

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

June 3, 2021

Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Gamble
Commissioner Kelling

The meeting was held in person with limited attendance and is open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform. The meeting is being recorded.

Commissioner Hetzler is excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberts called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, followed with a salute to our Nation's Flag.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride
Second: Commissioner Kelling
Carried: Unanimous

III. INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF NEW CAREER FIREFIGHTERS

Chief Brooks introduced Paramedic Firefighter Liz Gore and Firefighter Charlie Beaudoin. FF Beaudoin started with the District in 2019 with no experience; the District sponsored him through the Thurston County Firefighter Recruit Academy and EMT training. FF Beaudoin expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community and to be with Lacey Fire. He was previously sworn in as a Volunteer Firefighter.

PM FF Gore graduated from PM school in 2020 and was hired by LFD in November. She participated in the LFD Recruit Academy in January. PM FF Gore expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to work at LFD. PM FF Gore was sworn in by Chief Brooks.

IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT – none

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the May 20, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
- B. Warrants:
- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22642 through 22649 for a total amount of \$201,815.61
 - General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) check numbered 22652 in the amount of \$1,524.68
 - 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 (Acct #663B) checks numbered 22650 through 22651 for a total amount of \$29,688.45
- C. Payroll 05A 2021 in the amount of \$464,534.54

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Gamble
Second: Commissioner Kelling
Carried: Unanimous

The Chief noted the additional warrant for Medic 2 utilities represents a full quarter. The District pays the difference between previous rates and the new rates from Medic 2 stationed in the facility.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

No report – next meeting is June 16th.

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

Commissioner Roberts reported from the June 2nd meeting:

- Tumwater and Olympia are exploring a Regional Fire Authority and Tumwater has voted to form a planning Board. Olympia has not yet voted on this issue.
- April revenue has exceeded projected, with sales tax better than this time 2020 and all departments operating under budget.
- Director Flewelling noted 16 agencies have signed the IGA; 2 remain.
- The Town hall meeting is June 23rd from 3- 4:30 PM. Commissioner Roberts will send the zoom link as soon as it is received.

- The issue previously reported regarding the power supply for Bald Hills communications tower had no responses to the RFP. Issues identified were the complexity of the engineering and the quick turnaround time needed. TCOMM will reissue the RFP with less complexity and lengthening the response time period.
- The issue previously reported regarding Intercity Transit no longer needing use of TCOMM towers after the first of the year has been reevaluated. IT does not anticipate they will not be ready to transition away at the previously announced time. TCOMM extended their agreement for an additional 3 months to accommodate this issue.
- No COVID-19 issues; most of the staff has been vaccinated.
- Ben Miller Todd presented the program on the Medic One levy lid lift.

C. City/District Liaison

No report – the next meeting is scheduled for June 15th.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

No report – the next meeting is scheduled for June 15th.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council -

No report – the next meeting is scheduled for June 5th.

Commissioner Kelling reported items to be covered include the 2021 mid-year update and the Martin Way Corridor, and requested input from the Board regarding expectations for his involvement with TRPC. It was noted that anything with potential impact on fire response is of interest, such as the Martin Way corridor.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District is receiving increased request for engagement in the community. Staff will be meeting to discuss full reopening of our facilities. Staff also continues to be active in the virtual environment with the community, such as meeting with classrooms via Zoom.
- The Senior Safe @ Home program kicked off today with a training practice session at the Innovation development. Community Outreach Coordinator Chris DeBell met with several volunteers – our ISU operators – who will be conducting the in-home safety surveys, and they practiced on three different homes in that community. A draft brochure was provided to the Board.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks shared:

- The 8th Court drainage/storm drains easement was discussed with the Architect and Civil Engineer; the CE acknowledged that the issue had been previously discussed with the County but then fell off the radar. The CE will be reaching out to the County to restart discussions, and will coordinate with issuance of the final occupancy certificate.
- There have been four inquiries about the landscaping along 8th Court – many of the trees planted there are dying or dead. The Chief has responded to all inquiries from the public, and has invited them to speak at a BoFC meeting if they desire. The District has reengaged with the landscaper and the irrigation system/pattern is being evaluated. Ultimately, the trees will be replanted, but most likely in a season more conducive for growing. Additionally, since landscaping was part of the overall site plan and approved by the County, all removal of trees will be documented as they may affect the final occupancy permit. The trees are still in their “warranty” period with the landscaper.
- The “refreshing” of old station 34 is nearing completion; paint and flooring have been finished and ceiling tile removal will start next week. The Training Division is anticipated to move into that facility in late June, early July.
- Staff is meeting with TCOMM on the 23rd to discuss replacement of the generator. Their necessary infrastructure improvements will most likely start in late summer or early fall.
- Staff has asked the Architect to move forward in getting new cost estimates for the Station 33 project and addressing the easement at new 34; both these projects are moving forward in tandem. Cost and availability of supplies are both a concern.
- The shop (VRF) continues to be constrained for space and the District is helping with additional space in the bay at old 34 for more “clean” activities such as upfitting new apparatus.
- The ladder truck has arrived at Station 31, and one of the two new engines is currently at Hughes Tacoma. The other engine was expected to arrive yesterday.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Planning and Response Updates for Pandemic: Staff Report

