

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 19, 2022

Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Gamble
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Kelling
Commissioner Roberts

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 was excused.
Commissioner Roberts joined via Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kelling
Second: Commissioner Gamble
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the May 5, 2022, of the Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

B. Warrants:

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) EFTs numbered 5068 through 5071; checks numbered 23081 through 23105; and bank drafts number 946 for a total amount of \$754,042.15.
- 301 Capital Projects Fund 301 EFTs numbered 5002 through 5003; and check number 23106 in the amount of \$104,027.94.
- 2017B Capital Projects Fund 307 EFT number 5022 in the amount of \$36,525.41.

C. Payroll 051 in the amount of \$1,553,097.45.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kelling

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

Commissioner Kirkbride reported from the May 18th meeting:

- This was a hybrid meeting, but nearly everyone attended via Zoom after a notification that the chairman and the vice chairman were not able to attend; therefore no business could be conducted. It was purely a reporting process.
- The first item dealt with the 90-day no-divert trial that the hospitals are trying. This is currently two months in, and it appears to be working in lieu of the round robin. The hospitals want to continue with the system.
- The format for future meetings was discussed, with most in favor of a hybrid format. The chair and the vice chair will be discussing this at the next meeting.
- The budget committee met last week about the modification to the spreadsheet that shows the distribution of funds. This spreadsheet has been used for many years and shows how monies are distributed to the fire service agencies. The financial support that deals with BLS calls and with supplies and equipment is what has always been used. Everyone on the right side of the systems support, et cetera, has always been used. There is a new box in the middle of the page called OTEP? Financial Support. Training of the EMTs and first responders is now going to be conducted in each of the agencies, and \$100,000 has been set aside in the budget for reimbursement for the costs of those agencies. This spreadsheet shows how that money is to be distributed this year. It is based on the number of certified personnel at each of the agencies. They used an equation to arrive at a price of \$164.89 per person to

be reimbursed. Each year, the budget amounts may or may not change, but the formula stays the same. Supplies and equipment and financial support are based on last year's BLS calls. This is based on individuals. It will be reviewed again, and budget committee is recommending adoption of the spreadsheet concept, not the individual prices per agencies.

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

No report – the next meeting is June 1st.

C. City/District Liaison

No report – the next meeting is June 21st.

Commissioner Kirkbride has a conflict with that date and is requesting that meeting to be moved to June 28th.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Gamble reported from the May 17th meeting:

- There was a presentation by Paul Brewster, the senior planner for Thurston Regional Planning Council, and it was very informative. The discussion was regarding hazard mitigation planning, what that is, how to minimize losses, identify risks, and what that means for fire service. The relevant items for the fire service were how to reduce harm, reduce exposure to hazard, improve public safety, developing a better wildfire risk area map, advocating for actions to save lives, protect property, and preserve operations and find ideas to reach those goals.
- The next meeting is June 21st, but Commissioner Gamble will not be present. Commissioner Hetzler is the alternate.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council -

Commissioner Kelling reported from the latest meeting:

- The May meeting was the first one offered in a hybrid setting. A small majority attended in person.
- The Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board has a focus this year for providing feedback on the comprehensive plans for municipalities, counties, and other like districts. They are starting with the draft plans and plan on taking that forward.
- The next meeting is on June 3rd and Commissioner Roberts will be attending, as Commissioner Kelling will be unavailable.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- This weekend is the return of the Lacey Fun Fair. It has been challenging with all the overtime and the recruit academy to get dedicated standby. There

will be duty crews rotating through. There was a dedicated crew there for the Home and Garden Show, which ended up having a low turnout. Hopefully, the Lacey Fun Fair will be a popular event.

- Chris DeBell reports more of a return to normal baseline with requests to show up at various community events.
- Chief Brooks was at Jubilee Community on May 13th. There were 30-35 residents there for the meeting. Their EPIC (Emergency Preparedness) group is reengaging now that they can be back in person. They just purchased their own automatic defibrillator for the new pickleball courts.
- The next upcoming event on June 4th is the Duck Dash for the Lacey Rotary at the fairgrounds.
- There are currently no HOAs that have accepted a presentation yet from the district, but should soon be getting back into the cycle of annual meetings.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Cerovski shared:

- The VRF project continues to move along. Still waiting for some permitting to take place with regard to the civil engineering assessments, in addition to the building permit. There is no completion date anticipated yet.
- The 700 radios integration purchase with Thurston County is underway. In the past, there was a delay in the construction of the infrastructure for some of the sites for repeaters, but still moving forward with the implementation of radio equipment, expected to start taking place in September and hopefully finished by the end of the year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. COVID Emergency Declaration Status: Chief Brooks reported there has been a slight uptick or resurgence in impacts to staff with positive tests or exposures. Continuing to track that.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks reported:

- On a call today with the city administrator of Tumwater and the city manager from Olympia. They are working through the Regional Fire Authority process and Chief Brooks had offered to be a resource. They reached out to discuss concepts surrounding administrative support functions for the new RFA including HR, finance, and IT. They are starting to evaluate what their options would look like in the new environment. They will be going back to talk to their consultants about what their options are. Their current timeline is hoping to have something to the voters by next spring. They are concerned

about being able to stand up all the different divisions and are evaluating options of whether to contract back with the cities or to stand some of those up or to third party those.

