



**Thurston County Fire Protection District 8
Board of Fire Commissioners' Special Meeting
March 18, 2020**

MINUTES of the SPECIAL Board meeting held March 18, 2020, at the South Bay Station 8-1. Commissioners Gleckler, Harper, Kilpatrick, Long and Zvirzdys participated by phone. Chief VanCamp, Assistant Chief LeMay and Secretary Stumpf, were also in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Resolution 20-02 Emergency Declaration – Using a handout that was electronically transmitted to each Board member prior to the meeting, Chief VanCamp explained the need for an *Emergency Declaration* Resolution due to the global pandemic surrounding the COVID-19 virus. The CDC has identified the potential public health threat posed by the virus which is active in the State of Washington and Thurston County. The Resolution declares under law (Chapter 38.52) a State of Emergency allowing exemptions from competitive bidding and notice requirements and meeting location restrictions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Questions were asked for clarity and minor revisions were suggested. In answer to a board question, the chief confirmed that measures taken under this resolution would only be those in direct support of the Covid-19 pandemic response. Commissioner Harper moved to approve the Resolution as presented with the minor edits. Commissioner Long seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved Resolution 20-02 Emergency Declaration.

Update on COVID-19 – Chief VanCamp provided an update on the impacts of the virus. He shared that he's been participating in daily meetings with other county agencies who are working on a county-wide plan. He's also been emailing updates to the Board and membership as they become available. Questions were asked for clarity and a discussion ensued. Topics discussed included procedures for exposed and/or ill members and employees; pre-shift screenings for members; and county-wide mutual aid deployment models being established in case of a high incident response load (HIRL). Following the discussion, Chief VanCamp said he would continue to keep the Board informed of any new information.

Emergency Rehabilitation of District Residence – Chief VanCamp requested Board approval to expedite the restoration of the District Residence building in order that it be habitable for quarantine/isolation purposes should the need arise. He explained that most of the work could be completed in a short period of time, given the waiver of the competitive bidding process. Further, he clarified the tasks that still need to be done (demolish the exterior deck; clean and paint; HVAC upgrades; sheetrock repair; some appliances; some electrical repairs and minor plumbing). Costs are estimated to be less than \$35K. Questions were asked for clarity, including topics such as furniture, bedding and food. Chief VanCamp also shared that the Stafford Act (FEMA) will help to reimburse some of the expenses related to the COVID-19 emergency. Following a discussion, Commissioner Zvirzdys made a motion to approve the request to expedite the restoration of the District Residence as presented; providing expenses stay under the previously approved project budget. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Plans for Future Open Public Meetings – Chief VanCamp led a discussion on options for future Board meetings. It was suggested that we hold them remotely, using the telephone. Application recommendations were discussed that would allow the public to still listen to and participate in the meetings. Following the discussion, Secretary Stumpf was directed to research conference-call applications and make a recommendation to the Board.

Firefighter Register and Filling Open Position – Chief VanCamp requested Board approval to quickly fill the open firefighter position in order to provide much-needed daytime response. He shared that there are currently two qualified volunteers on the register that wouldn't necessarily require the same timely background checks (as this could be waived). Further, he recommends we hire both members and have them begin April 1st. He added comments that some of the labor expenses would qualify for reimbursement under the Stafford Act. Questions were asked for clarity, that included impacts to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Chief VanCamp planned to discuss the proposal to the Union before moving forward. Following a discussion, Commissioner Gleckler made a motion to approve hiring two firefighters from the current register, providing there was support from the Union. Commissioner Zvirzdys seconded the motion, adding that it was understood that the extra position could be eliminated in the future if it proves to be unneeded or financially infeasible. The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Personnel Evaluation: Commissioner Gleckler briefly discussed an employee evaluation that was in process. He is putting the draft together and will be sending it out to the Commissioners for their changes, additions, and final approval. Commissioners Kilpatrick and Long will not be providing input as they weren't in office prior to December 2019.

Adjourn:

The Board announced that next regular meeting is scheduled on April 14, 2020, 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 11:05 am.

ATTEST:


Richard Gleckler, as Chair for TCFPD 8


Douglas Kilpatrick, as Commissioner for TCFPD 8

Pamela Long, 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