

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

March 18th, 2021

Board Chair Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Gamble
Commissioner Dobry
Commissioner Hetzler

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm, followed with a salute to our Nation's Flag.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Dobry
Second: Commissioner Hetzler
Carried: Unanimous

III. RECOGNITION OF FIRE COMMISSIONER GENE DOBRY

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Fire Chief, Thurston Regional Planning Council, and staff of Lacey Fire District 3 recognized Commissioner Gene Dobry for his years of service and dedication to the District and to the Community. They wished him safe travels and much happiness in the future.

Via Zoom, former Fire Commissioner Judy Wilson expressed her appreciation for Commissioner Dobry's dedication to both the local and State Commissioners Association. She added he had brought a lot to the community and District.

Commissioner Dobry expressed his thanks, and noted it has been an honor to serve the community and District. He appreciated the professionalism of the group and their ability to come together for the good of the organization.

Chair Roberts announced a short recess, and called the meeting back to order at 6:05 PM

IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

- None

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the March 4th, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
- B. Warrants:
- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22539 through 22553 and including electronic funds transfers (EFT) and bank drafts, for a total amount of \$183,379.24
 - Equipment, Repair and Replacement fund 103 (Acct#6636) electronic fund transfer (EFT) for a total of \$6,517.57
 - 2017B Capital Projects fund 307 (Acct #663B) checks numbered 22554 through 22557, and including electronic fund transfers (EFT) and bank drafts a total amount of in the amount of \$130,416.32
- C. Payroll 03A 2021 in the amount of \$1,317,719.01

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Kirkbride shared from the March 17th meeting:

- The Council had nominations and election for the position of Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Stan Moon from District 6 was elected to Chair, and Council member Lenny Greenstein from the City of Lace was elected as Vice Chair.

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

Chair Roberts stated the next meeting is April 8th

C. City/District Liaison

Chair Roberts confirmed the next meeting is in April

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Hetzler shared from the March 16th meeting:

- The group recognized Commissioner Dobry for his years of service
- The 2020 Annual Report has been sent; you should have received it via email
- Roger Ferris of the State Association spoke about upcoming events, including a series of webinars covering subjects such as labor management, COVID 19 and public communications for fire Districts
- A reminder to all Commissioners to complete the PDC filing
- Next meeting is April 20th

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council

Commissioner Dobry shared from the March 5th meeting:

- Sidewalks were the item of discussion, including, policy, priorities and equity.
- The Council also received a presentation on the State of the transportation system from WSDOT.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- Internally, we are actively discussing phased reopening for public access.
- The car seat installation program has stepped up in demand; Community Outreach Coordinator Chris DeBell has been handling 1-2 a week but just this week it has jumped to 7 already.
- Commissioner Dobry inquired about the bicycle helmet program. Chief Brooks noted that there has not been a high demand. Commissioner Dobry suggested a bicycle helmets article in the next newsletter.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks shared:

- Work has been progressing on the drainage project for St 34. On the first day of work a disparity was noted between actual conditions, survey information and engineering planning, likely due to a late change required by the County regarding the drain box placement. The Chief spoke with the Chair regarding additional changes, which were resolved and the project continues to move forward.
- Last Friday afternoon a neighbor of new Station 34 called to inform the District a tree at the edge of the property has a split. Before a tree professional could be arranged, the top portion of the tree fell over the

weekend. No damage resulted, but the remaining standing tree needs to be assessed for the possible need for removal.

