

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 1st, 2024

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 Kirkbride		Commissioner Roberts
Commissioner Kelling		
Commissioner Hetzler		
Commissioner Gamble		

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Kelling 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 amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Commissioner Hetzler

Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

IV. PROMOTION, SWEARING AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Assistant Chief, MSO Michael Hughes
Lieutenant Kevin Perry

New Administrative Member Introductions
Taylor Kruse
Chris Shannon

Chief Brooks shared a story that took place on July 25th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. when the crews from Station 34 and Station 31 were dispatched into Nisqually Valley for what was perceived to be an

overdose that resulted in a CPR call. A 32-year-old gentleman was encountered there. The circumstances were challenging. There were multiple folks around who were either unwilling or unable to share details about what had happened, although it appeared to be an overdose situation. The patient was transported to the hospital. There were efforts for several days for viable resuscitation, even though initial indications were that the injuries were severe. The patient did not survive but was deemed an eligible candidate for organ donation. Although the patient, Victor, was admitted to the hospital as a John Doe, there was later a reconnection with his partner who was able to have the opportunity to say goodbye to him and reconnect him with his family who was out of the country.

Chief Brooks read a letter to the agency from the Organ Donation Coordination Group sharing that the patient's right kidney was transplanted into a man in his 30s. This very grateful recipient looks forward to being more active and healthy without needing dialysis and is so thankful for a second chance at life. The patient's left kidney and liver were given to a man in his 60s who has two children. The patient's heart was given to a woman in her 60s who was so grateful for the gift of a new heart.

Present at the meeting tonight was Victor's partner, Jana, who has spent years trying to champion the cause of making sure everyone knew who Victor really was. He was challenged by addiction but was also a hardworking man and a father, and she saw the good in him. Lisa, the recipient of Victor's heart, and her husband are present at the meeting tonight. Two of the paramedics and several of the firefighters who were present on the day are present tonight at the meeting. Jana had a card she brought for the agency, which Chief Brooks read aloud.

Following this, the promotional ceremony for Assistant Chief Michael Hughes and the new member introductions took place.

New administrative staff were also introduced.

V. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Draft minutes of the July 18th, 2024, meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

B. Warrants (AP 8A 2024):

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) EFTs numbered 5415; checks numbered 24033 through 24039; for a total amount of \$30,494.78.
- Reserve Fund 102: Check number 24040 for a total amount of \$8,610.00.
- Equipment Repair and Replacement Fund 103: Check number 24041 for a total amount of \$2,240.65.
- Capital Projects Fund 301: Check Number 24042 for a total amount of \$218,771.42.

C. Payroll 7B-2024 in the amount of \$613,376.40.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as published.

Motion: Commissioner Hetzler

Second: Commissioner Gamble

Carried: Unanimous

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Thurston County Medic One

No report; the July meeting was canceled. The next meeting is August 22nd.

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

No report; the July meeting was canceled.

C. City/District Liaison

No report; the next meeting is in September.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

Commissioner Kelling missed the last meeting but summarized the key points from the July meeting.

- The program was the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner, David Forte, a senior policy advisor. He also works as a legislative assistant. David's presentation was on insurance and wildfire risk. The national insurance costs due to weather and wildfire losses are increasing significantly, especially since 2011.
- These costs are based on the damage inflicted, which is a direct correlation to the cost of property insurance. It is also correlated with a reduced capacity of insurance providers to provide that coverage.
- In Washington state specifically, insurance payouts have doubled since 2018 to 2022 (the last year of available data) with significant rate increases in the past two years.
- Insurance costs for wildfire insurance are higher in wild urban interface areas, and there are fewer insurance options, with fewer carriers offering insurance.
- The Washington State Survey & Ratings Bureau is a separate entity, with no connections or influences with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner. David Forte did acknowledge some of the inconsistencies with the ratings over the past few years. This is something that the Fire Commissioners Association may take up as a legislative agenda item in future years.
- The next meeting will be on August 20th. This is the annual picnic at Lake Lawrence Park. The gates open at 5:30.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council

No report; there is no meeting in August. Commissioner Hetzler will be unable to attend the September 6th meeting.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- Thurston County Fair is currently running. There is a partnership with Medic One to provide standby support. There are two members from the beginning to the end of the fair every day.
- National Night Out is on August 6th, with five different locations requested.
- On August 9th, the Nisqually Tribe is doing a National Night Out equivalent event.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Brooks reported:

- Deputy Chief Cerovski and Assistant Chief Roberts are at the Nisqually National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Hearing for the Quiemuth Project hosted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).
- At the next meeting, Chief Cerovski will have the final wrap up and summary information for the VRF expansion. He is in the final stages of working with the architects, engineers, and general contract on final change orders and payments. He will have a financial report on that project in its entirety.
- Chief Cerovski will also provide an update on conversations with the City of Lacey about the easement and water retention issues relative to Station 34.
- There is work on finalizing the lease update relative to the VRF. There was a meeting with the City of Olympia to talk about the updated lease relative to the expansion of the project. They are working through drafts of the new lease agreement with their legal team.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks reported:

- In two weeks, Chief Brooks, Chief Schmidt, Director Gorman from Support Services, and program manager Craig will be attending Fire Rescue International, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference. The conference is in Dallas, Texas. Support Services is presenting.
- At the next meeting on August 15th, both Chief Brooks and Chief Schmidt will be absent. Chief Cerovski will be present, and he and Director Kirkwood will work

with the commissioners on things specific to their arena, such as the VRF update and Director Kirkwood's financial report.