- Wrapping up the last day with Lifescan after three weeks of required physicals. A new vendor was brought in last year that raised the bar on the quality of the physicals. It is a three-station process that includes a visit with a nurse practitioner or physician assistant, an ultrasound technician, and an exercise physiologist. There has been really positive feedback from the members.
- There was notice from IT staff through Medic One that one of the enhancements that they did under the EMS levy was assuming the liability for the wireless infrastructure for all the modems on the response vehicles. There were about 30 of those that were transferred away from the district's liability that Medic One assumed responsibility for. That is about \$16,000 a year savings that Medic One is assuming under the EMS levy.
- Approached by Medic One and Olympic Ambulance about the possibility of being able to assist Olympic. There are automatic external defibrillators standardized across the county for all the fire and EMS agencies. Those are obtained through Medic One. They are very old but are still working and effective. There is a plan to replace them within the next year or two as a new device comes on the market. It has been difficult to find one that meets the specifications that the medical program director wants. Historically Olympic Ambulance has used a different model and device and it is not standardized. If our crews show up, if an Olympic unit arrived first, they would have to remove the device that Olympic was using to place the pads and start the defibrillator. Olympic is willing to come to a standardized device that the county uses, especially under their new ownership and leadership, but they cannot buy them. The current ones used by Lacy Fire are not available on the market. The ones that Olympic uses are reaching end of life and they cannot get supplies and equipment for them anymore. Medic One is trying to work through the process with the county and cannot find an efficient path to allow a private entity to purchase or utilize the same devices used across the county. The path of least resistance is Medic One transferring ownership of the number of devices needed to the fire district, and because Olympic is the primary provider for transport services, the use of those will be extended through a memorandum of understanding to Olympic to allow them to use those until the new devices become available. Olympic had to sign an indemnity to hold harmless that stipulates their responsibility to maintain the devices. Medic One has a cache of the devices currently and just needs to get them to Olympic. Olympic will get ten of the devices.
- Regarding the stormwater issue, Chief Brooks has reached out to city manager and is attempting to find a time to discuss that.
- Four of the five commissioners have completed the Public Records Act Training. The certificates should be coming soon. There is an additional layer of training regarding public records retention. A link will be sent for completion of this training. It is unclear whether it is recommended or required, but the decision was made to just have everyone complete it regardless.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gamble – looking forward to the Fun Fair.

Commissioner Kelling – thanks to Chief for sharing the links for the EMS 911 seminar. Jordan and Chris did a great job in delivering a potentially sensitive topic to an attentive audience. This is regarding the seminar sponsored by the Washington Healthcare Association titled EMS and Long Term Care. It is worth the time to view. Thanks to the team for fostering that discussion and making sure it was presented in a holistic fashion. Also listened to the economic seminar. The presenter did a great job. It was the best summary of the economy to date. With everything going up, are there any budgetary concerns with the price of commodities, gas, utilities?

Chief Brooks responded that increased fuel prices is the main concern. This is likely to become a budgetary issue. Still running about 4% under budget through the first third of the year. The availability of some commodities has been an issue more so than the costs. There may be adjustments made going into the 2023 budget if fuel costs remain at current levels.

Commissioner Kirkbride – along with Commissioner Kelling, will be attending Thurston Regional Executive Seminar. Chief Brooks will be there as well. These are usually done twice a year, in the spring and in the fall.

Commissioner Roberts –

X. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chief Schmidt shared about a community member who was thankful for the care the crews provided for her family member multiple times.
- There was also a comment about what was thought to be a gas leak but turned out to be a monitor issue with a battery. The citizen felt that the crews gave customer service at a level that was meaningful to them.
- A family's loved one passed away, and they thanked the responders and support services team. The care they provided was exceptional.
- Chief Brooks mentioned that there were two successful resuscitations from CPR events in the past few weeks with good performance of citizen or bystander CPR. The paramedic lieutenant was trying to connect with those who did CPR to officially recognize them.

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

- None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:02 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: June 2, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.

Available via remote meeting.

Chair

Vice Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary