THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

June 18, 2026

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 Kelling Commissioner Kirkbride Commissioner Gamble Commissioner Roberts	Commissioner Hetzler	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kirkbride called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM, followed with a salute to our Nation's Flag.

II. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

There is one change to the agenda. New Business Item B, Reading of Resolution 903-06-26, will be moved to take place before committee reports.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.
Motion: Commissioner Kelling
Second: Commissioner Roberts
Carried: Unanimous

IV. SWEARING IN AND PINNING CEREMONY

A. Training Captain Martin Ranney
B. Paramedics Spencer Bourque and Carter Dorsing

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of June 4, 2026, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
B. Warrants (AP 6A 2026):

- General Fund 001 (Acct $6630); EFTs numbered 5804 through 5810; checks numbered 24918 through 24945; drafts numbered 1780 through 1793 for a total amount of $1,609,007.70.

- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103; EFTs numbered 5811 through 5813; check numbered 24946 for a total amount of $27,328.94.
- 2025 Capital Projects Fund 309; EFT numbered 5814 for a total amount of $47,890.03.

C. Payroll 6A-2026 in the amount of $2,239,612.75.

Chief Schmidt mentioned that there was a question from the Board about one of the warrants. There was a line item for inspection and cleaning of bunker gear. There was an ask to explain the process behind it and what constitutes inspection and cleaning. Chief Patti explained that cleaning and inspection follows the NFPA 1850 standards. All of the gear is required to be cleaned no less than twice a year. One of those cleanings occurs with advanced inspection. During the advanced inspection, the Logistics division collects the gear and it is sent to LN Curtis, a vendor who does bunker gear inspection and repair. The inspection is very thorough.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.
Motion: Commissioner Gamble
Second: Commissioner Roberts
Carried: Unanimous

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Reading of Resolution 903-06-26
Regarding Bonds for Capital Improvements — Board Discussion and Action

Chief Kirkwood spoke:

- The document was prepared by the bond council and is ready for the commissioners to review.

MOTION: To approve the Resolution 903-06-26, Bonds for Fire Stations, Training Facilities, Logistics Warehouse – to adopt this resolution providing for this mission to the voters of a proposition authorizing the issuance of voter approved general obligation bonds in aggregate principal amount not to exceed $98,300,000 for capital improvement projects set forth in the presented resolution.
Motion: Commissioner Kelling
Second: Commissioner Gamble
Carried: Unanimous

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One
No report; the next meeting will take place next Thursday.

B. Thurston 9-1-1 Communications (TCOMM)
No report; the next meeting will take place on July 1st.

C. City/District Liaison

No report; the next meeting will take place on July 16th.

D. LFD3/EOFD ILA Committee
No report; the next meeting will take place on July 30th.

E. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association
Commissioner Gamble reported:
- The most recent meeting was a light meeting with several attendees absent.
- There was no legislative report.
- There were reminders about getting rooms scheduled for the conference October 21-24.
- There was discussion about upcoming events in the community, including the Knights of Columbus car show and an event in Rochester.
- The Firefighter Academy graduation will take place on June 20th.
- Mike Simmons from Firehouse 5 was a guest speaker. This is a nonprofit group of retirees from the fire service who restore historic fire engines. They also do a variety of community events and support causes such as the Burn Foundation and burn camps. They are looking for more people to join their group.

F. Thurston Regional Planning Council
Commissioner Kelling reported:
- Regarding the emergency detour routes prioritization criteria – they are in the analysis phase right now. This stemmed from the 2017 train derailment at Mounts Road. The alternate routes include Highway 510 and Marvin Road. The focus of the study is to provide inputs to the various jurisdictions for minor traffic improvement opportunities to improve the flow on these alternate routes should a longer lasting (more than 72 hour) event close one of the major road arteries. They expect the full action plan to be published this fall.
- There is a Roadway Safety Survey that the TRPC is encouraging everyone to take. It is featured on their website. Everyone is encouraged to take it. It closes at the end of the month.
- The next meeting will take place on July 10th. Commissioner Kelling will not be able to attend. Chief Cerovski is the designated backup.

G. Community Outreach
Chris DeBell reported:
- Community Outreach remains active while moving into the summer months. At the end of the school year, there were duty crews at school-based events, including Chambers Prairie Bicycle Fest and Field Day events at Pleasant Glade and Seven Oaks Elementary.
- On June 6th, a crew attended the Lacey Rotary Duck Dash, connecting with community members and providing coupons for bicycle helmets for those who won bicycles in the raffle.

