

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

July 17th, 2025

The meeting was conducted remotely via Zoom and with in-person attendance at the Training and Education Center (8407 Steilacoom Rd SE, Lacey, WA, 98513).

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

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

One change to the agenda: the new business, Suboxone Program Overview, will be removed from the agenda and moved to the next meeting.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Roberts

Carried: Unanimous

III. NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN CEREMONY

A. Multimedia Relations Specialist – Tiffany Baldwin

B. Probationary Entry-Level Firefighters:

1. Carter Dorsing
2. Brooklyn Harn
3. Annabelle Kirkwood
4. Blake Ryan
5. Isaac Weaver
6. Connor Wedington
7. Riley Wilson

IV. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeff Turkel, retired Air Force firefighter and 911 dispatcher, shared:

- Enthusiastic about Station 32 being staffed, knowing that someday it might be needed.
- On June 19th, experienced a stroke and called 911, with a dim memory of a fire truck and an ambulance arriving.
- As acknowledgement of appreciation, he presented Air Force challenge coins to the responders that assisted, and to Chief Schmidt.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the July 2, 2025, meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

B. Warrants (AP 7B 2025):

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) EFTs numbered 5600 through 5608; checks numbered 24481 through 24509; drafts numbered 1589 through 1601 for a total amount of \$1,930,603.92.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: EFTs numbered 5609 through 5611; checks numbered 24510 through 24511 for a total amount of \$8,672.14.
- Capital Projects Fund 301: EFTs numbered 5612 through 5613 for a total amount of \$41,787.60.

C. Payroll 7A-2025 in the amount of \$317,995.72.

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 on July 24th. The main item on the agenda is the adoption and recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for the 2026/2027 budget.

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

No report; the next meeting will take place on August 6th.

C. City/District Liaison

Commissioner Hetzler reported on the meeting that took place today:

- Updates were shared on where things are at with the Nisqually Tribe. There was an opportunity to talk about different ways to foster the relationship with them, such as touring their rehabilitation facility.

- There was a discussion about the annual inspection program status. The chief was invited to go back to a work session as early as August 22nd to discuss this further with the city. This meeting would include Chief Cerovski, Chief Roberts, and Chief Schmidt, as well as staff, and commissioners are invited to attend, as well.
- There was brief discussion about the Chief Brooks' sign dedication, which is tentatively set for July 25th. More information will be coming on that.
- The next meeting is on September 18th.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Gamble attending in Commissioner Kelling's stead.

- There was a legislative report.
- The WFCA state rep shared about increased issues in rural areas with huffing nitrous oxide in the youth population and attempts to combat this.
- There was also discussion of investing in CDs with savings and percentage yields.
- Planning took place for the Lake Lawrence picnic, which will take place at the next meeting in August.
- There is a first responder barbecue happening in Tenino at the middle school on September 13th from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council

Chief Cerovski shared from the meeting on July 11th:

- No minutes are yet available from the meeting.
- There was conversation about throughways and transportation changes and complaints associated with those plans.
- A more comprehensive report of this meeting will be provided next time.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Schmidt reported:

- The 3rd of July celebration at Rainier Vista was the biggest event of the month (and the year).
- On July 11th, there was a Nisqually health event. A team participated with the tribe at their annual health fair.
- On July 12th, there was a barbecue festival in Lacey. A team attended the event.
- After the Duck Dash, helmet fittings have continued to trickle in, which is testament that outreach does a good job of reaching people in the community.
- There have been a couple of walk-in tours. Chris DeBell also does car seat checks a couple of times a week.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Cerovski reported:

- There has been an order placed for two aid units from Lifeline. A variety of expected dates of arrival have been provided – originally, they were going to arrive this spring, but then they were pushed back to next spring.

At this point they may be ready to arrive in August. These will be the new Aid 31 and Aid 33.

