at 1231 Franz St. SE.


Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner


Vice Chair

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary