

**THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE**

**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 with the addition of New Business item Board Policy Statement.

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler  
Second: Commissioner Roberts  
Carried: Unanimous

**III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT**

- No public or members addressed the Board.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

- General Fund 001 (Acct# 6630) checks numbered # 22090 through #22091 in the amount of \$2,500.00
- General Fund 001 (Acct# 6630) checks numbered # 22092 through #22106 in the amount of \$27,268.81
- Payroll #06B-2020 in the amount of \$423,769.66

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride  
Second: Commissioner Roberts  
Carried: Unanimous

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Thurston County Medic One - EMS Council

Commissioner Kirkbride reported:

- The Medic One Levy Committee met and will be recommending to the EMS Council to go to the voters for a new levy for the Primary Election of 2021. They discussed the different types of levies available.
- The Budget Committee met and the 2021-2022 Budget Proposal is set to go to the EMS Council on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Kirkbride will have a print out of the budget at our next Board meeting.

### B. Thurston 9-1-1 Communications (TCOMM)

Commissioner Roberts reported:

- Krista Thrift was recognized as Employee of the Year – she is a Dispatcher who has worked for TCOMM for 13 years.
- Financially all departments are still under budget. As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, they have not seen the impact of a sales tax reduction. May 2020 showed an increase in revenue above what was seen in May 2019. However, it is anticipated that August will be the month that decline in tax revenues will be seen.
- The Operations Board discussed the subscriber agreement for the purchase of radios and how it would be assigned and installed in order to be handed over to individual agencies. Inventory and auditing of radios will be overseen by individual agencies.
  - Type 1 Non-Members will need to use Motorola equipment, however Type 2 Non-Members can purchase other equipment after going through a vetting process to ensure that it interfaces correctly.
  - This process will be reviewed in the future particularly with Type 2 Non-Members.
    - Chief Brooks shared that private ambulance partners are included in Type 2 Non-Members group and that the type of equipment needed for the public agencies is more extensive and more expensive than what the private ambulances need to communicate with agencies. The requirement is that the equipment interface correctly.
    - Chief Brooks shared that the District has received the request from TCOMM and the preliminary assessment of equipment inventory to be completed over the next quarter.
- A resolution was approved to recruit a Lead Technician and Technician position for installation of the new radio system, however unable to find a Lead Technician, so Lead role changed to another Radio Technician who will be sent to training at Motorola. This change was ~\$38,000 in savings. Tech Staff for augmentation approved at \$16,000/month for twelve months under non-employee contractual services.

- There have been some coverage issues with certain areas around Maytown Rd., Johnson Point and Lake St. Clair. Decision was made that a new tower would be erected at Station 82 on Johnson Point. Maytown area tower is to be readjusted to broaden coverage. An additional tower would be at Lake Sinclair. Discussion took place regarding the limitation of that change and discussed potential adjustments that could boost coverage to the Nisqually River area.
  - Commissioner Dobry requested clarification.
    - Chief Brooks shared there are less dense coverage areas along the river basin. He shared that coverage in vehicles is still very high, however that the coverage map has less coverage for portable radios. Pierce County has a 700-800 system that can potentially be shared for radio communication in the interim.
  - Commissioner Kirkbride inquired about coverage in buildings.
    - Chief Brooks stated not totally resolved. He shared that signal boosting systems have been put in place and it is a building code requirement within the City of Lacey. He shared that Olympia is working with St. Pete's to resolve radio coverage limitations. The 700-800 band on the new radio system may improve the coverage in buildings. He shared that the plan is to re-check buildings with previous coverage issues once the new system is in place to see if signal boosters need to be modified.
- Next meeting is August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **C. City / District Liaison**

Commissioner Dobry reported:

- No other meeting has taken place since our last Board meeting. The next meeting to take place in August.
- Chief Brooks shared that he received notice from City of Lacey Planning Manager Ryan Andrews that they will proceed with the public hearing for the Mullen Rd Annexation. The hearing is set to take place remotely on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Commissioner Dobry inquired if there was an update regarding the Homelessness Committee.
    - Chief Brooks shared that there was not an update on that yet.

### **D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association (TCFCA)**

Commissioner Motzer reported:

- Next meeting to take place on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **E. Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)**

Commissioner Dobry reported:

- Next meeting to take place on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **F. Community Outreach**

Chief Brooks shared:

- The front lobby is re-opened during Phase 3 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Plan with the mitigation measures at the front desk with the Plexiglas screen and instructions to the public out front to notify staff if they have symptoms. He shared there has been an up-tick in blood pressure requests. Meeting rooms will reopen in Phase 4.
- Community Outreach Coordinator Chris DeBell worked to get the District recognized as a Public Agency on the Next Door community platform and was able to post the July newsletter to the public through that site.
- City of Lacey and the Nisqually Tribe elected to cancel their sanctioned fireworks events for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
  - Commissioner Kirkbride shared that the Long Lake Community will be holding their professional fireworks show ~10pm on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **G. Capital Facilities and Equipment**

Chief Brooks shared:

- Logistics Director Chambers and other staff were able to finalize the engineering drawings for ladder truck to begin the production process soon. Anticipated that the build out for the ladder truck to take place by the end of the year.
- The final designs for the two engines are next up for review.
- Station 34 anticipated to be completed on or around September 18<sup>th</sup>. Contractor may ask for some level of accommodation for the additional expenses that take place during the two month time extension.
  - The high speed bay doors are in, the brickwork is going up, painting is being done, and the sheetrock is being put up. Grade work for concrete and asphalt to be done by the end of the month.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report**

Chief Brooks shared:

- PPE is required on every call and escalated on screened calls.

- That a possible exposure took place with two members responding on a fire call, which turned into an EMS response during the call.
  - Rapid test to be done on Monday for two members due to the test not being available because of the holiday.
    - Commissioner Dobry inquired where test is done.
      - Chief Brooks shared that it was done through King County who has rapid tests available for first responders.
    - Commissioner Hetzler inquired if this patient had COVID-19.
      - Chief Brooks shared it is a low level risk, but because of unknown status of patient two members were to be tested.
    - Commissioner Roberts inquired if there was any place closer than King County for a rapid test.
      - Chief Brooks shared that Tumwater Family Practice that has rapid testing capabilities. He stated that he believed a majority of the urgent care centers in the area had the ability to test for COVID-19, however it was just a matter of turn-around time for testing and that they cannot guarantee the timing. He shared that King County first responder testing is in 15 minute windows and that first responders get an appointment time rather than waiting in line.
      - Deputy Chief Schmidt shared that the last time the District had to use King County's rapid testing location for first responders that the test came back in ~9 hours.
    - Discussion took place regarding area COVID-19 testing.
- Call volumes are at pre-pandemic levels and that screening processes are taking place at all stations.

## B. Potential Levy Ballot Measure: Staff Updates/Discussion

Chief Brooks shared:

- He is working with Staff to refine messaging to present to the Board at the July 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. In the meanwhile, he will be working with legal counsel for necessary wording for the resolution
- Thurston County data for unemployment was posted on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and was down ~3% at 14.1%. Next time for Thurston County unemployment data would be July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Chief Brooks shared that they were able to obtain National proxy data more recently published and unemployment was at 11.1%, which he shared we were typically at or below for numbers. He inquired of the Board what other pieces of specific information the Board wanted between now and the next meeting.
  - Commissioner Kirkbride discussed the need to create jobs to drive down unemployment numbers.
  - Commissioner Roberts shared that J.Marie Riche is available to help with informational flyer and has helped the District in previous ballot measures.
    - Discussion took place regarding help with the informational flyer.
  - Commissioner Dobry and Commissioner Motzer shared that they tried to reach out to the EDC to obtain information regarding unemployment numbers.
    - Chief Brooks shared that best data he found for Thurston County was through the state Employment Security Department as they publish the County data. Chief Brooks shared he would send out the link to information, which will be posted next on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## C. Final Publication of State Audit: Staff Report/Discussion (Appendix A)

Chief Brooks shared:

- That both the Accountability Audit and Financial Statements Audit were completely clean audits. He shared his appreciation to the Finance team.
  - Discussion took place regarding Audit documentation.
  - Commissioner Kirkbride and Commissioner Dobry shared their thanks to Finance Director Hough for a good audit.
- The audit is published and will be made available to Bond agencies.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Board Policy Statement

Chief Brooks shared:

- That some concerns have come forward and the District doesn't want any misperceptions by the Public regarding its stance on protecting citizens and the public, as well as our compliance with lawful orders by the Governor and by Labor & Industries as a governing body.

**MOTION:** To establish that it is the policy of the Board of Fire Commissioners for Lacey Fire District 3 to support and promote the health and well-being of all citizens and visitors in our community. To that end we will take all reasonable measures to protect our members and those that we serve by following the best practices established by local and state officials in complying with all lawful orders governing our actions.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Carried: 4 Yays, 1 Nay

Commissioner Motzer shared a statement to the Board prior to the vote:

“Let me begin with thank you Chief Brooks and Jim Green for meeting with me or calling me to voice your concerns. I'd also like to thank the indigenous woman and the, recently completed cancer treatment survivor, Asian American for messaging me your support on my mask stance. Since I started this journey I made a commitment to meet with and talk with, regardless of what side you align on, to have a civil dialogue on any issue one may want to talk about.

With that being said let me go over our oath of office. I, state your name, do solemnly swear, to protect and defend the constitution of the United States of America and the state of Washington, to the best of my ability. The bill of rights protects my ability to choose. The government is not supposed to limit/suppress my choice. I served 8.5 years to protect and defend our constitution (active army). Approximately 3% of our nation's population can say that.

We don't have to agree about what each of us believes, that's ok, and it's protected but this silence culture on anyone that doesn't agree with your views needs to stop. We all are supposed to be equal. I support equal rights. I will always fight for our constitution. I will always fight for our rights. I will always serve the people. My non-profit work for the homeless street feeds, food banks, animal rescues, veteran support groups, PTO president and coaching sports will continue. My views are mine and not the District's. I'm still a free man. A man that was willing and is still willing to protect and defend the freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for the people.

I support Governor Inslee's recent speech in Yakima where when he was asked to put on his mask he stated, "I took my mask off because it's my 1st amendment right". For every expert that says masks are a great thing there is one that's skeptical. The world health organization stated on May 29th, 2020 "If you are healthy, you only need to wear a mask if you are taking care of a person with Covid 19". The CDC says cloth masks are sufficient but according to a article on homemade cloth masks that was published in the BMJ and on [www.consumerreports.org](http://www.consumerreports.org) (in 2015) found that healthcare workers using cloth masks were more likely to be infected with respiratory diseases than those who used disposable masks, even when they washed them at the end of their shifts. [www.healthline.com](http://www.healthline.com) states that the average disposable masks you buy at the store are not enough to filter out viruses.

According to Amanda McClelland, M.P.H., senior vice president at vital strategies (a public health organization on infectious diseases) states "in the research that's been done we don't see any benefit at the community level for wearing a mask". Talking to a local doctor recently he stated, ' 1 corona virus particle is 30% smaller than the holes in a N95 mask.' Study in Forbes states that penetration of cloth masks by particles was almost 97% and with medical masks it was 44%. KOMO news yesterday posted an article stating there is little evidence that protests spread Corona virus in the US.

As of yesterday (July 1st, 2020) 273 cases of Covid 19 were confirmed in Thurston County. Of those 4 died. Which is a 1.465% death rate. If you want to wear a mask wear a mask. I choose not to. If a business doesn't want to allow someone in because they're not wearing a mask ok.

There comes a point when an Unconstitutional or unjust law/order is implemented the people must rise above it and fight it. I'm pro people, pro-choice, pro-freedom, pro-liberty. It is my body and my choice to believe that. No man, woman, or governmental body should tell me what I have to do with my body.

It is not my duty to decide how you interpret my social media posts, speeches or my views. If that hurts anyone I'm sorry. It's not my intention to hurt you but my intention is to fight for our rights. Even if you disagree with me I still respect you. I'll still fight for your rights as well. My primary duty is to serve the people that elected me. It's no secret I'm not a seasoned or career politician. I will continue to provide leadership when it comes to my fore commissioner duties and I hope we can continue to have civil, open, communications between anyone that would like to. Feel free to text, email or message me directly. Or if you prefer reach out to Chief Brooks, Jim Green or any of the other commissioners."

- Discussion took place regarding masking and public policy.



## VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks provided the following updates:

- The District is seeking clarification with Labor and Industries regarding the masking order in the workplace. They agreed to work with the District and others to refine the guidance regarding communal sleeping areas, eating areas, work out areas, and in emergency vehicles. There will be a subgroup to work over two weeks to a month to take place and the District is optimistic to obtain clarifying guidance regarding the impacts to EMS and fire service.
- Normal staffing level and off duty staff on call if additional resources needed for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kirkbride – He shared it should be nice weather for a 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Commissioner Motzer – He shared that he hopes everyone enjoys the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Commissioner Dobry – He shared he had a wonderful trip visiting family and shared his experiences flying. He wished everyone a good 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

Commissioner Roberts – Shared her thanks to Finance Director Hough for all of the work he and his staff placed in the audit. She wished everyone a safe and quiet Fourth of July weekend.

Commissioner Hetzler – Shared her well-wishes for a safe holiday weekend.

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Suggestion Box – None.

- Commissioner Kirkbride shared that Suggestion Box could be included within the correspondence section of the minutes.

B. Correspondence –

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District did receive thank you notes from individual calls, as well as some thank you notes from the Volunteer Receptionists recently visited by staff.

## X. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- A.W. shared comments during the New Business item regarding the Board Policy statement that they felt masks were unhealthy, that elected officials

do not give up their constitutional rights, and it is setting an example by not following group think.

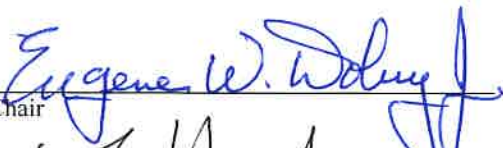

- A.W. inquired if the District has done any research about masks besides what Governor Inslee has said.
  - Chief Brooks shared that the District is subject to two sets of rules. One governs our emergency medical providers under the Medical Program Director, and the other is from local and state government. He shared that masking has been deemed a lawful order by the courts, so as a public agency the District is required to follow it.
- A.W. shared that there are many medical opinions. Some say that masks are unhealthy.
  - Chief Brooks acknowledged the medical opinions regarding masking, however as a public agency it is the District's obligation to be compliant with the law.
    - A.W. inquired if there was an R.C.W. for the masking order.
      - Chief Brooks shared that the Governor's order went through the courts and the courts deemed it lawful.
        - A.W. expressed concern over the Governor making laws and expressed that she felt that elected officials should have a right to have their opinion on their own Facebook pages.
  - Edwin Pole shared that all communications are public record.
  - Commissioner Kirkbride, Commissioner Roberts, and Commissioner Hetzler shared their thanks to A.W. and Edwin for attending the Board meeting today.

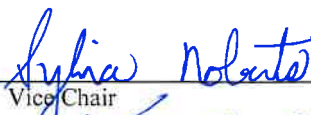

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

*Next Regular Meeting: July 16th, 2020– 5:30 p.m.*

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

  
Chair  
  
Commissioner

  
Vice Chair  
  
Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary