

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

August 3rd, 2023

Commissioner Kirkbride
Commissioner Gamble
Commissioner Hetzler
Commissioner Kelling
Commissioner Roberts

The meeting was held in person with limited attendance and is open to the public via the Zoom meeting platform. The meeting is being recorded.

Commissioner Gamble was excused.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Roberts 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 Hetzler
Second: Commissioner Kirkbride
Carried: Unanimous

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC /MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Draft minutes of the July 31st, 2023, meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- B. Draft minutes of the July 20th, 2023, meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

C. Warrants:

- General Fund 001 (Acct #6630) EFTs numbered 5227 through 5230; checks numbered 23625 through 23629 for a total amount of \$27,497.52.
- Equipment, Repair and Replacement Fund 103: EFT number 5231 for a total amount of \$27,497.52.
- 2017B Capital Improvements Project Fund 2019A: EFTs number 5232 through 5234 for a total amount of \$51,228.33.

D. Payroll 7B in the amount of \$560,242.42.

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 next meeting is August 16th.

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

Commissioner Roberts reported from the August 2nd meeting:

- Regarding TCERN, the site at Dupont is still an issue. Slow progress is being made.
- The site at Station 82 has been underway for almost three years. It appears that everything is on track right now. There is a number for tracking, but that is not the actual permit number. There is expected comments back from the senior planner before August 8th.
- The Hawks Prairie site does not have any issues. Motorola is trying to get a subcontractor to get the work done.
- Subscriber training appears to be going fairly well. All of fire and all of EMS and law enforcement has been scheduled, if not completed with their training.
- Regarding the Solacom phone system: there were issues in the beginning, but for about a year and a half, things have been running fairly smoothly. However, things did not go well this 4th of July. The system is supposed to bump calls from one location to another if a busy signal is received. Instead of doing that, the same number would show up as a call 800 times. No one was dropped, although several people received busy signals. 50 to 60 of the calls actually went to Spokane and had to be relayed back. Spokane is the last location if the other closer locations aren't reached by the pathways.
- There is one year left on the contract with Solacom. They have been very apologetic for this issue. In 2024, replacing the phone system will be put into the budget. Solacom has been the system in place for three or four years.

- TCOMM's HR director is doing a great job of recruiting. TCOMM is down only three employees right now. The academies are working, and the retention rate is about 70%.
- The next meeting is September 6th. There will be a budget committee meeting on August 28th.

C. City/District Liaison

Commissioner Roberts reported from the recent meeting:

- There was discussion about collaboration or combined effort with the city as far as inspections go. They were very receptive to that.
- Maple Court Days Inn was discussed. 52 rooms are full. They are hoping to transition 10 to 12 more today, which will hopefully take care of the area by Hobby Lobby.
- Regarding coordination of the MOT team: it would be wonderful if this was available 24 hours a day, since many issues occur at night, and they are not available at night.
- ORCA: Firewise was discussed. This was first brought up several years ago.
- Chief Brooks reported that the state building code is adopting the urban interface code, which is a national code standard that dictates some types of materials, particularly roofing materials, and types of architecture and design standards regarding vegetation around structures, particularly for keeping noncombustible materials in the buffer spaces of buildings. This has been a statewide push, and Lacey is looking at adoption of it. Part of the educational piece is that Firewise is identified as the standard for use in communities to educate about what a fire safe community looks like.
- There was also discussion about what used to be called the Gateway property. The city manager said he was hoping to have a meeting very soon with Chairman Price
- Commissioner Kelling commented that Washington DNR has a Firewise-like program called Wildfire Ready. Several counties in the state and the fire districts in the state have signed up for this. This might be worth checking out in the future as the community risk reduction team is brought on board.

D. Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association

No report – the next meeting is August 15th.

E. Thurston Regional Planning Council –

Commissioner Hetzler reported from the July meeting:

- In regard to the I-5 Tumwater to Mounts Road improvement study, specifically Marvin to Mounts Road, the preferred option for the improvement will be published soon. The plan is to add an HOV lane and a wide pedestrian lane.
- There was a presentation on rural transit.
- There was a midyear program update. Everything is on track.

- Awarded allocated federal carbon reduction program funds, which was \$1.5 million for five projects.
- There is no meeting in August, but there will be an all-day retreat in September.

F. Community Outreach

Chief Brooks shared:

- On August 1st, there were six different locations visited as part of National Night Out.
- On August 11th and 13th, there are two events in North Bend: the state fire training academy is dedicating their new burn building on the 11th. The 13th is the annual National Fallen Firefighter Memorial. There will be five memorialized this year.
- The big event coming up this month is the Capital Metro Girls Camp on August 26th and 27th.

G. Capital Facilities and Equipment Activities

Chief Cerovski shared:

- Photographs of the beginning of the foundation were shared. The groundwork for the foundation is being done, and it should be poured in the next couple of weeks.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Levy Lid Restoration

- Validation threshold was reached at last night's count.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. None.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Chief Brooks reported:

- Chief Cerovski and Chief Frost spent time recently with WHA and they will discuss that process and where things are going next.
- Chief Cerovski reported that last year, a 10% increase in insurance took place. LFD3 decided to engage with a vendor that does a lot of other things besides insurance. This vendor has quality attributes that were felt to be valuable. They proposed a process to look at an audit of the kinds of services being received from the current insurance vendor. They also came out and did street views, visiting every station and looking at every apparatus. They did an assessment of how LFD3 is performing and how the facilities are

being taken care of. Following that, they did a policy review. Overall, they gave a good report, although they also saw some items that can be corrected.

- LFD3 is going to move forward with naming them the agent of record. This does not cost anything; the insurance has already been paid for 2023. They will do a due diligence analysis of the different vendor options for insurance when getting ready to renew in May of next year.
- They will also assist with contract analysis to make sure that LFD3 is properly risk-oriented with contracts drafted with other vendors or customers.
- There will be long-term, long gain benefits in the quality of insurance that is paid for annually. This will also help maintain a strong, healthy culture.
- Chief Cerovski reported that LFD3 applied for a federal grant for pack washers, a carcinogen reduction strategy of washing the gear more effectively, especially the hardware that is difficult to clean. No word back yet on this federal grant application.
- There was an opportunity through the FIIRE program to ask for a grant for carcinogen reduction efforts. This grant was awarded for up to \$25,000 for the purchase of a pack washer. LFD3 will move forward with this. Thanks to Chief Flowers and Chief Frost for coordination the acquisition and installation. It will be installed at the TEC.
- There is a crew with a brush rig deployed in Cheney right now at a fire. There have been members fighting the Bickleton fire as well.
- There was a call out to a small farm home and property in a neighborhood with a large pig present. This was a structure fire that started on a porch.

IX. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Kirkbride – saw multiple small brush fires to the side of the road when driving to Pullman. It appeared the someone must have been throwing something out of a car. Commissioner Kirkbride called 911 to report it and got a busy signal and had to call back again. Also, while in Easter Washington, learned that satellites are being used to locate hot spots for fires. The fire service has pre-printed signs to use when needed to direct traffic. Regarding the passage of the levy restoration: thanks to everyone on the committees and those who worked hard to accomplish this.

Commissioner Hetzler – will not be present at the next meeting. The September 1st TRPC is now on September 8th. There is no meeting in August. Commissioner Hetzler had reached out to Firewise to see them doing a presentation for the Fire Commissioners Association. This was before COVID. This would be a good topic to revisit.

Commissioner Kelling – asking for input for topics for programs for the county commissioners. The urban interface program is getting more traction in the state. Commissioner Kelling would like to see how other communities on the west side are handling this. It would be a great topic for the current membership of the Thurston County Fire Commissioners Association. The new website looks really good. Based off the Maple Court discussion yesterday, Commissioner Kelling went to the city's website on the Maple Court plan. There is a whole briefing

there from November or December of last year. It talks about the entire program and the policies.

Commissioner Roberts – echoes Commissioner Kirkbride's thanks for the hard work of many people on the levy lid restoration.

X. CORRESPONDENCE

- Chief Schmidt shared that a stack of thank you cards was received from the people impacted by fire at Gwinwood in July.

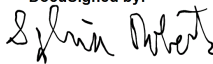
XI. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC / MEMBERS PRESENT

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned as of 6:26 PM.

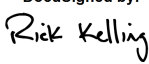
***Next Regular Meeting: August 17th, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Available via remote meeting.***

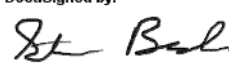
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Chair
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Commissioner

Commissioner

8/24/2023

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ATTEST: District Secretary

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