THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 16, 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 Hetzler Commissioner Kirkbride Commissioner Gamble Commissioner Kelling		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. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Hetzler proposed the amendment of postponing New Business Item A-2 (Keep Washington Working E-207) for two weeks, since Commissioner Roberts has attended all of the planning and preparation meetings for this.

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

IV. SWEARING IN CEREMONY

A. Probationary Entry-Level Firefighters – Calvin Abegglen, Ryan Kennedy, Felix Poulin, Ben Whitt

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the July 2, 2026, Board of Fire Commissioners meeting.
B. Warrants (AP 7B 2026):

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630); EFTs numbered 5819 through 5823; checks numbered 24955 through 24991; drafts numbered 1796 through 1809 for a total amount of $1,976,571.77.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: drafts numbered 5824 through 585827; check numbered 24992 for a total amount of $62,469.37.

C. Payroll 7A-2026 in the amount of $2,696,207.48.

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

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One
No report; the next meeting will take place at the end of August.

B. Thurston 9-1-1 Communications (TCOMM)
No report.

C. City/District Liaison
Commissioner Hetzler reported from the meeting that took place today.
- The agenda included the Quiemuth Village update, a recap of the insurance symposium, and an update on the bond measure. Chief Cerovski will speak about the insurance symposium later in the meeting.
- Quiemuth Village: still waiting for movement.
- The city is planning to do a slow move to the new police station from mid-August to mid-October. They are hoping that the Cops, Cars, and Kids event will take place in the parking lot of the new police station.
- Cuoio Park will have a soft opening at the end of the month followed by a grand opening a few weeks later.
- The next meeting will take place on September 17th.

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

E. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association
No report; the next meeting will take place on July 21st.

F. Thurston Regional Planning Council
Chief Cerovski filled in for Commissioner Kelling at the recent meeting:
- There was discussion about the Cascadia Master Plan. It is believed that 1.8 million new jobs will come to the area with an expected additional 3.4 million people in not just Thurston County but all the way down to Portland.
- There was discussion of the I-5 master plan and the high-speed rail plan.

- They are working on a needs analysis now and into early 2027. They are looking for feedback from stakeholders.
- From the perspective of organizational change: they have added back a deputy director into their organizational chart to help with workflow and team management.
- They are preparing for the legislative session and looking for volunteers.
- The next meeting will take place on September 10th and there will be an in-person meeting as well as a TRPC retreat.

G. Community Outreach

Chris DeBell is out of town. Chief Schmidt reported in her stead:

- At the 3rd of July event, the inflatable firehouse was open for four hours. Hundreds of children went through it. Crews also handed out 800 Lacey Fire wristbands, 1800 fire helmets, and 2,000 sticker badges.
- On the 4th of July, Lt. Berman drove the Seagrave in the parade.
- On the 11th of July, two members were present at the South Sound Barbecue Festival for EMS standby. They handed out 500 fire helmets and stickers.
- There was another event on the 11th of July. The Hands On Children's Museum invited all of the local fire departments for their Summer Splash Kick Off with a focus on first responders and healthcare. An outreach booth was staffed by LFD3. The ISU apparatus was also present and tours of the ISU were given.
- Chris has done three car seat appointments.
- There were two walkthrough station tours this month.

H. Operations:

Chief Carson shared:

- The July 3rd Fireworks Extravaganza was great. There were eight calls to run during that event. They were all handled without incident. Thanks to the crews that participated.
- July 4th was relatively quiet for the district.
- There have been two structure fires since the last meeting. One occurred on Monday, July 6, at 6:30 a.m. Crews responded to a residential structure fire which began on the deck as a result of a barbecue that was left unattended overnight. The fire began on the exterior and became an attic fire. Crews did an exceptional job. There were no injuries to members or occupants of the home.
- The other structure fire took place on Carolina Street Southeast on the evening of July 14. This fire began in an attached garage. The door between the garage and the house was open, so the fire extended into the house and did significant damage in the home's garage and kitchen. Two people were treated for smoke inhalation. No firefighters were injured during this call.
- Operations is now deeply engrained in the battalion chief process. As of now, there are seven candidates who will go through the assessment center on August 19.

- Commissioner Kirkbride inquired as to the cause of the garage fire. Chief Carson responded that a gentleman was doing some grinding in his garage with a grinder that threw out sparks which caused the fire.

