

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

May 1st, 2025

The meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom and with in-person attendance at Station 31.
1231 Franz St SE, Lacey, WA 98516

Present:	Present (Virtual):	Excused:
Commissioner Hetzler Commissioner Kelling Commissioner Kirkbride	Commissioner Gamble	Commissioner Roberts

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Hetzler 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. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the April 10, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners Workshop.

B. Draft minutes of the April 17, 2025, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.

C. Warrants (AP 5A 2025):

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) EFTs numbered 5571 through 5573; checks numbered 24381 through 24388 for a total amount of \$56,217.90.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: EFT numbered 5574; checks numbered 24389 through 24390 for a total amount of \$35,284.54.

D. Payroll 4B-2025 in the amount of \$703,919.60.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Kelling

Second: Commissioner Kirkbride

Carried: Unanimous

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

No report; the meeting was canceled for a lack of agenda items. The next meeting will take place on May 22nd.

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

Commissioner Roberts is excused and will provide a report on TCOMM at the next commissioners' meeting.

C. City/District Liaison

Chief Schmidt reported that the next meeting will take place on May 15th.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

No report; the next meeting is on May 20th.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council

No report; the next meeting is on May 2nd.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Schmidt shared:

- LFD3 is ramping up for their busy season. On April 17th, there was a visit to Olympic View Kindergarten for a fire safety presentation. On April 18th, an engine went to Komachin Middle School and did a presentation for a special needs group.
- An event is scheduled tomorrow. Duty crews will be doing a water extinguisher demonstration for a nonprofit group.
- There was an event on April 23rd hosted by the Nisqually Tribe for a car seat giveaway and installation event. Chris DeBell and former chief Steve Brooks attended that event.
- There have been about three fire station tours in the past couple of weeks.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Cerovski shared:

- There is an update on the Incident Support Unit: it is set to arrive in the beginning of June. The final inspection at Northwest should take place around June 3rd.
- At the end of the month there will be a ceremony to put the unit into service.
- At that point, there will be an opportunity to surplus the current ISU, which is the oldest frontline fleet unit currently.
- Chief Cerovski showed photos of the vehicle.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. No items.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Surplus Items (Appendix A)

Chief Cerovski reported:

- Items to be surplusd at this time include IT equipment, office furniture, apparatus, and some radio equipment. In that batch of radio equipment is also some grant-authorized radio equipment that was received several years ago that will need to be returned back to the county.
- Chief Schmidt reported that questions about the surplus had arisen, including the question of how to decide when to surplus hose. Hose typically has a 10- to 15-year lifespan. Some of the hose being surplusd is possibly a little younger than the normal service life, but there has been a transition to a more efficient hose that is lighter for the members for pull, reducing risk of injury, and also matching up with the nozzles which is an important consideration.
- Commissioner Kirkbride inquired whether the hoses being surplusd are still usable and Chief Schmidt responded that they absolutely are still usable. Chief Cerovski mentioned that a couple of locations have been identified to donate the hoses. One of them is the FITE program at the New Market Skill Center. Another location is a partner agency, SETFA. They have an issue with bridges with a weight capacity too low to support a fire apparatus. Their contingency plan to manage this situation involves using a reserve apparatus parked permanently across the bridge, and that reserve apparatus needs hose. The third donation location is an organization called Empact NW, which is in the process of helping developing fire departments in Central America.
- There was a question about the three vehicles being surplusd. These include a 2005 Suburban, which was utilized for many years as a BC rig. Once it was pulled from that, it was underutilized. There is also a 2007 Chevy Tahoe and a Ford Explorer. Per Chief Frost, it is expected that there will be more items surplusd in the future.
- Chief Cerovski also mentioned that the vehicles will be surplusd using the Enterprise program, which will provide direct savings back to the fleet lease.

MOTION: To declare surplus equipment that is identified on a May 1, 2025, list of vehicles, IT equipment, office equipment, radios, and hose and nozzle equipment.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride
Second: Commissioner Kelling
Carried: Unanimous

B. Resolution for Cooperative Purchasing (Appendix B)

Chief Cerovski reported:

- The agency has been working with a company called Darkhorse to develop a data analysis software tool to review response data and performance data, as well as to forecast about the community and population and where growth is taking place to confirm and predict where new facilities might go and to validate the kind of response performance required by the WAC and the RCW in the state.

MOTION: To approve Resolution 898-05-25, authorization of purchases from and through the Interlocal Purchasing System, Tips-USA.com, amended to include the specific item in question, which is the software as described by Deputy Chief Cerovski.