- In conjunction with the excitement surrounding the World Cup events taking place across the region, crews from Station 34 were invited to participate in a first responders-themed semi-professional soccer match between the FC Olympia Artesians and the Tacoma Stars. Their role was to conduct the ceremonial walk of the game ball out to the center.
- On June 13th, the District participated in the Hawks Prairie Community Association Hometown Heroes event. Chief Schmidt, Battalion 34, and Engine 35 attended the event.
- The second Signature Series podcast is finished now and will drop next week. The episode features Battalion Chief Ryan Fox.
- Chief Schmidt reported on an outreach event with Laurel Oaks: a volunteer for ISU and Senior Safe At Home, Steve Bay, along with Chief Schmidt, attended a community gathering at Laurel Oaks. The community was very engaged and eager to hear and learn from LFD3 staff. Steve Bay went above and beyond; he arrived early with the ISU unit, parking it out front and giving tours and explaining the ISU to community members. He gave also gave an entire presentation on safety at home for seniors.

H. Operations and Logistics:

Chief Carson shared:

- With the nice weather, there have been several traumatic calls over the past few weeks. The battalion chiefs have done a great job of following up with members and Support Services staff.
- Last week there was a water rescue call on the Nisqually River. There were five people floating down the river who got caught in a snag.
- Last Tuesday there was a water rescue on Puget Sound. A gentleman went out for a leisure ride in his single-person raft. Unfortunately, his oars broke, and he spent 11 hours in the tidal waters until somebody recognized that something was wrong. He was rescued by LFD3 crews and was uninjured.
- The battalion chief test announcement went out last week. That process will take place on August 19 and 20. Staff is in the process of preparing with public safety testing.
- Behind the scenes, there has been a lot of planning for the July 3rd firework show at Rainier Vista.
- Next week there will be two retirements, with a third retirement the following Monday.
- Last Sunday, Chief Schmidt and Chief Carson, in collaboration with the Thurston County Realtors Association and the American Legion Band and the VFW Post 318, were asked to participate in National Flag Day. This was a partnership with McLane Black Lake. There was an opportunity to raise the large flag for the Flag Day ceremony.

Chief Patti shared:

- On the Logistics side, there have been two big projects in the last couple of weeks. The facilities team has been addressing items from the L&I inspection; as of today, all of the items for both District 3 and District 6

have been closed out as of today. This is in large part due to the efforts to Moses Klaassen, Derek Fontaine, and Chief Frost.

- Regarding the new Engine 31: the apparatus was pushed into service yesterday afternoon and ran its first call within an hour. The crews report being extremely pleased with the new apparatus.

I. Standards and Resilience

Chief Cerovski reported:

- This Saturday at 2:00, the graduation for the South Sound Recruit Academy will take place. The American Cancer Society has an event scheduled for the same location (at the track, not at the Koval Center), which might present some challenges when it comes to parking. Additional information will be sent out regarding parking recommendations.
- Shift assignments have been made for A, C, and D shift for those recruits.
- The date for swearing their swearing in ceremony at a BoFC meeting is pending.
- Regarding Community Risk Reduction: the draft County Roads Standards document is out for public comment by Thurston County. It is a robust document, at 171 pages, covering everything from fire code requirements, private road standards, emergency turnaround standards, etc. Efforts are already underway to review the document in order to provide public comment that will benefit the district.
- Invitations have been sent out for the July 15th Insurance Symposium. Chief Roberts has done a fantastic job working with the insurance industry to assign three hours of continuing education credit for those in the HR industry.
- In Tracy, California, on June 11th, there was a very large fire that occurred in a Medline distribution facility of a million square feet. That building was a total loss, but all 120 occupants that work in the facility were able to escape without injury. One notation from the event was that the water supply system was not functioning correctly, which led to the spread of the fire and the inability to contain it. Additionally, the fire sprinkler system was not operational. This is shared to highlight that this is why Community Risk Reduction exists.
- Regarding Safety and Compliance: this week, Safety and Compliance has teamed up with Operations to participate in the National Safety Stand Down event that is held every year. The goal is to spend the week focusing on the Safety Stand Down message. Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, LFD3 is not able to fully participate, but key staff have been signed up to be part of the Safety Officers Association. Chief Fogarty's plan is for more robust and customized engagement next year.
- Chief Fogarty has been working on the Accident, Injury, and Near Miss Program to work on better documentation and notification. There has been progress in safety as near misses have been shared effectively.

