

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 5, 2021

Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Gamble

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 Kelling was excused from the meeting.

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 Hetzler
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT –

Doug Hartz introduced himself as a citizen running for a Fire Commissioner position. He noted there was no primary election held so the Commissioner election would be on the general.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the July15, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
- B. Warrants:

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22731 through 22742 for a total amount of \$91,587.07
- 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 (Acct #663B) checks numbered 22743 through 22746 for a total amount of \$16,649.82

C. Payroll 07A 2021 in the amount of \$463,779.05

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Gamble
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Hetzler reported from the July 21st meeting:

- The new Executive Director of WREMS – Gray Perry - was introduced
- The 2022 - 2023 budgets were passed
- Discussions were held regarding the levy lid lift, EMS transport capabilities, and House Bill 1310
- Discussion ensued regarding continuing virtual meetings or hold in – person; a decision was made to continue via Zoom for the next 90 days.
- Applications for the WREMS person at large were reviewed; one was denied and one approved

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

Commissioner Roberts reported the August 4th meeting was cancelled; the next meeting will be in September. Commissioner Gamble will attend in place of Commissioner Roberts.

C. City/District Liaison

No report: the next meeting is August 17th at 8:30 AM; Chief Brooks will confirm date, time and location.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Hetzler reported from the July 20th meeting:

- The Director of the Washington Fire Chiefs – Steve Wright - was introduced; he spoke about House Bill 1310
- Topics for the upcoming fall conference were announced

- The next meeting is the annual BBQ meeting/picnic on August 17th
- The next regular Fire Commissioners meeting is September 21st

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council -

Commissioner Kelling provided a brief synopsis to Commissioner Roberts that included:

- The full TRPC had a retreat over two days in July; Day one focused on developing values, mission and vision. Day two focused on goals based on the results on day one. Both days of the retreat were well attended. He noted the best quote from the retreat: Children are approximately 30% of our population – but 100% of our future.
- There is no scheduled August meeting

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District participated in National Night out on Tuesday; crews were out in two locations
- The District participated in the Lacey Police Summer Cruise. A partnership with LPD and 3 local car club organizations. On Wednesday night the Seagraves staffed by Chiefs Brooks and Cerovski and Engine 35 crews participated with LPD and the South Sound Mopar group in an approximate 1 hour parade through Hawks Prairie. We plan to participate in the next two Wednesday night events with the group as they have different neighborhood parade routes.
- We are seeing an increased use of our facilities
- We are planning a September 11th event at Station 34; the Stryker brigade from JBLM should be in attendance.
- We hope to restart car seat checks in September; for the last 18 months Chris Debell has been nearly single handedly conducting the only checks in the County.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks shared:

- All our new apparatus here but a series of bad luck events has delayed their being brought on line. Currently, a number of ladder truck mechanical issues, illness in the shop staff and space limitations in the shop have conspired for a total of 5 ladder trucks in the County with only one in service. Staff and the shop are working diligently to get the trucks back in service.
- The Training Division, EMS and the ISU moved into the TEC; we had a low key “grand re-opening” last week with EMS, the Training Division, shop, ISU and staff.

- This week staff met with representatives from the Sheriffs Office to discuss our shared spaces in the TEC.
- The District has worked with TCOMM to have a proposed draft pre-submission application ready for the generator installation and the server room work. TCOMM will manage and fund the complete generator procurement and installation and once in place and operating, would engage in an asset transfer of the generator to the District. The intent is this would serve as in-lieu-of-rent for TCOMM.
- The first elements of next phase of VRF are underway – geo tech was on site for soils testing this week.
- New signage for the 34 complex is coming due to annexation – there are now an increased number of addresses (St 34, TEC, shop and planned new facility) rather than a single address with and A and B designator.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID Emergency Declaration Status – no change in practices or status.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Updates to Authorized Signature List for County Treasurer

Chief Brooks explained the District is continuing the past practice of bringing the Authorized Signature List from the County Treasurer to the Board whenever a change is needed.

Staff is recommending the two new Deputy Chiefs (Cerovski and Schmidt) be added to the signature list along with Board Chair Roberts. The Finance Department and the Fire Chief would remain on the list, and Chief Dickson would remain on the list until retirement.

MOTION: To authorize the addition of the two Deputy Chiefs and the Chair to the Authorized Signature List.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Gamble

Carried: Unanimous

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks:

- Presented the July summary report from Finance; we are at 67% revenue collected and 53% total expenditures from the general fund.
- The District made conditional offers to three paramedics
- The District is participating in the pilot for an L&I program for firefighter injury and illness reduction. As an incentive to participate, L&I will reduce

the workers compensation rates by 5% for the pilot quarter, and if the agency continues through year one will reduce premium rates by 10% through September 2022. The District stands to have a savings of around \$45,000 for participation if we move forward with Year 1. Currently, the District is significantly above the State average for premiums, and we are exploring several ways to help manage costs. The District has to commit to Year 1 or to decline participation before the end of September.

- Hospital capacity and transport availability continues to be a significant challenge in the County. This was an issue before COVID, decreased somewhat during COVID and has now substantially increased again in demand for services. Recently, St Pete's 50 bed capacity hosted 111 patients with another 30-40 waiting for beds. The public agencies are engaging in innovative strategies to help mitigate the issues, but it continues to be challenging. LFD has twice stood up an extra aid unit when we had knowledge of reduction in private ambulance resources. Through a contract with Medic One instituted back during the pandemic for surge capacity, we have the potential for billing through Medic One if necessary.
- House Bill 1310 continues to have impact on LFD personnel. Calls where law enforcement would have previously responded to evaluate/screen no longer have law enforcement responding. We are now being dispatched on calls when we would previously not have gone. We continue to discuss with the MPD and the other ALS agencies strategies to mitigate various situations, such as person seen down on the sidewalk or a welfare check. We are having to triage based on computer information and make phone calls instead of responses and tell folks why we cannot respond if we feel it is not safe or appropriate for us to go. The MPD has worked on updated protocol, but gaps continue, especially in the realm of mental health issues. The only persons legally authorized to take away civil rights (involuntary commitment) for mental health issues are the Designated Crisis Responders (DRCs) and there are only two for both Thurston and Mason Counties, so that is not an emergent response. This is a significant stressor for our personnel. Lacey PD has been proactive working with us and keeping Chief Schmidt informed of their practices and procedures. State Associations are all working on this issue.
- The District has been evaluating staffing levels – we are staffing an Aid Unit to help with the demand capacity issues and have multiple members out on extended medical leave - and has pulled back somewhat from participation in mobilizations. Our new process allows 2 members to be mobilized rather than our initial plan for 4 to be able to go.
- About 2 weeks ago fire the crews did an excellent job keeping fire confined to the garage. The grateful family made a \$500 donation to the District.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hetzler – no comments. Thanked the Chief for keeping the Board informed on all that is going on.

Commissioner Gamble – no comments

Commissioner Kirkbride – thanks Commissioner Hetzler for sitting in on EMS council meeting. He is very pleased with the budget reporting and money management – thank you to Director Hough for his work on this. The Washington Fire Commissioners sent an email today - there will be no medical insurance premium increase for 2022.

Commissioner Roberts –noted she will be unavailable for the first September Board meeting. She questioned Chief Brooks about the members receiving training in electric and hybrid vehicle fires; Chief Brooks noted our members did receive this type of training.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

The District continues to receive positive feedback and support from the Community. Staff is working with the Local on a specific donation request from an appreciative community member.

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Greene, Local 2903 thanked the organization for working together a difficult decision on mobilizations – he noted the result is best for the community, the District and Local members.

XII. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

In Accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) regarding discussion of collective bargaining strategies.

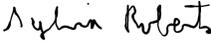
The Board adjourned into executive session at 6:20 PM, for an estimated 20 minutes. The Board extended the executive session twice for 10 minutes each time, and the change in time was announced each of the instances.

The Board reconvened at 7:00 PM with no action taken.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 7:01 PM.

*Next Regular Meeting: August 19, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.*

DocuSigned by:

 EBC052AD01484B5...
 Chair
 DocuSigned by:

 8DC34F4384AE47C...
 Commissioner
 DocuSigned by:

 6790F53C12574BB...
 Commissioner

DocuSigned by:

 44E68B53AB35453...
 Vice Chair
 DocuSigned by:

 B771FE0627B545E...
 Commissioner
 DocuSigned by:

 66179ED9328B46B...
 ATTEST: District Secretary