- Regarding Enterprise Solutions for commercial leasing: there will be some recommendations on how this might be beneficial for the district. The representatives have offered to come to answer any questions.
- It needs to be determined whether there will be a quorum at the next meeting. Commissioner Kelling reported that he will most likely not be in attendance. Commissioner Hetzler will be attending via Zoom. Commissioner Gamble will be present. Commissioner Kirkbride will not be present and will not be able to Zoom in. If Commissioner Roberts is unable to attend, there will not be a quorum present. Commissioner Kelling offered to Zoom in if Commissioner Roberts is not able to attend the meeting.
- Chief Schmidt shared about a recent commercial structure fire on Martin Way. This took place on July 27th at about 5:50 p.m. Crews arrived within six minutes. There were many hazardous conditions on the scene. Chief Schmidt reported that the crews handled the situation very competently. Unfortunately, the main building was a 100% loss. Because of the complexity of the facility, the cause of the fire is still undetermined. There were no injuries.

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kirkbride – tonight's events with the report of the organ donation was very rewarding. It was special to have so many people in attendance for this.

Commissioner Gamble – it is so heartwarming to hear these stories and meaningful to the members as well to hear these outcomes.

Commissioner Hetzler – nothing further to add.

Commissioner Kelling – any opportunity to connect with the community in the way that Chief Brooks does is special. Thanks to the staff for the letter for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It was well-worded. Looking forward to hearing the response and feedback from Deputy Chief Cerovski and Assistant Chief Roberts. Commissioner Kelling asked Chief Brooks to briefly describe the additional capabilities, training, and equipment that the district would require to address a casino and a hotel that is not currently in place.

Chief Brooks addressed Commissioner Kelling's question by reporting that the proposal is for an 18-story building that would include at least 350 hotel rooms, as well as event space. The complexities are not just the vertical space but also a high density building with guests who are unfamiliar with the surroundings. Fixed suppression systems and modern technology has gone a long way to make a space like this a safe environment.

The primary necessity would be much broader training of all members relative to high rise operations. There is information about this in the basic training manuals, and there are four- and five-story buildings throughout the district, but those principles are exponentially more complex when beyond the reach of any of the ground or aerial ladders. The longest aerial ladder is 107 feet, which allows for no opportunity to reach a large percentage of an 18-story building without

using the existing infrastructure (the stairwells, etc.). It is likely that both Survey and Rating would recommend, and staff would certainly say, that an additional staffed aerial would be needed at some point. This is something to look at in terms of a potential new station added in that area. In terms of the training dynamic, there would be hours and hours of training required to be familiar with a facility like that, and it would need to be ongoing, recurrent training.

Chief Schmidt added that there was a discussion about the serious or more extreme events, but the day-to-day complexities are also a consideration: elevator rescue, events with bigger groups, etc. Chief Schmidt shared that her concern is not only with the members and bolstering their training but that there are partner agencies that would be second in, including South Bay and Olympia. Olympia may be more adept to that type of environment. Commissioner Kelling inquired if there is a similar structure in the county. Chief Brooks responded that the tallest structure in Olympia is the hospital with 11 stories.

Commissioner Kelling reported that one of the comments that Director Ferris made at the Thurston County Fire Commissioners Meeting was that there was an incident in Mason County, Fire Protection District 12, stemming from a declared emergency that resulted in the resignation of its entire board of fire commissioners. The fire chief was also replaced. Commissioner Kelling shared the publicly available information regarding this incident for the other commissioners to read.

Commissioner Kelling also reported coming across a Central Kitsap Board of Fire Commissioners policy manual which may be a useful tool going forward in developing the policy manual for the LFD3 fire commissioners. This will be a project on which the commissioners will work with the staff. Commissioner Roberts has volunteered to work on this.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XII. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. In accordance with RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) regarding discussion of collective bargaining strategies.

The executive session was scheduled to take 20 minutes.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 7:06 PM.

***Next Regular Meeting: August 15th, 2024– 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.***

DocuSigned by:
Rick Kelling 8/17/2024
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Chair

Signed by:
Liberty Hetzler 8/16/2024
8D634F4384AE47C...
Vice Chair

Signed by:
Melissa Gamble 8/19/2024
B771EE0627B545E...
Commissioner

Signed by:
Sylvia Roberts 8/16/2024
EBC052AD01484B5...
Commissioner

Commissioner

DocuSigned by:
Michael Cerovski 8/16/2024
A7184046CD19467...
ATTEST: District Secretary