



**Thurston County Fire Protection District 8
Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting
July 9, 2019**

MINUTES of the SPECIAL Board meeting held July 9, 2019, at Station 8-1. Commissioners Harper, Gleckler, Berman and Engle were in attendance. Chief VanCamp, Assistant Chief LeMay and Secretary Stumpf were also present. Commissioner Zvirzdys participated by phone. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

Resident Program/Property Acquisition:

Chief VanCamp provided an update on the status of the Resident Program. Currently there are some members interested in the Resident Program, but since we don't have a property yet, no one is committed. Chief VanCamp explained that so far, there has been no rental properties available in our target area and any properties for sale have sold quickly, sometimes overnight. A lengthy discussion ensued. Rental and property prices were discussed. A rental property would have to be reasonably priced, with bedrooms to house 4-6 people; at least two bathrooms; and located 2-3 miles from Johnson Point Road. Renters would need to provide renters' insurance. Maintenance and 1st and last month's rent would be negotiated. The number of people per room was discussed. Utilities were also discussed. It is recommended that the District provide trash service, power and water. Members would pay their own internet and TV expenses.

Chief VanCamp also recommends the District consider purchasing property for the future new station. Ideally, the property would have a house on it that could be used as a temporary dwelling for the Resident Program. Regarding a possible purchase of property, Chief VanCamp strongly recommends offering a contingent offer, based on an appraisal and Board approval. Further, he suggest the District engage member and realtor Terry Toth, to help with the process. The property would have to be suitable for a future fire station and ideally located.

Executive Session: At 3:45 pm, the regular meeting adjourned to executive session. The purpose of the meeting is to consider acquisition of real estate as per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b). The estimated time was thirty minutes. At 4:15 pm the Executive Session concluded and the regular meeting convened. Following the meeting, no actions were taken.

Public Communication: Chief VanCamp led a discussion on best practices to communicate with the public. The Board agreed that positive communication was a priority and items of importance include the Strategic Plan and planned solutions to improve response time throughout the District. Commissioner Harper reminded the Board of the seven steps recommended by Liz Loomis.

1. Update the Strategic Plan
2. Review election timing
3. Identify assets and liabilities
4. Offer a survey
5. Develop key messages (Who we are and what we do; that we are prudent with tax payer's money; service challenges
6. Planned solutions and impacts to tax payers
7. Realistic consequences if ballot issues are voted down

The Board discussed options for communication. Suggestions included: More frequent newsletters; shorter, one-page newsletters for easier reading; social media such as Nexdoor; read board; and website. Topics for

communication were discussed. Suggestions included: District purchases and fiscal responsibility; volunteerism; operation successes; social events; resources for the community; using lots of photographs; three colors; bulk mail; resident program, WSRB, etc. Chief VanCamp recommends we identify our assets and liabilities, develop key messages and communicate with the public at least three times per year. Following the discussion, the Board directed Chief VanCamp to develop a communications plan.

Adjourn: The Board announced that next regular meeting is scheduled on July 9, 2019, beginning at 5:30 pm and will be held at the South Bay Station 8-1. There being no further business, the motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.

ATTEST:


Richard Gleckler, as Chair for TCFPD 8


Tom Engle, as Commissioner for TCFPD 8


Michael Berman, as Commissioner for TCFPD 8


Gloria Zvirzdys as Commissioner for TCFPD 8


William Harper, as Commissioner for TCFPD 8


Heidi Stumpf, District Secretary for TCFPD 8