Motion: Commissioner Kelling
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Patti reported:

- On April 16th, there was a wildland kickoff meeting to discuss the rules of engagement this year for wildland season.
- Twelve members have committed to wildland season. This is a combination of wildland strike teamwork as well as REMS teamwork. The teams will be rostered starting the first week of June.
- A central region meeting has not taken place yet. At that meeting, there are usually discussions of weather and when mobilizations are expected.
- The REMS team is going to set up early because of some wildfire activity occurring on the west coast. They will start rostering their teams in the first part of May.
- Chief Patti shared the platform being used for keeping track of mobilizations.
- Chief Schmidt commented that Chief Patti attended the open house at the fairgrounds, and one of the positives about the tools he's creating is that they're good for the entire membership to see and will also provide support to finance, since a lot of work falls on them as well.
- Chief Patti reported on a call that took place on 4/30. The call was for a forklift accident at the Evergreen Gun Club. The gentleman had been working with a forklift, loading a trap house with clay pigeons. The forklift rolled down the steps and pinned his legs with the forks against the

concrete wall. There was a response by the SORT team who used winches to lift the forklift up and out. It took about 20 minutes to get the forklift off. The victim of the accident was taken by helicopter to Harborview.

Chief Schmidt reported:

- Chief Schmidt attended the county chiefs' meeting took place on April 30, at which there was a presentation from the Thurston Conservation District. They talked about the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.
- They are focusing on the south part of the county, which according to their audit is at the highest risk. They are also interested in partners in the northern end of the county. Chief Schmidt is hoping to partner with them in the future, with the intention of being able to host open houses, invite the community, and provide education. Chief Schmidt will attend their meeting on May 17th.
- Chief Schmidt shared drawings of patches that were designed to represent each of the fire stations (31, 33, 34, and 35). These are not replacing district patches, but there would be an option to put the station patch on one sleeve of the jackets. Chief Schmidt mentioned there would be strict rules about which pieces of clothing they could be placed on.
- At the beginning of the month, the business analyst started. She has been a great addition to the team so far. She will be brought in soon for introduction to the commissioners.
- One member, a paramedic firefighter, Iver Nitz, will be moving up to Central Pierce. He has a week and a half or so before transitioning to his new role.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gamble – the patches are personal and give members something more to call their own at their station. No other comments.

Commissioner Kelling – regarding the wildland fires and the summer predictions, there was an executive seminar scheduled for the 5th hosted by the county, but that was postponed and will be rescheduled. Commissioner Kelling attended the Local Official Social. It is planned for every 5th Wednesday going forward. It was a purely social event, although they are considering having focus discussions going forward with topics such as public safety.

Commissioner Kirkbride – the concept that was created several years ago to form the SORT team was brilliant and has clearly paid dividends. In today's Washington State Fire Marshals newsletter, there is an article about the emergency response information system and transitioning to it. Commissioner Kirkbride inquired if transitioning to this system is something being planned for Lacey. Chief Patti responded that there is a transition from the NFIRS (National Fire Incident Report System) to NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System). The federal requirement is to transition to the new system by January 1st. This topic was a main focus as the ESO Conference in Texas. The software has already been certified as compliant with the new standards. There will be some new pieces of that software coming out for the reporting

piece. That will be received in plenty of time to provide necessary training, and there will be no problem transitioning by January 1st.

Commissioner Hetzler – a reminder that if anybody has notes on the commissioner handbook, pass them along. Regarding the schedule going forward: Commissioner Hetzler will be absent on June 5th. June 19th is a holiday, and July 3rd is the date of Lacey’s big independence day event. Commissioner Gamble proposed that those meetings be moved to June 18th and July 2nd.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Schmidt reported about a piece of correspondence received regarding an incident where a vehicle went through the Ram restaurant on April 18th. The gentleman had called, upset, stating that the driver of the vehicle did not receive the best possible service from the LFD3 crews on scene. After discussion with Chief Schmidt, it was determined that he was not actually on scene but that his caregiver had been present and did not feel comfortable calling, so he was calling on her behalf. He was able to connect Chief Schmidt with the caregiver. The caregiver reported that while crews were not rude in any way, there did not seem to be an adequate level of attention given to the driver to ensure that he was okay. She also felt that it took too much time for fire and law enforcement to reach out to help this individual contact family.

Chief Schmidt reached out to the battalion chief to discuss this situation. The gentleman in question had been evaluated and had asked not to have any medical treatment. The battalion chief did agree that it would have been helpful to go back to the person in question and ensure that he was okay and still did not want medical attention.

XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. In accordance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate.

The executive session began at 6:28 and was scheduled to take 20 minutes. The executive session ended at 6:48 with no action taken.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:48 PM.

***Next Regular Meeting: May 15th, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.***

Signed by:

Liberty Hetzler

5/16/2025

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Chair

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Kell M

5/16/2025

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Vice Chair

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Melissa Gamble

5/16/2025

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Commissioner

Signed by:

Debra Roberts

5/17/2025

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Commissioner

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Rick Kelling

5/17/2025

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Commissioner

Signed by:

Michael Cerasinski

5/27/2025

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ATTEST: District Secretary