

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 2, 2021

Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Gamble
Commissioner Kelling

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

Commissioner Roberts was excused from the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Kirkbride 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 Kelling
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT – none

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the August 19, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

B. Warrants:

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22770 through 22780 and including electronic fund transfer (EFT) 5024 for a total amount of \$32,567.20

- Equipment, Repair and Replacement Fund 103 (Acct#6636) electronic fund transfer number 5006 for a total of \$60,693.70
- 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 (Acct #663B) check numbered 22781 and electronic funds transfer (EFT) number 5011 for a total amount of \$9,190.43

C. Payroll 08B 2021 in the amount of \$464,116.71

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler

Second: Commissioner Kelling

Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Kirkbride reported:

- The EMS Council sent a letter to the Governor regarding the Governor's vaccine mandate, requesting he consider allowing alternative options for unvaccinated healthcare workers.
- The WREMS Council voted at their recent meeting to also write a similar letter.

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

Commissioner Gamble reported

- Tax revenue is up and all departments are under budget
- TCERN is delayed for six months due to supply chain difficulty in obtaining materials
- Staff is working on adapting phone dialog to the new laws regarding police response
- Staff is logging calls that are not responded to by law enforcement that would have been prior to the new laws

C. City/District Liaison

No report.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

No report.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council -

No report.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- The District has received several requests for the Senior Safe at Home program
- After Labor Day weekend, the District will be reverting back to closure of our public meeting rooms
- Outreach programs have returned to an emphasis on virtual engagement
- The District's 9-11 Observance is Saturday, 9-11 at Station 34 at 6:45 AM; the public is invited to attend in person or virtually via live streaming.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks shared:

- Chief Cerovski and Director Chambers met at St 34 to discuss the landscaping die off conditions. The landscapers will be replacing some trees and shrubs and making irrigation fixes. The warranty "clock" will be reset for a year.
- We are waiting for cost estimation for Station 33 and the VRF
- Old ladder truck is back on the road, that delayed the new ladder truck, but it is nearly ready to be in service. Today, one of two oldest engines (35) that was slated for reserve after the new engine was in service, had a failure in a part that is 4-8 weeks out in availability. The VRF was focused on ladder truck repair (old truck) and readying for placing in service (new truck) and has not had time nor space for work on the two new engines. Our only reserve engine is currently in service. Chief Brooks has requested the VRF change their focus to getting at least one of the new engines in service. Any additional failure will mean moving Engine 32 to a staffed station, or borrowing an engine from Olympia.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. COVID Emergency Declaration Status – no report.

B. COVID Vaccination Mandate

Good participation in the forum on Monday; Commissioners Roberts and Gamble attended, along with approximately 50% of the operations workforce and most staff in attendance in person or via zoom. The District has published a timeline and process for requesting exemptions. Staff had a follow up conversation with the Executive Board from labor this week and has an attorney conference call scheduled as well for questions that arose during the forum or discussion with labor. Some exemption requests have been received.

The Deputy Chiefs and the HR Director will review the exemption requests, granting or rejecting each request. The Chief will serve as the "tie breaker" where there is question

or contention. Labor has requested an independent appeals process, and management has agreed that the Grievance and Appeals Panel of the Board would serve that function. Next week labor and management will finalize the outcome for personnel who did not receive an exemption and have not completed vaccination by the State deadline.

An additional forum with the membership will be held on Friday the 10th at 10 AM so that all members will know the details of the entire process and expected outcomes.

Commissioner Kirkbride inquired about the development of the exemption criteria; Chief noted that this was discussed with legal counsel, and the forms for exemption reflect this criteria. A final discussion with legal will address the issue of rejection of exemption requests and the process for requesting any additional documents or subsequent investigation.

Ultimately, at this time, if a member was decertified by the Department of Health, the member would not have continued employment, as certification as an EMT or paramedic is a condition of employment.

Commissioner Hetzler requested a copy of the exemption forms.

Commissioner Kelling asked if a member was investigated by DOH, would the member retain his or her certification during the investigation. Chief Brooks replied that typically, unless it was a care concern, a member would retain certification. Ultimately it is the Medical Program Director's decision. Our labor contract also has language addressing temporary loss of certification.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Regarding Sole Source Purchase

Chief Brooks explained in the fall of last year, we brought information to the Board regarding the demonstration rescue rig. While intent, discussions and Board motions supported a sole source resolution, we discovered that we had not actually completed that document. This was brought to our attention this year by the auditor (although the actual purchase was completed in 2021). Director Hough discussed with the Auditor our proposed process of completing a retroactive resolution; we also discussed this approach with legal counsel and both feel that is an appropriate direction. Staff apologizes for the lateness and recommends signature.

Commissioner Kelling noted he read the two page memorandum, cross referenced the RCW and confirmed the actual purchase price was per the motion from the November 2020 meeting.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 878-09-21 Exempting the purchase and necessary modifications of a rescue vehicle from competitive bidding pursuant to RCW 39.04.280

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler
Second: Commissioner Kelling

Carried: Unanimous

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks:

- Reminder about the upcoming Commissioner conference
- Met with staff this week, regarding the evolving cycle of disease and the comfort level of engagement with the community, looking towards balancing the desire to engage with the community and protect the work force. We believe it is difficult to manage having public coming into the facilities as we have no control over the number of attendees, level of adherence to masking, access to other areas of the lobby and post-use sanitation. We do believe keeping the lobby open at Station 31 is manageable. Logistics is looking at an automated blood pressure machine – this provides a service that is a low contact activity, hands-free, minimizes the risks, and yet still engages the public. Our current recommendation, rather than keep opening and closing as the environment changes, is to close facilities to public use after the Labor Day holiday until the end of the year. If things change dramatically, we can change, but this direction provides a level of consistency. Additionally, this year we will again engage with the schools remotely rather than in person. The Chief will check regarding CPR training in the schools.
- We had planned on opening a public event in September for car seat checks, but now expect we will continue those as a scheduled appointment service.
- We are underway with our annual audit. Shout out to Director Hough and his staff – we received very positive feedback about the level of responsiveness and professionalism of the staff. We actually have the same audit manager as we have had for three or four years; he chooses to return and help with our audit. The audit is again managed remotely this year.
- Chief will be unavailable for the next meeting and the Deputy Chiefs will assist.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hetzler – no comments. Will be unavailable for the Commissioner Association meeting.

Commissioner Kelling – looking forward to details for the 9-11 memorial ceremony.

Commissioner Gamble – will be unavailable for September 16th meeting. Thank you everyone for your hard work during these hard times. The forum was a great space for people to share their concerns and questions.

Commissioner Kirkbride – handed out an article before the meeting regarding the challenges with hybrid vehicle battery fires; in Belgium the Fire Department has mobile “bath” for these cars. Will be unavailable for the 9-11 memorial, but my thoughts will be with you. Chief noted that the ceremony will be live streamed.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

None

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

XII. REQUEST FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

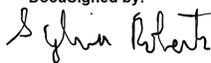
The Board adjourned into executive session at 6:13 PM, for an estimated 20 minutes.

The Board reconvened at 6:36 PM with no action taken.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:37 PM.

*Next Regular Meeting: September 16, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.*

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Chair

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Commissioner

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ATTEST: District Secretary