



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2024

Chairman Steve Fox called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. at 32905 Cascade View Dr. Station 51 and via Zoom video conferencing. Commissioner Fox, Commissioner Geiger and Commissioner Chase were present. Chief Johnson, and District Secretary, Cathy Barth, were present. Members of staff and the public were in attendance.

Entrance Conference with the State Auditor's Office -

Kristina Baylor and Evin Hickey of the Washington State Auditor's Office conducted an entrance conference with the Board of Commissioners.

Additions to Agenda – None.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda –

Agency Benefits for September 2024 – \$41,260.66

A motion to approve the **September 2024 Agency Benefits for \$41,260.66** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

Engagement Letter (Washington State Auditor) – The Engagement letter was provided to the Commissioners for review. Commissioner Fox and Chief Johnson signed the letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

Chief's Report – See Attached

Commissioner Fox gave a brief description of the annexed properties and how they were formed to include a taxed parcel.

Commissioner Chase would like to add wildfire awareness signs to discuss under new business.

Old Business –

Open Issues/Actions -

Commissioner Fox discussed the meeting he attended at District 4.

Commissioner Fox mentioned that a scholarship was granted to us by the Washington Fire Commissioners Association for his attendance to the conferences.

New Business –

Wildfire Awareness Signs - Chief Johnson reviewed some areas for potential sign placement.

The City was not in favor of placing a sign at the corner of Highway 2 and 311th street.

Discussion was held regarding sign placement. The Commissioners discussed purchasing additional signs at this time so there would be continuity between the signs that were already approved and the new ones.

A motion to amend a previous approval for a capital projects purchase of wildfire awareness signs, to add additional signage, not to exceed \$30,000 for the total purchase, was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

Deputy Chief Employment Agreements – Chief Johnson presented the Commissioners with the employment agreements for Deputy Chiefs' Spence and Duros.

The Commissioners reviewed the agreements.



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Deputy Chief Employment Agreements – *continued*

A motion to approve the contracts for Deputy Chief, Emily Duros and Jared Spence was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously.

Executive Session - No need for a session

Commissioner Comments –

Commissioner Fox commented that he was happy to see the Deputy Chiefs coming onboard soon and that he was excited for Lieutenant (Lt.) Ron Bertholf regarding his retirement. He stated that he was certain that Chief Johnson will move to fill those positions as soon as he can. Delighted to see a crew of six working tonight.

Commissioner Geiger stated that he was happy to see the growth within the Fire District and feedback from friends and residents state that they are happy as well. He also expressed his congratulations to Lt. Bertholf.

Commissioner Chase commented that it is great to see the changes, when one door closes another opens. Good changes within the organization, it's nice to see promotions from within as well as newcomers to the District.

Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Geiger, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners

September 23rd, 2024

Personnel

- Deployed crew on Br51 have been keeping in close contact with the agency during the course of their deployment. Their last day on incident is projected to be Friday the 27th, putting them home late on the 29th.
- Lt Ron Bertholf, who has worked at SCFD5 for just over 25 years, has notified the District of his intent to retire on October 31.
- This has caused the need to fill a vacancy as well as hold a promotional test, the details of which will be discussed further in LMC. This is done to fill positions which are already funded.
- I will be on annual leave beginning the 29th of this month, and will be issuing a delegation of authority to DC Fulcher while I am away.

Annexations

- The Reiner/298th annexation is still stuck at the BRB. Conversations with them in the past week will cause us to revisit the area and gain additional signatories of supporters.

Equipment

- During its trial operations, the tractor was used to clear brush, mow the lawn, and smooth out the gravel including the approach to US2.
- Engine 52 just returned from the shops today. It had a laundry list of issues that was created when it was placed into service while Engine 51 was down, but many of the issues I found were existing prior to its use. The last item we must address is the broken seam on the water tank, which will be repaired under warranty from Poly Tank.
- Tomorrow I meet with the vendor who is performing the tank replacement on Tender 51.

Smokey Update

- The City of Sultan declined my desire to place the sign on US2 near 311th, but presented alternatives that include the area across from the wastewater treatment plant.

General

- The 1st preliminary values have been released from the County, and our AV has gone up 5.4% from 2023 values to a total of \$2.183B, and 2024 is projected to have \$60.3M in new construction. This represents a 5.4% overall increase of assessed value, and with a 1% cap on our tax increase, we will see a decrease in levy rate.
- The team from the Washington State Auditors Office has been on the ground since last week, and we have found their staff very easy to work with and we appreciate the flow of the audit compared to remote options.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Johnson

Chief, Snohomish County Fire District 5