- Regarding facilities, there is work underway at Station 31 to prep for painting the exterior as well as some other improvements to some of the beams at the front of the awning that have sustained some damage. There will also be additional clean up, maintenance, and restriping of the parking lots at the stations.
- Moving forward with the lease process for the warehouse property. The draft lease was received from the current resident of that lease, and it is in legal review right now. The hope is to have that finalized as early as next week in order to begin the process of occupying in August.
- Currently exploring a method of alternative means through the PRC for the remodel of Station 33. Chief Cerovski is working on some documents to prepare for that analysis and review. There should be some net savings in that process for that remodel project. It will probably be a springboard to bigger projects down the road.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. No items.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. No items.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. District Monthly Financial Report – Director Kirkwood

- General Fund 001: net excess of \$13 million, about 33% of allocations for the year.
- Donation Fund 101: net excess of \$16,000.
- Reserve Fund 102: net excess of \$1 million.
- Equipment Repair & Replacement Fund 103: net excess of \$2 million.
- General Fund Summary: net excess of \$16.4 million, about 38% of total allocation.
- Bond Fund 201: net excess of \$62,000.
- Bond 2017 Fund 202: net excess of \$503,000.
- 2025 Bond Fund 203: this is a new bond fund that has been created. Nothing has been paid yet (the first interest payment will be in December).
- Capital Projects Fund 301: net excess of \$638,000.
- Capital Projects CFEP Funds 307: net excess of \$264,000. It is anticipated that the remaining balance in this fund will be spent by the end of this year.
- 2025 Capital Projects Fund 309: this includes the debt proceeds that were deposited a few weeks ago: \$14,001,200. Additional investment money has also been received as of June. The current balance of this fund is \$14,003,572. \$8.5 million is for the land purchase. \$4,500,000 is for Station 33 renovations and \$1,001,200 for Station 31 renovations. These are not official numbers but just rough estimates.

B. Operational Update – Chief Patti

- Getting into a busy time of year.
- The July 3rd event with the city went very well. The work that the teams and the staff did that day was impressive. Seven patients were given medical treatment. Two patients were transported out by Olympic Ambulance. The community partners were great as well, particularly with Tumwater Fire Department allowing the use of their UTV for the EMTs to be able to get around in the crowd. The whole event was very well organized and went smoothly. There will be a debrief with the city in the next couple of weeks to go over the event and start planning for next year.
- The 4th of July was a busy day as well. There were 35 calls (for the district), 11 of which were brush fires, along with a number of medical calls, etc. The day went very smoothly even with a high call volume.
- LFD3 assisted District 6 with a river rescue. A gentleman had been paddleboarding on the Deschutes River. Ultimately it was necessary to get a Coast Guard helicopter to get him out. The man had been in the river about 5 hours before calling 911, and then emergency services were on scene for about 6 hours.
- Wildland season has arrived. There has been a noticeable increase in brush fires as of late. One member is out with the REMS team right now in Kettle Falls in Eastern Washington working on a large brush fire. That fire is likely going to go for another couple of weeks.
- There was a recent situation with a puppy who had exposure to Fentanyl. Lt. Craig was able to revive the puppy with Narcan.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Roberts – thanks to everybody who provided such comprehensive reports. It was also very special to have a citizen come and give his comments.

Commissioner Gamble – it was very touching to have a community member come and share his experience with the fire service. Congratulations to the new firefighters.

Commissioner Kirkbride – the quality of every member in this organization is very high. Thanks to everyone for all of their contributions and hard work.

Commissioner Hetzler – thanks to Jeff Turkel for sharing his story at the meeting.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Schmidt reported:

- A husband and wife contacted LFD3. In April, the husband went into cardiac arrest, and when crews arrived, the wife was doing CPR. These two individuals wanted to share how grateful they were for the response of LFD3.
- On June 25th, a husband and wife contacted LFD3 with an issue with hard wired smoke detectors in their home. Crews came in and changed out

batteries but were also entertaining, kind, and a great representation of the agency.

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XII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:46 PM.

***Next Regular Meeting: August 7th, 2025– 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.***

Signed by:

Liberty Hetzler

8/10/2025

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Chair

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Kell M

8/9/2025

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Vice Chair

Signed by:

Sylvia Roberts

8/8/2025

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Commissioner

Commissioner

Signed by:

Michael Ceroni

8/10/2025

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ATTEST: District Secretary

Commissioner