

Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 9, 2019

Chairperson Cameron called a regular Board of Commissioners meeting to order at 5:30 pm on October 9, 2019, at Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue Headquarters Station in the high school classroom.

The following were present:

Commissioner Hallanger
Chief LaFave
FA Ballinger
HSO Agren

Commissioner Olson
DC Ribelin
DFM Huff
VC Meller

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the September 25, 2019, BOC meeting minutes with an edit. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

Awards & Recognition:

None

Verbal Reports:

Staffing Update: Recruiting for paramedics continues to be a priority. Our hiring lists are not sufficient for this position. Staff is working on a new recruiting announcement and will get that out soon. Staff is also working on implementation of the staffing model previously discussed; which is to operate out of stations 21, 22 and 25 once the new stations are complete. The job announcement for the full-time planning position is out and closes next week.

Written Reports:

Capital Improvement Project Update: DFM Huff provided a written report that was included in the packet. At station 25, electrical rough is ongoing, and siding, HVAC and insulation work have all begun.

At station 22, sheetrock is mostly complete and floor polishing and interior paint work has begun. Permits to demolish the old station have been submitted to the City of Longview and SW Clean Air Agency. Working on a plan for the mobile home at station 22 and the purchase of a new one for station 24.

{Commissioner Headley entered the meeting at 5:45 pm}

Action Items:

Paramedic Education Agreement: Our current hiring lists have a shortage of paramedics. Our attorney, Brian Snure, provided comments and edits on the paramedic education agreement and Chairperson Cameron had numerous edits.

Discussion regarding part time employees versus full time employees taking advantage of this program, commitment required by the employee, length of time to pass the national registry and payback terms. All questions from the board were answered by staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the implementation of the paramedic education program to include the Paramedic Education Agreement with edits presented and discussed at this meeting. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- We did not get the SAFER grant, which was to add three employees.
- Update on new engine, ambulance and command vehicle.
- The WA State Auditor will be here starting November 4.
- LFD has filled the fire marshal position.
- Paving out back at station 21 should be happening soon so work can begin on the burn prop.
- Station 25 will have asbestos abatement completed on November 12 and 13 so we can move forward with demolishing the old building.
- Working on an extension to spend the remaining bond funds.
- October 12 is our annual fire prevention week open house from 11 am to 2 pm at station 21.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve payroll totaling \$231,239.75 for warrant numbers 58767 through 58780 dated October 4, 2019. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve vouchers totaling \$866,771.04 for warrant numbers 58781 through 58833 dated October 11, 2019. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Headley gave an update on Cowlitz 911 dispatcher staffing and property search status, as well as implementation planning to text 911.

Executive Session:

Chairperson Cameron recessed the regular meeting at 6:40 p.m. to enter into Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations for approximately 30 minutes.

Chairperson Cameron closed the Executive Session and re-opened the regular meeting at 7:05 pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Cameron at 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Cameron

District Secretary