Chief Brooks shared:

- The action of the Board last meeting to adopt less stringent masking guidelines was very meaningful by the crews. Staff continues to refine the guiding documents.
- Commissioner Kirkbride suggested keeping this item on the agenda as long as the disaster declaration is in effect.

- Chief Brooks noted diversion is still a significant problem still at the hospitals. Staff continues to meet with stakeholders and some temporary and creative solutions are in effect, but it remains difficult.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for Contract Adjustment by the General Contractor

Chief Brooks explained this request was actually submitted in early December when the substantial completion date had been identified. The Chief spoke extensively with the Architect and the GC (Jones and Roberts) regarding the impacts of the pandemic and circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, and significant outstanding issues such as drainage. The invoice request under consideration has actually had adjustments downward by the GC from the original request for things that they had influence on and/or things that were regulatory requirements.

We would like to maintain good relations with the contractor as they have been excellent and have worked to minimize the effects of the pandemic. We were about 12 weeks beyond proposed substantial completion before, and the GC is requesting only 8 weeks that were necessary to have the single foreman on site as completion items trickled in. Staff feels like this is a reasonable request.

Commissioner Kirkbride noted that it is industry practice for owner initiated changes resulting in additional costs or delays are expected to be paid by the owner above the bid. There is no industry standard for the owner to pay the additional request, however, there is also no industry standard practice for conditions such as COVID brought for everyone in the last year. This additional request is not much in consideration of the total cost of the project. Chief Brooks noted there was a 10% contingency in the project and that this request, plus the changes orders brought the project only 5% over original bid cost which was less than anticipated. This is well within the financial scope of the whole project. This has been a good contractor who has fulfilled his obligations without any particular great problems and we'd like to maintain good relationships. It should be noted that the contractor should not request any additional funds for this project beyond this request.

MOTION: To accept the extended hard overhead cost proposal from Jones and Roberts for the total amount of \$25, 610.00.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Kelling

Carried: Unanimous

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks reported:

- The Deputy Chief Administration process has concluded and a conditional offer made. The attendance of the Commissioners at the social event was greatly appreciated; it was very meaningful to have your participation. Staff continues to work on the transition plan.
- The District has posted for lateral paramedics; we have had limited success in the past but believe there may be more interested parties at this time.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gamble – expressed excitement regarding the Senior Safe @ Home program, and the flyer looks great.

Commissioner Kelling – also excited about the Senior Safe @ Home program. May be reaching out to Chris to have HOA meeting presentations/ mini education presentations. The Firewise program looks to not quite meet the intent of the Boards encampments letter, but looks to be good information. Attended the King County Summer Hazards Seminar; he noted that social media misinformation – speculation and rumors - was an issue for East Pierce.

Commissioner Kirkbride – continued good wishes and prayers to Lee. Also attended the summer hazards seminar which was primarily about the weather. The next seminar is in the November about winter weather. This one covered the National Weather Service forecast for the summer, which looks to be bad, with drought and severe drought conditions in Western Washington. The Fire Chief from East Pierce presented a program on their experiences and challenges with their big wildland fire last year. Food, staffing, communications, mutual aid, lack of aircraft, and topography were all issues in this fire. Commissioner Kirkbride feels that the fire service in general in Western Washington is not ready for a large wildland fire, and perhaps discussion could be opened with Director Hardin about emphasizing or focusing on wildfires over earthquakes.

The Chief noted that Thurston County Emergency management will host a similar seminar locally based on the King County model. It is planned for later this month and staff will ensure the Board receives an announcement.

Commissioner Roberts – last legislative session DNR received \$125 million for forest management; perhaps some of that will be intended for education regarding forest management. Firewise is more homeowner oriented, but perhaps we can partner with Lacey to roll out the information. National Guard is also available as resources, although the Governor would have to issue a declaration for their activation/mobilization.

Chief Brooks noted there are 2 aircraft based in this area this year, and the District has mutual aid agreements with JBLM for additional wildland resources.

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

- Correspondence – none other than emails previously discussed.

XIII. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

- In accordance with RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment

The Board adjourned for an executive session at 6:38 PM for 5 minutes.

The Board reconvened from executive session at 6:43 PM with no action taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:45 PM.

*Next Regular Meeting: June 20th, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.*

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 ATTEST: District Secretary