Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026

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. Chief Johnson, Deputy Chief Jarrod Spence and District Secretary Kendra Chynoweth were present. Members of staff were in attendance.

Additions to Agenda – PO2026-4231 and PO2026-4232 to New Business

Public/Staff Comments – IAFF Vice President Chris Olson presented a letter to Chief Johnson and the Board of Commissioners. See attached

Consent Agenda -
Approval of Minutes for August 10, 2026
Approval of Minutes for August 24, 2026
Approval of Payroll September 2026 = $335,970.11
Approval of Expense Fund Vouchers #26090101 - #26090134 September 2026 = $120,133.15

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

Chief's Report – See attached.
Deputy Chief Duros – See attached
Deputy Chief Spence – See attached

Old Business –

Open Issues/Actions – Helipad – Commissioner Fox is working with the engineering firm. The next step is to figure out a plan for Drainage. We need to possibly adjust the area we set out for the helipad.

New Business –
PO# 2026-4220 –
A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4220 for Davis Door Repairs** as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

PO# 2026-4225 A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4225 for Elite Extraction Tools** for the new engine as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

PO# 2026-4226 A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4226 L.N. Curtis & Sons** as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Chase, and passed unanimously.

PO# 2026-4228 A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4228** as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

PO# 2026-4231 A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4231 for L.N Curtis and Sons** as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

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PO# 2026-4232 - A motion to approve **PO# 2026-4232 Sales Tax on the engine** as presented was made by Commissioner Fox, seconded by Commissioner Copple, and passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding Fire Danger sign at the station - Commissioner Fox brought an example of the sign from the Ranger Station. Chief Johnson will be contacting the permitting office to start the process of installing the previously ordered Station 51 fire danger sign.

Commissioner Comments –
Commissioner Fox – Thank everybody for working extra hard this summer, I know most of you may have been gone for most of the summer. Thank you to those who stayed here to take care of our community members as well.

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 7:48 p.m.

Kendra Chynoweth
District Secretary

Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners

Sept 14, 2026

Recent Wildfire Responses and Mobilization

- We have had an active Wildland season, with District 5 personnel responding to 13 conflagrations across Washington and Oregon. Alpowa, Paradise, Railroad, Ransier, Hay Creek, Bradeen Hills, Modrite, Chelan Hills, Austin, Ryegrass, Hamilton, Country Meadows and Labor Mountain.
- These deployments included our brush engine, our water tender, and our single resource staff as MEDL, STEN and Task Force Leader.
- DC Duros is currently assigned to the Austin Fire in Oregon as a MEDL(t), but all other apparatus are back in District.
- The changes in the mobilization callout process which was made at the beginning of the year have increased the likelihood of our apparatus being mobilized, resulting in multiple opportunities for our staff to gain experience fighting wildfire in every fuel model that this state has to offer.
- To date, we are looking at reimbursement billing of more than 4,000 hours of staff time and at least $100,000 of apparatus time between the state fire marshals office and DNR.

GEMT

- We received almost $35,000 from a recent audit of FY2023 GEMT filings. These funds are being deposited in our reserve account, and were the result of the multitude of audits that we perform on our filings.

Annexation

- Hearing back from our attorney on the matter, we will need to re-start the annexation process. There is caselaw that was found regarding the time limits on the filings which changed our initial opinion. The process will begin with re-contacting the petitioners.

Apparatus

- Our new engine is in Oregon, at True North's Hillsboro facility. There was some damage that occurred to the front bumper during the ferry trip from the South Dakota factory, but the vendor has been in extensive communications with DC Spence and we have confidence that it will be repaired to meet our standards.
- Tonight we will discuss some purchase orders for new equipment for the engine, as well as the invoice for sales tax.
- T51 had an unexplained thermal event under the hood, while responding back to Station 51 after the FRC at Gold Bar Nature Trails.
    - This resulted in the apparatus needing to be towed to the SRFR shop. Crews are uninjured and thanks to their quick thinking they got the truck stopped and the fire quickly under control. The damage seems to be extensive, but repairable and I have began the insurance claim process.

Chiefs Report to the Board of Commissioners

Sept 14, 2026

County Roads

- The proposed changes to rural access roads has been sent to the County Planning Department for comment. We are engaged with the Snohomish County Fire Marshal to ensure that any code changes to the rural access road codes include future considerations such as ADU's, Condo Conversions, and other items which could increase the density of a neighborhood built without connectivity or pedestrian consideration.

Legislative

- Last week, we hosted a meeting with Congresswoman Kim Schrier at Station 51. The congresswoman was interested in receiving feedback on Washingtons wildfires. We had fantastic conversation about wildfires, as well as the federal impacts that effect D5 such as prolonged shutdowns of the National Fire Academy and the reduction of Medicare enrollees and lack of funding for alternative medical treatment pathways.
- The congresswoman was very receptive, and we made great contacts within her office who are interested in our programming at D5.

311th Bridge

- I have made contact with the County Roads department regarding the bridgework done on the 311th wood bridge. Conversations are ongoing about permanent signage, specific bridge limits and the overall notification of work process. Conversations are beginning to gain traction.

Citizens Academy

- There are 11 citizens participating in this years cohort of the Sultan Citizens Academy, with the following important dates to know about:
    - 9/16 Orientation meeting at City Hall
    - 10/14 SCFD5 presentation at Station 51
    - 11/18 Graduation and Joint Meeting at Station 51

Misc

- A Blood Drive was held at 51 on August 28, hosted by HOSA.
- On and Off Duty staff participated in the 9/11 memorial ceremony at Station 31 in Monroe. SRFR hosted the event that included military, law enforcement and fire service on this 25 year remembrance.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Johnson
Chief, Snohomish County Fire District 5

SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

32905 Cascade View Drive Sultan WA 98294
(360) 793 1179 **www.snofire5.org**

DC52 Report of Activity 09-14-26

Date	Activity
9/1	All purchased refurb AEDs have been vetted, stocked, and placed into service. Retraining education was sent out to all department employees.
9/26	Community Outreach Group is working towards the Return of the Salmon event 9/26 with a focus on flood safety. Hovercraft will be in attendance with SRT members staffing event.
9/30	BHCore COAST training occurring at SCFD5 on 9/30 in conjunction with Riverside Fire Authority. Signups have been opened county-wide and we have participants from as far as Darrington FD signed up.

DC52 is deployed to the Austin/Narrows/Grasshopper Fire that spans across Estacada and Mount Hood Oregon. On 9/9 a faller was struck by a tree during routine operations and crushed. Medical Resources to include two Type 3 REMS teams (UTV, Rope Rescue, Paramedic), wildland certified ALS ambulances, and incident-assigned short-haul helicopters came together to reach, treat, and extract the patient in an astonishing timeframe (under two hours to definitive care). Unfortunately the firefighter died in surgery. The camp is doing well, and folks are being well cared for with Agency Admins, CISM and the family of the fallen firefighter is receiving a lot of support and donations from the staff on the fire. This incident highlighted the need for resources to preplan how they clearly define roles, the capacity of their scope of practice and equipment, and the need for Medical Resources on wildland incidents to do their due diligence in establishing expectations, organization, and the need for incident management principles as well as quality assurance similar to how we in traditional fire service models perform.

Operations Chief Report 9/14/26

1. Logistics

a. Facilities
   i. Station 52 is moving along quickly, all painting is completed. Electrical work will be next followed by all the ceiling tiles.

b. Apparatus
   i. The new engine is in Hillsborough OR and I will be travelling there on the 25th to go over the final change orders.

c. IT
   i. We have refreshed our quote for locution and met with another installer today to continue moving ahead with the alerting system.

2. Operations

a. Part Time Members
   i. We have 9 part-timers that are in the process to come on board and are finishing their medical physicals

3. Training

a. MCOs
   i. We completed two acting Lt signoffs congratulations to FF Bingham and FF/PM Pitzen

b. Dept Training
   i. Later this month we have live fire training if you are interested in seeing what the members are doing training will be on the 28th,29th (Sept) and 1st (Oct) at SVF

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