I. Logistics

Chief Patti reported:

- The Logistics team is currently working on catching up on smaller projects.
- Chief Frost is working on decommissioning some of the replacement cars as part of the Enterprise Lease Program.
- Logistics is preparing for the upcoming hose and ladder testing, which is done annually. This is a big project which will take up to three to four days for staff to bring all the fire trucks together, pull all the hoses and ladders off, and have them tested.
- Repairs are being done on reserve engines. Engine 31 just came offline and is having some repairs done that couldn't be done while it was frontline. Once that engine returns, the plan is to take part of the reserve velocity and put it at Station 32. At that point, there will be matching engines at all stations.
- The Facilities team continues to work on ongoing upgrades and repairs that working fire stations continually have.

J. Standards and Resilience

Chief Cerovski reported:

- From the Training division: working on probationary books for the four new recruits. East Olympia had two recruits in the academy and LFD3 Training division is supporting EOFD with probationary books.
- Ongoing incumbent training has been taking place in recent weeks. Extraction training occurred this week.
- Community Risk Reduction: the insurance symposium was just completed. There has been a lot of education in the community with the inspections that have been done up until this point, ahead of beginning to charge for the inspections in the fourth quarter. The symposium was also part of an effort to provide education to the community. The goal was to talk specifically about the work being done in inspections and the reasons for those decisions and how that affects continuity of operations and loss improvements. The event was slated originally for 50 people to attend; the actual number of attendees was 32. There was a lot of good conversation around improving risk, improving fire loss reductions, and interest in doing more of this kind of thing year over year.
- Regarding Community Risk Reduction: the target was 480 inspections by midyear. CRR has reached 507, exceeding the original goal. CRR has had presence in 450 different business buildings in the community and has conducted just over 475 inspections. Very pleased with the work of the CRR inspector and the entire division and the contacts they have had with the community. There have been no complaints regarding the impending inspection fees that will be beginning soon.

- Safety and Compliance: the near-miss form and the accident and injury forms are working well. There has been a lot of great feedback.
- Four members are on long-term leave and will be returning at the end of this month. With the Operations team, work is underway to support them with an after-action review process.
- Wrapping up the contract and the fee structure for the owner's representative with the goal of having everything in place at the end of next week.
- Commissioner Kelling inquired about the insurance symposium and whether agencies were invited from across the county and/or outside of the county? Chief Cerovski responded that the focus was primarily on insurance firms in this region. One of the goals for next year will be to report back on the work done on fire investigations to showcase the kinds of things that cause fires and how CRR can help mitigate those factors.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Bond Updates

Chief Schmidt reported:

- The third video was released (of nine total). The videos have been getting good feedback.
- There was an interested voter who reached out today with very informed questions about what staffing looks like long term if the projects are completed. Chief Schmidt spent an hour with the individual answering questions.
- LFD3 has filed for explanatory statements and ballot resolutions. Those were vetted by the attorney.
- Outreach has been done for the For and Against statements. There were two submissions for For and none for Against.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Review — Staff Presentation & Board Action

1. District Facility Security L-100.2

Chief Cerovski reported:

- The purpose of this policy is to establish consistent expectations for protecting district personnel, visitors, facilities, equipment, and sensitive work areas.
- Implementation will include controlled badge access, visitor and vendor check-in procedures, required security and restriction signage, posted evacuation plans, surveillance practices, incident-reporting requirements, and annual security and emergency-procedure training for District personnel.
- Impact: the policy creates a safer and more predictable facility environment by reducing unauthorized access, improving employee readiness, and standardizing the District's response to evacuation, lockdown, outside threats, shelter-in-place, fire, earthquake, medical

emergencies, and other facility incidents. This policy also supersedes an Interim Directive associated with District Facility Security.

- Commissioner Kirkbride inquired if the District has not had a policy like this before now. Chief Cerovski responded that this policy is the first of its kind for the district. Chief Schmidt responded that it has been a procedure, not policy, up until now.

2. Keep Washington Working E-207
   This policy is postponed per the change to the agenda.

3. Unmanned Aerial Systems O-421.1
   Chief Cerovski reported:
   - Purpose: establishes the legal, operational, privacy, safety, and records-management framework for the District's use of unmanned aerial systems to support emergency response, training, and investigations.
   - Deliverable: the District will maintain a managed UAS program using District-owned aircraft, trained and authorized pilots, documented deployment approval, FAA-compliant flight procedures, equipment inspection and maintenance, mission reporting, secure data handling, records retention, and privacy protections.
   - Impact: the policy allows the District to safely use aerial technology to improve situational awareness during fires, hazardous materials incidents, search and rescue, disasters, investigations, and training while limiting surveillance, protecting individual privacy, maintaining evidentiary integrity, and reducing regulatory exposure.
   - This is an update to Policy O-421 Unmanned Aerial Systems, originally written in June 2019.