- The VRF project continues to move forward; a meeting is planned next week with RFM regarding drawings for initial cost estimating.
- Staff met with TCOMM today regarding the proposed backup center. We continue to coordinate our planned updates and alignment of TCOMM needs.
- Travel for final truck inspection is April 11th with travel for the engines inspection anticipated for first week of May.
- A hiccup with licensing the new Rescue arose when it was noticed the VIN on the title did not match the VIN on the vehicle. The VIN on our title matches the VIN on a vehicle sold to a Fire Department in the State of New York. Staff is working with all parties to resolve this issue, but we will likely have to get temporary plates.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- Staff is starting planning for facility usage and reopening strategies.
- We have reengaged with L&I regarding guidance for activities in the fire stations; there is a meeting scheduled for March 29th. Chiefs Schmidt and Hulse and Captain Weiss are working on operational practices for members in anticipation that guidelines will change for activities in the stations.
- We've had a couple members in quarantine due to sick family members. Even though around 90% of our workforce is fully vaccinated, we continue to follow public health guidelines for those quarantine instances.
- There are continued outbreaks in various care facilities in the District – members responding remain diligent with the PPE
- Staff is meeting tomorrow with DOH and Emergency Management regarding their interest in using old Station 34 as a vaccination site.

B. Board position on safety concerns related to unsanctioned encampments

The Board reviewed the letter drafted by Commissioner Kirkbride. He also recommended that the Chair or the Chief reach out to the Lacey Mayor so that he will know that it is coming. The Board requested 4 original copies for signature, and the Board Chair and Chief will meet to discuss contacting the Mayor.

MOTION: To adopt the letter dated March 18th addressed to the Governor, Lacey Mayor, Secretary of Transportation and the Director of Washington State Department of Enterprise Services that addresses our concerns about fires within encampment areas of our City.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Dobry
Carried: Unanimous

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) To evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office 15 minutes

Adjourned to executive session at 6:33 PM for no more than 15 minutes

Returned from executive session 6:48

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of Commissioner to Position #1
Commissioner Hetzler questioned the actual appointment date – Chief Brooks stated the attorney recommended that the appointment date be April 1st
Commissioner Dobry recused himself from the vote.

MOTION: To approve the appointment of Rick Kelling to position 1 of the Thurston County Fire District 3 Board of Fire Commissioners, effective April 1st.

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks shared:

- Deputy Chief Kathy Dickson has announced her intent to retire. Her plan is to work through end of June, and she is potentially willing to work part time through end of year. Staff is working on an orderly transition process.
- The Recruit Academy graduation is April 2nd – we have 6 recruits in the class. The board is invited and there will be a hybrid event with in person and Zoom.
- He had briefed the Board Chair about a unique event over the weekend – a crew found an unknown substance in a medical glove box on an engine. The Sheriff's office identified the substance as illegal drugs and assisted with the investigation; post-investigation, the most reasonable explanation involves an uninjured citizen in an MVA that was placed in the engine for safety and climate protection while awaiting law enforcement. None of the District's members are implicated. Chief Schmidt is working on developing a summary document should there be questions about the incident. Commissioners noted that the members did the right thing, and it was unfortunate this was the result.
- His schedule is in flux with some family health issues, but both DCs are aware and ready to cover the District's needs.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Dobry – will now say goodbye, but will still come back as there are grandchildren in the area. This experience has been truly fulfilling and best of luck to you all. He also congratulated Chief Dickson on her retirement.

Commissioner Gamble – noted she was glad to have a meeting in person before Commissioner Dobry left and it has been an honor to serve with him. She also felt very positive about vaccination progress, availability and moving forward.

Commissioner Hetzler – thanked Commissioner Dobry for his years of service. She also expressed interest in continuing to meet in person.

Commissioner Kirkbride – thanks Commissioner Dobry for his service – both to his country through the Air Force and through his Commissioner role.

Commissioner Roberts – publically thanked the Chehalis Tribe for vaccinating all adult children and spouses of all TCOMM employees. She thanked Chris DeBell for installation of a car seat for her. She congratulated Chief Dickson on her retirement. Commissioner Dobry – you will be missed.

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

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

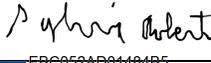
XIII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 7:07 pm.

***Next Regular Meeting: April 1st, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.***

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 Chair
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 Commissioner

Commissioner

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 Commissioner


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 ATTEST: District Secretary