

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 18th, 2021

Board Chair Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Gamble

The meeting was open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform.
Commissioners Dobry and Hetzler were excused from the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER / FLAG SALUTE

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Gamble

Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

- None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the February 4th, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

B. Warrants:

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22487 through 22499 in the amount of \$151,158.90
- Equipment, Repair and Replacement Fund 103 (Acct #6636) checks numbered 22500 and 22501 in the amount of \$3,455.61
- 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 (Acct #663B) checks numbered 22502 through 22506 in the amount of \$184,740.06

C. Payroll #2A 2021 in the amount of \$1,325,865.97

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Gamble
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Kirkbride shared from the Wednesday, February 17th meeting:

- The Board of County Commissioners had been briefed on the potential Medic One levy at their last meeting – no action was taken but positive feedback was received. The potential levy is planned at their next meeting as a discussion item.
- COVID update – the County is currently focusing on 2nd doses for the next 3-4 weeks, with first doses delayed. Current significant bad weather through much of the country is causing delays in the supply chain leading to cancellations for some clinics.
- The Ops Committee is reviewing the County Ambulance ordinance
- There was some discussion on the homeless

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

Chair Roberts shared the next meeting is March 3rd

C. City/District Liaison

Chair Roberts shared from the Tuesday, February 16th meeting:

- The City reported that they are closer to an MOU regarding the storm drain system located in Hidden Forest and are moving closer to annexation. This annexation needs to go to the Council, but not to Boundary Review Board as that has already been completed. Staff is hopeful that this process will be completed in 30 – 90 days.
- City staff was complimentary regarding the use of old St 34 for the public vaccination clinic. There was discussion regarding its future use for that purpose and Chair Roberts expressed her appreciation for the Chief's comments regarding the impacts of use of that facility.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride expressed his support for the use of that facility when it does not negatively impact District operations. He is also supportive of getting some of the positive news media exposure for the use of old St 34 like the City of Lacey and Public Health received. Chief commented that some of the social media postings included LFD3.
 - Chief Brooks noted Captain Weiss has been attending planning meetings.

- The City and District had lengthy discussion regarding the DOT lands that are right of way exits from the freeway relative to the homeless encampments. The issue is the safety of humans that are residing there; a car will be towed if in those areas, but it appears difficult to find a solution for the presence of unauthorized humans. The City is asking for LFD3 response data for smoke investigations or other calls in those areas.
 - The Board wondered if the Chief's legislative group might be able to influence this issue on a larger scale, and the Chief indicated the group would most like be supportive, but the main weight of the issue should be carried by the Cities and Counties.
- All city events are cancelled through June. The 3rd of July event is yet to be determined.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Gamble shared from the Tuesday, February 16th meeting:

- TCOMM is working on a plan to get the best input for fleet mapping and hardware
- It looks like the Medic One levy is moving forward and might have a public hearing in April, with the levy itself on the August ballot. No negative feedback has been received.
- Some EMTS have been trained in vaccine administration, but there is currently no supply of the vaccine due to weather issues across the country.
- An in-person EMT class is in planning for the spring
- Commissioners are discussing how to get more commissioners to attend the meeting; with perhaps 80 Commissioners in the County, only about 15-20 attend the meetings.
- New officers were sworn in

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council

No report, the next meeting is March 5th.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- Community Outreach Coordinator Chris DeBell continues to be active on several fronts:
 - She has been installing car seats throughout the pandemic, utilizing PPE and distancing
 - The annual report draft was presented to the Chiefs today and is expected for the next Board meeting
 - Community Dispatch continues to be delivered monthly and is receiving good feedback

- The District continues to stay the course with facilities closed to the public and limited direct outreach.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks shared:

- The Truck and Engines should be ready for final inspection in April
- Facilities focus has been on new Station 34 and the storm water retention issue
- Logistics Director Chambers continues to work in the background on the VRF; the District is also trying to coordinate this work with the anticipated annexation of the station into the City
- Bay door changes for Medic 2 should begin as early as next week
- The Rescue vehicle is scheduled to go to the VRF for final outfitting next week. Driver training is planned for early March and will last about 2 weeks.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- Almost the entire staff of the District has been through both vaccinations.
- A meeting is scheduled next week to discuss possible adjustments for quarantining personnel who have been exposed but who have also been vaccinated
- The Chiefs and Firefighters are meeting with L&I to discuss the post vaccination world relative to L&I rules in the workplace, particularly rules related to masking and distancing.
- Daily new cases for COVID positives are substantially reduced throughout the County

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Change Order Proposal for Storm Water Drainage System; Discussion and Proposed Action (Appendix A)

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District has continued to work through the process for a solution for storm water drainage from 8th Court at the eastern edge of Station 34. After an initial bid the District insisted on additional bids and cost estimating, with the unfortunate result of an even higher bid.
- Staff met this morning with Jones and Roberts, Extreme Excavation (subcontractor), our architect and the civil engineer to discuss costs. Costs are higher because the storm water project is

now taking place under completed conditions. Additional care must be taken to address irrigation piping and landscaping, dirt removal and relocation, and purchase and placement of additional biosolids while the station remains open and active. Additionally, the County is requiring an additional drain box at the corner that will need to be dug and finished.

- Staff recommends approval. Post completion of the project, the Chief would like to pursue cost sharing arrangements with County; but the work needs to be completed to have the fencing removed and final certificate of occupancy provided.
 - Chair Roberts asked if the cost was still within the contingency – Chief responded affirmatively.
 - Commissioner Kirkbride declared this an unfortunate situation, where the County had approved the original plan and has required the District to change the plan. Commissioner Kirkbride supports fixing the issue, getting the certificate of occupancy, then seeking financial redress from the County; he feels the County should be responsible for the change order from the original approved plans.

MOTION: Authorize the Chief to sign change order #48 with Jones and Roberts for a total of \$60,755 to rebuild storm water system to manage water as described.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Gamble

Carried: Unanimous

Commissioner Kirkbride thanked the Chief for his work on this. He also noted he was glad we were not commingling water from our property and the 8th Court drainage.

Chief Brooks indicated that the contractor was optimistic work could begin next week.

Director Chambers thanked the Commissioners and praised the work of civil engineer on this project.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks shared:

- The January financial report from Director Hough and noted the District is tracking with expected expenditures.
 - Chair Roberts and Commissioner Kirkbride expressed their appreciation for the clear and timely budget reporting
- The admin support job position has been posted. Board Chair Roberts noted the posting is well written and clear.
- The recruit academy is nearing half way point; it is expected to wrap up the beginning of April. Chief Brooks noted that he and Chief Schmidt had visited a practical skills session at the MNRTC.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gamble – disappointing update for vaccine, hoping for improved availability. Thanks to Director Hough for the budget reporting.

Commissioner Kirkbride – appreciated the new lighting in the Chief’s office. He also announced that earthquake alerting system is nearing completion. Linked seismometers in CA, OR, and WA will give a few seconds notice of an imminent quake; a test is expected on February 25th at 11 AM. Washingtonians can sign up to receive test alert at mil.wa.gov/alerts Chief Brooks noted that Stations 31 and 35 have equipment installed that feed into the alert system.

Commissioner Roberts – noted the horrible weather in parts of the country and is thankful to live in WA.

She also noted she and the other Commissioners received a note from a former employee and that she had responded on behalf of the Board. Chair Roberts noted the issue should have been brought to administration before the Board, and was referring the matter to District administration. Chair Roberts also indicated to the former employee that she would appreciate being kept in the loop about the disposition of her concern.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

- No suggestions in the suggestion box.
- No additional correspondence received.

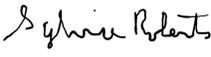
XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:18 pm.

*Next Regular Meeting: March 4th, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.*

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 ATTEST: District Secretary