

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

September 16, 2021

Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Roberts
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 Gamble 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 – none

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the September 2, 2021 of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
- B. Warrants:
- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) checks numbered 22782 through 22803 and including bank draft # DFT00804 and electronic fund transfers (EFT) #5025 through 5027 for a total amount of \$544,512.09

- Equipment, Repair and Replacement Fund 103 (Acct#6636) electronic fund transfer number 5007 for a total of \$121.54
- 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 (Acct #663B) bank draft numbered DFT00805 and electronic funds transfer (EFT) number 5012 for a total amount of \$37,724.03

C. Payroll 09A 2021 in the amount of \$1,309,230.87

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda.

Motion: Commissioner Kelling

Second: Commissioner Hetzler

Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Kirkbride reported from the September 15, 2021 meeting:

- An update was given on ambulance delay, reallocation of resources and our continuing volume/resource challenges. Some easing of the issue has occurred with putting EMTs in the vestibule of the Emergency Room, Medic One coordination of the staffing of an ambulance, and additional ambulances being brought in from Kitsap County.
- CPR classes have been suspended through the end of the year.
- The Board of County Commissioners has allocated COVID funding to help pay for staffing the ambulance Medic One is coordinating.
- The EMS Council wrote a letter to the Governor asking to reconsider the mandate for licensed / certified personnel. WREMS has written a similar letter and to date, no response has been received to either letter.
- An application for the citizen representative on the WREMS Board was rejected by the Board. The submitter had extensive experience and background in EMS, and Board felt the position was intended for more of a consumer – someone without such a background. That action resulted in creating a committee to screen applications so that if an application did not meet intent / requirements, it could be returned in a less public forum. The Committee – Executive Greg Perry, Paul Perz and Commissioner Kirkbride – will also look at the bylaws to determine if any changes need to be made.

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

No report; next meeting is September 29th

C. City/District Liaison

No report; Chief will confirm the next meeting is in October.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

No report; next meeting is September 21st.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council -

Commissioner Kelling reported from the September 3rd meeting:

- The Council reviewed the drafts of the mission, vision and values statements developed at the July retreat. These will be presented at the October meeting.
- The draft Regional Transportation Improvement Plan was reviewed, and is expected to be approved at the next meeting.
- Nisqually channel erosion around the main pylons of the Nisqually bridge were discussed; the erosion appears to be happening at a faster rate.
- Intercity Transit will have updated bus schedules out by September 19th; bus drivers are mandated to be vaccinated and that may affect service.
- Commissioner Kelling asked all the agencies at the meeting to get with their fire service providers to become aware of the impact of the Governor's mandate to their fire agencies.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Schmidt shared:

- The 9-11 memorial ceremony at Station 34 was well attended and live streamed over Facebook.
- Chief Brooks and staff participated in the City of Lacey's 9-11 ceremony midday.
- Community Outreach Coordinator Chris Debell received a second WREMS grant for the Senior Safe @ Home program. There are five appointments scheduled over the next week. She is also working with Woodland Elementary and the Department of Health on a bicycle helmet project.
- The District received an appreciation/thank you letter for the District's efforts on a structure fire; it was especially appreciated since despite the District's efforts, the resident was overcome and did not survive.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Cerovski shared:

- The Ladder Truck is in final stages of being readied to be placed in service.

- With the ladder trucks finally out of the VRF, the District's 2 engines can move forward to upfitting; the hope is they will be in service in November.
- The VRF is in design process and cost estimation; Station 33 is also in cost estimation and we hope for an update in the next 30 days.
- Chief Cerovski and Director Chambers will be doing a warranty walk-through Station 34 with the Architect.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. COVID Emergency Declaration Status – no report.

B. COVID Vaccination Mandate

Chief Schmidt noted the District continues to work through the vaccine mandate issues with their established process for exemption requests and accommodation agreements. Members have until October 1st to accept the accommodations, and staff has been meeting with each exemption requestor individually to discuss accommodations and present the accommodation agreement. A second forum was held via zoom that generated a few more questions that staff will be working on. Commissioner Roberts was able to attend the 2nd forum and noted that the forum was well run and provided an opportunity for members to express their viewpoint. She noted the Chief has been very clear about the expectations.

The accommodation that will be offered is the opportunity to wear an N95 respirator unless the member is alone in their own room. Members are restricted from joining – at the table – for communal eating; a stock of TV trays will be provided for use for those restricted from the communal table while others are there and for any others who want to eat further away or in their room. Additional sanitizing will be conducted for surfaces.

Commissioners asked:

- Is there a plan developed on for members with intent to vaccinate and awaiting full vaccination status? (yes)
- Is there a plan or process for a member changing his / her mind and deciding to get vaccinated? (yes)
- Is staff confident that members are aware of the timelines, rules, restrictions, and expectations? (yes)

Staff will inform the Board of any changes before the next meeting on October 7th

VII. NEW BUSINESS - none

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Schmidt shared:

- Director Hough presented the YTD financial report. Should be at about 67% expended – we are at that mark. Commissioner Kelling inquired about a

preparatory discussion before the upcoming budget; Director Hough noted that would be held next month.

- An offer has been made and accepted for the new Director of Support Services Programs – our Volunteer Chaplain Chris Gorman will be moving to this new role beginning in October. The District is also working on filling out the team for support services; two additional offers have been extended for internal and external social work programs.
- The District’s mySidewalk performance dashboard is now up to date. Some difficulties occurred during the transition of incident reporting platforms, but those have been resolved and the dashboard is again up to date. Chief Schmidt noted the District’s website has a link to the dashboard.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hetzler – attended 9-11 ceremony. It was so well run and appreciated. There was a lot of road noise, though, but watching the cars stopping to honk and / or wave was indicative of our community’s support. Want to give a shout out to the Senior Safe @ Home program – it is so needed in our community. Very proud of being able to continue this activity, especially since so many things have shut down. Very grateful and a shout out to Chris for this program

Commissioner Kelling – attended the 9-11 ceremony and thought it was very well run; a shout out to Chief Hulse for the live streaming. Appreciates the financial briefs as he preps for budget discussions. Noted there is not a lot of expenditure for the Senior Safe @ Home program (Chief explained the grant monies go towards what might be needed in a home, such as grab bars or smoke detectors. The SS@H volunteers assess each home, determine what is needed then work with community partners to get items installed) Commissioner Kelling noted the September 22nd flu shot clinic notice.

Commissioner Kirkbride – noted he missed the ceremony as he was out of town, and it was only the second time he had missed the event. He noted an email regarding 2 upcoming winter hazards seminars is now out. He noted his encouragement with reports about Lee, and that his thoughts and prayers continued to be with her.

Commissioner Roberts – echoed the other commissioners regarding the 9-11 ceremony. She thanked Director Hough for the great financial report. She is very pleased with the Senior Safe @ Home program, and noted it was very needed in our community; sometimes the seniors who need it the most won’t ask. She gave her shout out to Chris Debell for her work on this program.

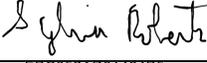
X. CORRESPONDENCE - none

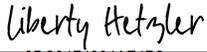
XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT - none

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:15 PM.

*Next Regular Meeting: October 7, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.*

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Chair

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Commissioner

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Commissioner

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Vice Chair

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Commissioner

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ATTEST: District Secretary