



Board of Commissioners Meeting

September 27, 2023

Commissioner Cameron called a regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:30pm. This meeting was available to the public via Zoom. The following attended:

Commissioner Hutcheson
Commissioner Hallanger
Chief Goldstein
FD Ballinger

Commissioner Headley
Commission Olson
DC Huff

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the August 9, 2023 board meeting minutes as is. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

Promotions & Oath of Office

Matt Beaulaurier was promoted to Battalion Chief and Derek Daugherty was promoted to Lieutenant. In acceptance of these promotions, it carries an obligation to exercise additional authority and willingness to accept greater responsibility which must be governed with a strong sense of personal moral responsibility and leadership, which they both agreed to and accepted. Congratulations Matt & Derek!

Commissioner Cameron administered the Oath of Office to a new employee, FF/EMT Kirk Huhta. We are excited to have Kirk join the team at Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue.

Awards & Recognition:

Commissioner Headley wanted to thank everyone for their efforts on the 9-11 Ceremony. It went very well and it is much appreciated that this tradition is continuing.

Written Reports:

None

Verbal Reports:

911 Update: Commissioner Headley provided an update on personnel, the new facility, recent radio outages, the new Peer Support Team and a decrease in user fees. Cowlitz 911 has given notice of cancellation to the financial services contract with us effective 12/31/23.

Action Items:

Resolution 852-2023: Transfer to Reserve: *A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve Resolution 852-2023: Transfer to Reserve as presented. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

St 21 Parking Lot (Staff Report 9-2-001): The parking lot at Station 21 is in need of repairs. Per bid law based on the estimated dollar amount, five companies were contacted to provide quotes. AES was the lowest, responsible bidder at \$94,340, excluding sales tax. The remaining bond funds will be used on this project, which is about \$30,000, and the rest of the project will be funded out of our general fund. All questions by the Board were answered by staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to award the project to AES as presented in Staff Report 9-2-001. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Permanent Schedule Change for Day Shift (Staff Report 9-2-002): Day shift has been working a 4-10 schedule for approximately six months. Staff is requesting that this schedule be permanent. With this schedule change, POG 2010: Holiday and Floating Holidays will need to be updated as outlined in Staff Report 9-2-002 (removing some holidays, making holidays worth 10 hours rather than 8 hours and reducing the number of floating holidays). Overall, the total number of hours off between holidays and floating holidays will NOT change, just the distribution of the hours changes. All questions by the Board were answered by staff.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the permanent schedule change and update appropriate POGs to reflect this change as presented in Staff Report 9-2-002. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

POG 2070: Uniformed Service Leave: This policy was updated by the Board in consultation with attorneys to ensure compliance with the law. Discussion regarding definitions and return to work parameters.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve POG 2070: Uniformed Service Leave with the edits presented. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- Update on personnel out on injury and new hires.
- BC Bert Thayer is retiring. His District party will be on September 28 from 2pm to 4pm at Station 21.
- Wildland Mutual Aid response on August 16 in LaCenter.
- Several wildland deployments since the last Board meeting.
- The gold Jeep sold today.

- Update on vehicles that are on order.
- Industrial contract negotiations have started and will be ongoing for some time.
- We have 27 high school students this year.
- There are 19 people in the Volunteer Recruit Academy.
- We will be undergoing a WSRB review next year for our fire protection rating.
- We denied a Volunteer SAFER grant recently. There was a lot of overlap with our current Volunteer SAFER grant so staff felt it was best to not accept this grant.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve payroll totaling \$376,550.59 for warrant numbers 64553-64563 and EFT's dated August 18, 2023; \$383,411.76 for warrant numbers 64599-64608 and EFT's dated September 5, 2023; \$355,161.33 for warrant numbers 64664-64673 and EFT's dated September 20, 2023. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve vouchers totaling \$34,988.16 for warrant numbers 64564-64598 dated August 24, 2023; \$5,469.91 for warrant numbers 64609-64611 dated September 7, 2023; \$58,598.63 for warrant numbers 64612-64663 dated September 14, 2023; \$75,044.95 for warrant numbers 64674-64717 dated September 28, 2023; and VOID warrant number 64519 for \$487 dated August 10, 2023 due to a misprint and warrant number 645896 for \$69.99 dated September 25, 2023 due to check being lost. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. All questions by the Board were answered by staff. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Headley will be traveling next month and will most likely be unavailable for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- Our old 1941 American LaFrance Fire Engine is being restored.
- The funeral for Sue Ingalls was last weekend. There was good representation for our agency.
- All Call is scheduled for October 4 at 7:00pm.

Closed Meeting:

Chairperson Cameron recessed the regular meeting at 5:20pm to enter into a closed meeting to discuss labor negotiations (per RCW 42.30.140) for approximately 30 minutes. Chairperson Cameron re-opened the regular meeting at 5:43pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Cameron at 5:43pm.

Commissioner

District Secretary