



## **Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

***September 8, 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, Deputy Chief Emmy Duros, District Secretary, Cathy Barth, and Kendra Chynoweth were present. Chief Johnson attended via Zoom. Members of staff and the public were in attendance. Brian Copple was in attendance and sworn in as Commissioner.

**Oath of office for Brian Copple Commissioner position three** – Mayor Russel Wiita administered the Oath to Brian Copple, the oath was signed by both parties. Commissioner Fox thanked Mayor Wiita for performing the swearing in duties.

### **Additions to Agenda –**

Commissioner Chase asked that the Minutes of August 11, 2025, and August 25, 2025, be pulled from the Consent Agenda for some minor corrections.

Commissioner Fox added a brief discussion regarding the WFCA conference and the need for assistance.

Commissioner Copple added under New Business, wildland fire deployment accounting.

**Public/Staff Comments** – None.

### **Consent Agenda -**

Approval of Payroll for September 2025 = \$249,393.50

Approval of Expense Fund Vouchers #250902001-#250902043 September 2025 \$64,624.73

Approval of Capital Projects Fund Vouchers #250901001-#250901002 September 2025=\$8,012.73

A motion to approve the consent agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

**Item pulled:** Minutes for August 11, 2025, and August 25, 2025.

A motion to approve the minutes for August 11, 2025, and August 25, 2025, with the requested corrections was made by Commissioner Chase, seconded by Commissioner Fox, and passed. Commissioner Copple abstained.

**Chief's Report** – See attached.

Commissioner Fox asked if there would be uplighting for the Smokey Bear statue. Chief Johnson replied yes there would be uplighting.

Commissioner Chase asked if there were any updates regarding the medical trust meeting, such as a timeframe for when studies regarding the program might be completed. Chief Johnson responded that the Interlocal Agreement (ILA), has a timeline of six to eight months to wrap up the project.

### **Old Business –**

**Open Issues/Actions** – No new actions were added.

Commissioner Chase suggested that the Board schedule a strategic planning meeting at the next Board meeting.



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### **New Business –**

**Wildland Fire Deployment Accounting** - Commissioner Copple asked if the Board could be provided accounting documentation for the wildfire deployments providing them with an idea of what the reimbursements might look like. Commissioner Chase stated that in previous meetings the Board was given a general idea of what the District might expect from the reimbursements. Discussion was held regarding what documentation the Commissioners would like made available to them at the Board meetings.

**Snolsle Commissioner Meeting** – Commissioner Fox gave a brief report about the topic of PTSD which was discussed at the meeting.

**Washington Fire Commissioners Association Conference** - Commissioner Fox discussed the upcoming arrangements for the annual conference ceremonies and the need for help with some of the duties. Commissioner Copple agreed to help Commissioner Fox at the Thursday morning ceremony.

### **Informational-**

**Knoxbox Homebox Loaner Program** – Chief Johnson reviewed the Knoxbox Homebox Loaner Program with the Commissioners.

Commissioner Chase asked if there was a plan in place to get the boxes back from the resident. Chief Johnson replied that District stickers are placed on each box detailing where to return them. He added that there is no formal plan in place yet. Commissioner Chase suggested each recipient be required to sign a document stating that the box will be returned. Chief Johnson will contact Attorney Snure for ownership rights language providing the Fire District with the right to take the box back at any time.

### **Ambulance Transport and Service Rates 2026 –**

Chief Johnson reviewed the proposed transport rates with the Commissioners. Discussion was held regarding the increase and how it might affect the taxpayers and the effect it might have on collection rates. Chief Johnson commented that because of these concerns he kept the rates under what Medicaid and Medicare rates are paying, but due to rising costs associated with transports and aid services, the increase was necessary. The Commissioners agreed the rates were reasonable.

### **Commissioner Comments –**

Commissioner Fox welcomed Commissioner Copple back. He also expressed his appreciation to the staff for their hard work every day.

Commissioner Chase commented that the staff has been working some really long hours. She expressed her appreciation and thanked everyone for putting in the extra time.

Commissioner Copple thanked everyone for welcoming him back, he stated that many people had congratulated him on his return. He added that he really enjoys being here.

**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 7:52 p.m.

  
Cathy Barth  
District Secretary

# **Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners**

Sept 8th, 2025

## **Welcome**

- Welcome Commissioner Copple. I am more than happy to meet with you any time to bring you up to speed on the recent happenings of the Fire District, our current events, and short-term opportunities. Thank you, Mayor Wiita, for lending your time to swear in our new Fire Commissioner.

## **Personnel:**

- Firefighter Paramedic Montgomery has passed his Paramedic Onboarding and Mentorship Program, and is approved to work as a solo medic. Once our Medic returns from maternity leave, we will be fully staffed with ALS personnel, at two per shift.

## **Medical Trust:**

- We held our first meeting amongst the signers of the Medical Trust Cost Sharing agreement. This meeting was a good introduction of plan types, administration of these types of plans, different agency approval processes, and implementation. We also discussed opportunities to educate other decision makers in the process.

## **Miscellaneous**

- We have had continual issues of recovering our hovercraft after launching from Sportsman's Park. Though we can normally launch at such low water levels, getting the machine up the bank is incredibly difficult due to the steepness of the bank. I have met with the City of Sultan Public Works to address the boat launch/hovercraft launch site. All of the work at the wastewater plant has been completed, and we are ready to address the issue.

Both Secretary Barth and Asst Secretary Young have been doing a wonderful job training New Admin Chynoweth. There is a robust training plan, and they have been working together very well to bring Kendra up to speed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Seth Johnson

Chief, Snohomish County Fire District 5