



Board of Commissioners Meeting

November 22, 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
DC Stich

Commissioner Headley
Commissioner Olson
DC Huff
FD Ballinger

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the September 27, 2023 board meeting minutes as is. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

Promotions & Oath of Office

Kurt Stich was promoted to Deputy Chief and Erik Dearth was promoted to Battalion Chief. 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 Kurt & Erik!

Awards & Recognition:

None

Written Reports:

None

Verbal Reports:

911 Update: Commissioner Headley provided an update on the evaluation of the radio system, mapping services, personnel, Peer Support Team and user fees. Cowlitz 911 has requested to not cancel our financial services agreement and to actually extend it, plus add additional services since they lost their financial person recently. More discussion on this later in the meeting.

Action Items:

Surplus Saws (Staff Report 11-2-001): A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the surplus of saws identified in Staff Report 11-2-001 at the Fire Chief's discretion. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Surplus Gear Racks (Staff Report 11-2-002): A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve the surplus of gear racks identified in Staff Report 11-2-002 at the Fire Chief's discretion. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Addendum to 911 Agreement: Cowlitz 911 recently lost their financial person and cancelled their initial termination of our financial services agreement. That is now expected to run through 2024. In addition, Cowlitz 911 has requested additional financial services from our staff to manage their accounts payable, prevailing wage, accounts receivable, etc. That addendum to the agreement was provided in the Board packets.

A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve the Addendum to the Agreement for Financial Services with Cowlitz 911, with the Fire Chief to sign. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Health Care Program Employer Application: Annually, we need to apply to participate in the same health care program we are currently utilizing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve the 2024 Employer Application Health Care Program Form to be signed by Finance Director Ballinger. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. All questions by the Board were answered by staff. Motion carried.

Public Hearing:

2024 Preliminary Budget: Staff presented the 2024 preliminary budget and appropriate resolutions. Chairperson Cameron opened the public hearing for the 2024 Preliminary Budget at 4:51pm. No comments were made. Chairperson Cameron closed the public hearing at 4:52pm.

Action Items:

Resolution 853-2023: Levy Certification & Adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget: Staff prepared the appropriate resolution for our levy certification and 2024 preliminary budget adoption.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve Resolution 853-2023: Levy Certification & Adopt the 2024 Preliminary Budget. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. All questions by the Board were answered by staff. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- Update on personnel out on injury and new hires.
- Update on vehicles that are on order.
- Update on facilities and ongoing maintenance.
- Chief will be sending an email soon to board members looking for their input on stats that they'd like to see presented in early 2024.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve payroll totaling \$341,432.74 for warrant numbers 64718-64733 and EFT's dated October 5, 2023; \$380,447.46 for warrant numbers 64777-64787 and EFT's dated October 20, 2023; \$326,300.12 for warrant numbers 64832-64841 and EFT's dated November 3, 2023; \$320,952.41 for warrant numbers 64881-64891 and EFT's dated November 20, 2023. VOID warrant numbers 64728-64730 on 10/10/23 due to a misprint on checks. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve vouchers totaling \$104,450.71 for warrant numbers 64734-64773 dated October 12, 2023; \$68,890.32 for warrant numbers 64774-64776 dated October 19, 2023; \$155,747.58 for warrant numbers 64788-64827 dated October 26, 2023; \$109,226.27 for warrant numbers 64842-64880 dated November 9, 2023; \$44,928.12 for warrant numbers 64892-64935 dated November 27, 2023. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. All questions by the Board were answered by staff. Motion carried.

Drill Points:

A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to approve drill points totaling \$14,063.54 for warrant numbers 64828-64831 and EFT's dated October 31, 2023. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

None

Closed Meeting:

Chairperson Cameron recessed the regular meeting at 5:03pm to enter into a closed meeting to discuss labor negotiations (per RCW 42.30.140) for approximately 20 minutes. Chairperson Cameron re-opened the regular meeting at 5:10pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Cameron at 5:10pm.

Commissioner

District Secretary