MOTION: To approve District Facility Security Policy L-100.2.
Motion: Commissioner Kelling
Second: Commissioner Gamble
Carried: Unanimous

MOTION: To approve Policy O-421.1, Unmanned Aerial Systems.
Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride
Second: Commissioner Kelling
Carried: Unanimous

Chief Cerovski noted an error under section VIII, item A. 1., New Business Policy Review on the agenda. Security Policy should read as L-1002.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. District Monthly Financial Report
   Chief Kirkbride reported:
   - General Fund 001: net excess of $11,932,924.88.
   - Donation Fund 101: net excess of $16,094.

- Reserve Fund 102: net excess of $1,115,906.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: net excess of $450,383.
- General Fund Summary: net excess of $13.5 million, which is 32% of total expenditure appropriations for the general fund.
- Bond Fund 201: net excess of $79,504.
- Bond 2017 Fund 202: net excess of $529,219.
- 2025 Bond Fund 203: net excess of $813,891.
- Capital Projects Fund 301: net excess of $930,403.
- 2025 Capital Projects Fund 309: net excess of $5,839,155.
- Various charts and graphs were shown.

B. Chief Schmidt reported:

- The Thurston County Fair is approaching and LFD3 will have a presence there.
- The Tribe will be doing their canoe journey. This is the first time this event will be held locally in 10 years. They will be welcoming the canoe families in Dupont on the 31st and are then expecting to travel from Exit 116 to the Nisqually Reservation. LFD3 was invited to Tribal Council Quarters yesterday. They had an entire team there to provide an update on their plans. They are expecting about 13,000 people. Chief Carson is beginning to work on a plan for how LFD3 can support the event. With Station 32 open, LFD3 has a close presence. However, it may make sense for LFD3 to have staff on site during the day. Plans for supporting this event will be further clarified over the next few days.
- Repairs need to be done on Truck 312. Chief Patti shared:
    - The vehicle needs extensive repairs. The most cost-effective plan is to replace the motor in the truck. The vehicle is from 2006, and replacing the motor will extend its lifetime. The motor is about two weeks out, and it will probably take a month to a month and a half to complete the replacement. This will be done by Hughes Fire up in Tacoma.
- The Firefighters Union will be competing in a softball tournament at Yauger Park this weekend. The first game kicks off at noon and will be Central Pierce versus Lacey. LFD3 are the champions from 2025.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kelling – thanks to Chief Cerovski for attending the TRPC meeting. Appreciate the staff's work on policy development. It brings a lot of clarity for district operations. Thanks for the communication on the bond measure. The videos have been good so far. It would be good to track the views and activity on the videos.

Commissioner Gamble – thanks for the policy updates; those are important to have in place. The ceremony this evening was excellent. Thank you for the thorough reports, as always. Will not be able to attend the first August meeting. The committee report will be postponed until the following meeting.

Commissioner Kirkbride – this team and the chief and her leadership are exceptional. Thank you for a very good presentation this morning.

Commissioner Hetzler – at the city district meeting today, it was shared that the state now acknowledges that the diverging diamond is a failure. This will allow conversations to start happening around looking at Carpenter Road, which prior to admitting the failure of the diverging diamond, was considered a no-go because of the distance to other off ramps or on ramps. Was state addressing already done? Commissioner Hetzler was contacted by state auditors and is doing risk assessment and an interview tomorrow morning. The new recruits who were welcomed today are exceptional. The Insurance Symposium sounds like a great success and might lead to Chief Cerovski speaking at conferences over the coming years to speak about it.

Chief Cerovski responded that the team worked very hard on the event, and that Chief Roberts went through the process to qualify to deliver that symposium and provide educational credit for insurance agents who have to have continuing education annually. He went through the entire process so that attendees could receive credit for continuing education.

XI. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Correspondence
None.

XII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:45 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: August 6, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.

Liberty Hetzler (08/15/2026 08:33:43 PDT)
Chair

Vice Chair

Sylvia Roberts (08/22/2026 08:53:21 PDT)
Commissioner

Richard Kelling (08/17/2026 06:46:35 PDT)
Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST: District Secretary

07 16 26 BoFC Meeting Minutes Final

Final Audit Report 2026-08-22

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