



Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2025

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 Chase, and Commissioner Copple were present. Deputy Chief Spence, District Secretary Cathy Barth, and Kendra Chynoweth were present. Chief Johnson was on vacation. Members of staff were in attendance both in person and online via Zoom.

Additions to Agenda - Commissioner Fox added to New Business miscellaneous items for discussion.

Public Comments – None.

Consent Agenda –

Agency Benefits for September 2025 – \$54,882.74

A motion to approve the **September 2025 Agency Benefits \$54,882.74** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

Chief's Report – See Attached.

Commissioner Copple suggested that the fifteen percent rate increase for WFCA Health Insurance plan be taken into account next year while investigating new insurance programs.

He also inquired as to the use of body armor and the protocol for entering a volatile scene. Deputy Chief Spence stated that district personnel stage until scene is secure.

Commissioner Chase requested that the Chief's report be included in the Consent Agenda for the first meeting of the month moving forward.

Old Business –

Open Issues/Actions – No new actions were added.

New Business –

Resolution 2025-04- Surplus

A motion to approve **Resolution 2025-04 for the surplus of expired bunker gear** was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Chase asked about the market for expired gear. Deputy Chief Spence explained that the gear is most often donated internationally, as it no longer meets National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for use in the United States.

Miscellaneous topics – Commissioner Fox asked if the district response area map could be added to the website. He then asked where the information was obtained to determine the fire danger risk indicated on the fire danger signs we have placed throughout the district. Deputy Chief Spence replied that the information is provided by Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Comments –

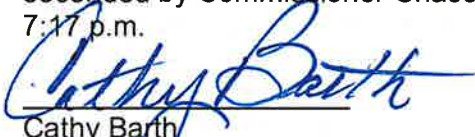
Commissioner Fox noted that it had been a rough week for the crews and expressed his concern that everyone is doing well. He then extended his appreciation to the crews for the work they do every day.



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Adjourn - Being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.


Cathy Barth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners

Sept 22nd, 2025

Miscellaneous

- Parts have been ordered for the lighting of the Smokey Bear concrete slab. In two weeks, we will receive the pour-in cups and will be able to continue on the project. All sub-grade drainage and cleanout vaults have been installed.
- The annual student-parent meeting of the HOSA student riders will occur on September 29th. Students and at least one guardian are required to attend this training prior to receiving approval to ride.
- The 2026 ambulance transport rates presented at the last Board meeting have been sent to Systems Design West, as well as filed with the Washington State Officer of the Insurance Commissioner. These take effect January 1st, 2026.
- The department insurance renewal is underway. Once it is complete, we will know if there are any increases/decreases to our agency liability insurance.
- WFCB notified the District that health insurance rates will increase by 15% in 2026. The District has attended webinars regarding the increases, which are being attributed to costs over the last 12 months that exceeded the WFCB's budgeted expenses. Regardless, we continue to work with neighboring jurisdictions to investigate options.
- There is a surplus resolution in the packet for expired turnout gear. This gear has exceed the NFPA time limit for thermal protection of firefighters and is no longer serviceable for District use. Once surplused, staff will be looking for academies who generally have a use for non-fire use bunker gear.
- Staff will be representing the District at the funeral for Jeff Aikens. Jeff has been a long-time supporter of the District, Association, and community. For the last 15 years, Jeff has brought the Christmas spirit to Sultan and thousands of people through our doors at our annual "Santa at the Station" event. His memorial service is October 11th at the First Baptist Church.
- The annual Sultan School District Evacuation Drill will be held October 1st. Planning meetings are underway.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Johnson

Chief, Snohomish County Fire District 5