- The District has completed the RFQ process for the Owner's Representative. Notifications were made today to enter into contract negotiations with the chosen vendor firm.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Community Advisory Committee Recommendations

Chief Schmidt reported:

- The second meeting with five attendees of the Community Advisory Committee has taken place. The focus was the bond amount. Time was also spent going over project scope as well as impact to the taxpayers. Chris DeBell spoke about messaging, both internal and external, and about what efforts to educate via social media would look like.
- A tool has been created for the Community Advisory Community to work with for communication and sharing ideas and comments. They are also utilizing email to share their thoughts.
- Another meeting is planned for August once community education has begun in order to get their feedback about how they and other members of the community view the bond measure.
- When the amount of $98.3 million was shared, none of the attendees seemed shocked by the amount. They shared having less concern about the amount and more concern about educating the community about the individual household impacts and what this number will look like to the taxpayers and their families.
- They explained that the concept of a training facility and logistics warehouse is not something that the community would immediately relate to the fire service. They suggested focusing on the education for the community about the fire stations and highlighting those specifically.
- Regarding building the stations, they commented that having the fire stations as pillars of the community is important. They recommended that regarding Station 36 and the development of the district in that area, the community continues to be educated on how needs change and develop.
- Regarding Station 32 and its ability to serve the community, the committee felt that the inadequacy of the current situation needs to be highlighted.
- The committee said that social media and the fact sheets that are shared should focus on simple and easy to digest information but should also do so frequently, putting out information frequently.
- After the August meeting, there will be more feedback from the committee to share.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consolidation and Merger Education — Consultant Steve Brooks

Steve Brooks presented:

- Three options for fire services coming together include fire district mergers, city annexation, and RFA formation.
- The merger process includes initiation, board approvals, the 3/5ths exception, and voter election.
- The annexation process includes city ordinance, district concurrence, regulatory review, dual-election requirement, and approval.
- The RFA process includes a planning committee, the RFA plan, joint ballot certification, jurisdiction-wide vote, and effective date.
- Funding options for these options include regular property tax levies. RFAs and fire districts share identical statutory revenue tools. With a fire district/RFA regular levy, a simple majority is required to pass with authorization to collect up to $1.50 per $1,000 of assessed value. An EMS levy is authorized up to $0.50 per $1,000 of assessed value and can be structured as 6-year, 10-year, or permanent. With a levy lid lift, there are single- or multi-year voter-approved measures to restore the tax rate back to its statutory limits when eroded by inflation.
- Fire Benefit Charges are a fee assessed on buildings based on fire risk, occupancy type, and total square footage rather than property value. Implementing an FBC reduces the regular fire levy cap from $1.50 down to $1.00 per $1,000 of assessed value. The total revenue generated by an FBC cannot exceed 60% of the agency's total operating budget. It requires a 60% supermajority vote to approve and must be reauthorized by the voters every six years.
- Additional funding options include excess levies, general obligation bonds, and alternative funding. Alternative funding options include operational fee models, primarily including ambulance transport billing or specialized service contracts.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. District Monthly Financial Report

Chief Kirkwood reported the summarized statement of activities:

- General Fund 001, net excess is $14.4 million, which is representative of 35% of total expenditure allocation.
- Donation Fund 101: net excess of $16,000.
- Reserve Fund 102: net excess of $1.1 million.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: net excess of $589,763.
- General Fund Summary: net excess of $16.1 million. This number is high due to the influx of tax revenue in the month of April.
- Bond Fund 201: no activity in the month of May for this fund.
- Bond 2017 Fund 202: net excess of $816,000.
- 2025 Bond Fund 203: net excess of $1.1 million.
- Capital Projects Fund 301: net excess of $926,769.
- 2025 Capital Projects Fund 309: net excess of $5,863,408.

B. Chief Schmidt continued the administrative report:

- At the Engine 31 push in ceremony yesterday, there was quite an impressive turnout. The media specialist, Tiffany, put together a fun social media post comparing the new engine to the old one. The media post was very well received by the community, and in about 24 hours, there were almost 20,000 views on Facebook alone.
- Members attended the Fallen Firefighters Ceremony that took place on the Capital lawn on Sunday. There is a group of firefighters who get together every year traveling to all of the different agencies with a firefighter who has passed in the last year to collect a ribbon with that firefighter's name on it. That group then travels back to the Capital for the ceremony. The entire event was very well done.
- The first Fan Zone event will be happening at the Port of Olympia tomorrow.
- Commissioners Kirkbride and Hetzler: there was a merger feasibility meeting that was scheduled for the 29th. There was a meeting today with some of the labor groups, and there is going to be an ask to delay the meeting on the 29th. They are now looking at July 13th.

C. Chief Patti gave an update on wildland mobilizations:

- On Sunday morning, there was a request for fire mobilization for a fire that had started burning in the Walla Walla area. Both of the strike teams from the Central region were pulled and mobilized to head to that fire. Brush 34 was sent with Strike Team Number 1.
- Another fire request came in for the Upriver fire in Spokane. The teams went up to that fire to do structural triage on the houses that were burned. These teams will be demobilizing in the morning.
- Strike teams will not be sent out for the next two weeks, in order to make sure that all crews and rigs are home for the 4th of July weekend.

XI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hetzler – thanks for the opportunity to Zoom in. As a reminder, it is almost the end of Q2, so the commissioners need to begin working on time sheets and get them submitted. Congratulations to the three folks who are retiring. Congratulations to Martin, Spencer, and Carter today. Chief, thanks for mentioning the post that Tiffiny created – it was very clever and fun. Thanks to Steve for coming in today. Commissioner Hetzler was at a local restaurant when the Fallen Firefighter Ceremony ended, and many of those attendees trickled into the restaurant. It was wonderful to see so many people there from the event.

Commissioner Kelling – Happy Father's Day.

Commissioner Roberts – appreciate that the pinning ceremonies and promotions are done at these meetings. Thanks to former Chief Brooks for the presentation. Having the slides sent out would be appreciated. Although not able to participate this year, Commissioner Roberts has participated in the Fallen Firefighters ceremony in the past, and it is truly a moving event. Congratulations to the upcoming retirees.

Commissioner Gamble – great presentations and education tonight. Chris DeBell had a long list of community involvements; LFD3's presence in the community is very appreciated. Will not be able to attend the August 6th meeting.

Commissioner Kirkbride – amazed at the membership and the leadership of this organization. The dedication to the people of the community is outstanding. Missed the push in due to return trip from Vancouver B.C. There was a recent article in the June 14th Seattle Times. Seattle Fire has introduced a new program after a pilot program in which they use AI to triage their medical 911 calls. This seems like an unwise development that hopefully will not ever come to LFD3.

XII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Correspondence

Chief Schmidt reported:

- There was a card from a couple in the community who had an engine company come out for a call. They included a gift card for pizza. Support Services will manage that card for the crew to use.

XIII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 7:30 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: July 2, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.

Liberty Hetzler (07/09/2026 11:39:59 PDT)
Chair

Vice Chair

Melissa Gamble
Melissa Gamble (07/14/2026 14:55:19 PDT)
Commissioner

Sylvia Roberts (07/09/2026 19:39:36 PDT)
Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary

06 18 26 BoFC Meeting Minutes Final

Final Audit Report 2026-07-14

Created:	2026-07-09 (Pacific Daylight Time)
By:	Chris DeBell (cdebell@laceyfire.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAm_eSvK3bb7syNsQ6kmPooFLrklhw_RUu

"06 18 26 BoFC Meeting Minutes Final" History

Document created by Chris DeBell (cdebell@laceyfire.com)
2026-07-09 - 10:16:06 AM PDT

Document emailed to lhetzler@laceyfire.com for signature
2026-07-09 - 10:18:45 AM PDT

Document emailed to fkirkbride@laceyfire.com for signature
2026-07-09 - 10:18:46 AM PDT

Document emailed to mgamble@laceyfire.com for signature
2026-07-09 - 10:18:46 AM PDT

Document emailed to sroberts@laceyfire.com for signature
2026-07-09 - 10:18:46 AM PDT

Document emailed to Chris DeBell (cdebell@laceyfire.com) for signature
2026-07-09 - 10:18:47 AM PDT

Document e-signed by Chris DeBell (cdebell@laceyfire.com)
Signature Date: 2026-07-09 - 10:19:01 AM PDT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE

Email viewed by lhetzler@laceyfire.com
2026-07-09 - 11:39:23 AM PDT

Signer lhetzler@laceyfire.com entered name at signing as Liberty Hetzler
2026-07-09 - 11:39:57 AM PDT

Document e-signed by Liberty Hetzler (lhetzler@laceyfire.com)
Signature Date: 2026-07-09 - 11:39:59 AM PDT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: DRAW

Email viewed by fkirkbride@laceyfire.com
2026-07-09 - 1:20:04 PM PDT

LACEY 3 FIRE DISTRICT
Powered by Adobe Acrobat Sign

Signer fkirkbride@laceyfire.com entered name at signing as Frank Kirkbride

2026-07-09 - 1:21:13 PM PDT

Document e-signed by Frank Kirkbride (fkirkbride@laceyfire.com)

Signature Date: 2026-07-09 - 1:21:15 PM PDT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE

Email viewed by sroberts@laceyfire.com

2026-07-09 - 7:38:59 PM PDT

Signer sroberts@laceyfire.com entered name at signing as Sylvia Roberts

2026-07-09 - 7:39:34 PM PDT

Document e-signed by Sylvia Roberts (sroberts@laceyfire.com)

Signature Date: 2026-07-09 - 7:39:36 PM PDT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_DRAW

Email viewed by mgamble@laceyfire.com

2026-07-14 - 2:53:22 PM PDT

Signer mgamble@laceyfire.com entered name at signing as Melissa Gamble

2026-07-14 - 2:55:17 PM PDT

Document e-signed by Melissa Gamble (mgamble@laceyfire.com)

Signature Date: 2026-07-14 - 2:55:19 PM PDT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_TYPE

Agreement completed.

2026-07-14 - 2:55:19 PM PDT