



Board of Commissioners Meeting

October 23, 2024

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

Commissioner Cameron
Commissioner Headley
Chief Goldstein
DC Stich

Commissioner Olson
Commissioner Hallanger
DC Huff
Finance Director Ballinger

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve the September 18, 2024 board meeting minutes with and edit. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Harvey Williamson introduced himself and gave an overview of the story he is doing for the Stella Historical Society on our old Bunker Hill fire station.

Awards & Recognition:

Commissioner Headley thanked staff for a great Fire Prevention Week Open House.

Verbal Reports:

911 Update: Commissioner Headley reported that Cowlitz 911 is moving forward with their radio upgrade project. The Radio Tech position is now open that they are looking to fill. The new Executive Director is settling in and things are going well.

Station 24 Recruitment Update: Chief Goldstein reported that we held two community meetings for Rose Valley residents that went well. So far there are 14 interested in volunteering. We will be hosting a meeting next week to explain the requirements to be a volunteer, with interviews to follow in November and a modified academy in early 2025. Staff is still researching the mobile home for Station 24 which will be included in the 2025 budget.

Banking Capacity for 2025 Levy Collection: FD Ballinger provided an overview of each of our fund balances and a handout with options for 2025 levy rate banking capacity. She recommends banking about 2.5% of the 5% levy we are allowed to collect in 2025. The Board supports this

option.

Written Reports:

None

Action Items:

Surplus iPhones (Staff Report 10-2-001): Commissioner Cameron made a motion to approve the surplus of the iPhones identified in Staff Report 10-2-001 at the discretion of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Out-of-District Response (Staff Report 10-2-002): The District has not been confronted with an agency refusing to pay the out-of-district fee set by the Board. How we treat this may set precedence on how we deal with similar issues in the future. Currently, Life Flight owes \$6,100.98 in outstanding invoices. POG 5011 outlines how we deal with delinquent accounts, which includes sending them to collections.

A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron to contact the agency about the Board's decision of our intent to collect these fees, provide them a final past due notice and if it goes unpaid, send them to collections. Commissioner Hutcheson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

In addition, the mutual aid to Castle Rock (CCFD#6) was significantly increased in 2024. We are going there way too often compared to them assisting us. Executive Staff is monitoring this and a discussion with CCFD#6 is planned.

EMS Equipment Maintenance Agreement (Staff Report 10-2-003): Our current EMS equipment maintenance agreement is set to expire soon. Staff received options for a 3-year plan for \$86,475.60 total and a 5-year plan for \$144,126.00 total, both excluding sales tax. Either plan we choose requires an annual payment of \$28,825.20 plus sales tax.

Commissioner Cameron made a motion to approve the 5-year EMS agreement maintenance plan for a total cost of \$144,126.00, with annual payments of \$28,825.20 plus sales tax. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- We are mid-way through the career academy.
- The ladder truck is now at Station 25 and is the primary engine response there.
- Moved to WHA as our insurance broker. No longer with VFIS for our auto, property or management liability coverage since we canceled the policy. Our deductibles are doubling or tripling and our premiums are significantly increasing. Waiting for more information from our new insurance broker, WHA on where we will purchase coverage and how we will get management liability coverage as part of the Risk Management Pool.
- Working on a committee with WA Fire Chiefs and WSRB on the rating process and grading criteria for future consideration.
- The Columbia County Mutual Aid Agreement is moving forward again and will most likely be signed soon.
- Still working through the large public records request from IAFF 3375 and 828 (Longview).

Payroll:

Commissioner Olson made a motion to approve payroll totaling \$409,839.40 for warrant numbers 65983-65992 and EFTs dated September 20, 2024; \$414,942.05 for warrant numbers 66037-66046 and EFTs dated October 4, 2024; \$394,396.06 for warrant numbers 66090-66099 and EFTs dated October 18, 2024. Commissioner Cameron seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve vouchers totaling \$128,654.86 for warrant numbers 65993-66036 dated September 26, 2024; \$52,826.38 for warrant numbers 66047-66089 dated October 10, 2024; \$96,415.23 for warrant numbers 66100-66103 dated October 23, 2024; \$46,780.32 for warrant numbers 66104-66139 dated October 24, 2024. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hutcheson at 5:23pm.

Commissioner

District Secretary