



Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 8, 2025

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 Olson

Commissioner Headley

Commissioner Hallanger

Chief Goldstein

DC Stich

Finance Director Ballinger

Brian Snure, Snure Law Office (District Attorney)

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve the October 23, 2024, October 30, 2024 and November 26, 2024 board meeting minutes with an edit. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

None

Oath of Office:

Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Sweet was promoted to Lieutenant effective January 1, 2025 due to Lt Arrera's upcoming retirement. His wife pinned his badge on him. Congratulations!

Executive Session:

Commissioner Hutcheson recessed the regular meeting at 4:35pm to enter into Executive Session to meet with legal counsel (per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii)) to discuss legal risks of a proposed action for 15 minutes and will open the regular meeting at 4:50pm.

Commissioner Hutcheson opened the regular meeting at 4:50pm to enter back into Executive Session at that stated time for 5 minutes and will open the regular meeting at 4:55pm.

Commissioner Hutcheson closed the Executive Session and re-opened the regular meeting at 4:55pm.

Awards & Recognition:

None

Verbal Reports:

911 Update: Commissioner Headley reported that Cowlitz 911 hired a Radio Manager, which is a new position. Three new dispatchers will start in February. Chief Goldstein reported that Cowlitz 911 gave us notice that they will be terminating our financial services agreement effective March 31, 2025.

Written Reports:

Public Safety Towers: Written proposal to improve cellular access in Rose Valley was included in the Board packets. We do not have the land for the tower on our property, but the property owned by Kelso School District next to ours may be an option. Public Safety Towers Company has requested that we approach Kelso School District to advocate for this.

Action Items:

Nippon Annexation Withdrawal Request: On January 3, 2025, Chief Goldstein received a letter from Nippon indicating their intent to withdrawal from the annexation process. Chief Goldstein outlined that Longview Fire Department uses the assessed value of the contract service area properties that we have 50/50 agreements with for salaries and comparables for contract negotiations. Losing this property would have significantly decreased Longview Fire's total assessed value to use in this process.

Brian Wood, Director Support Services at Nippon was in attendance at today's Board meeting and shared that Nippon has signed and executed a new 10-year 50/50 agreement with the District and Longview Fire. He reviewed Nippon's initial reasoning and position when requesting the annexation. Since that time, Nippon has met with several individuals and agencies about the services provided based on the 50/50 agreement vs being in the fire district and, in the end, concluded they felt comfortable with the arrangement that is accomplished in the 50/50 agreement. He expressed that on behalf of Nippon, they appreciate the work our staff has done on this project and our staff's assistance throughout the process.

Commissioner Cameron made a motion to approve the annexation withdrawal request from Nippon. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Surplus CPR Equipment (Staff Report 1-1-001): A motion was made by Commissioner Headley to surplus the CPR Equipment identified in Staff Report 1-1-001 at the discretion of the Fire Chief. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

POG 1037: Contract for Public Works & Purchasing: This is a new policy to implement changes in the law surrounding these topics and our transition to the MRSC Roster program. All questions by the Board were answered by staff.

Commissioner Hutcheson made a motion to approve POG 1037: Contract for Public Works & Purchasing with edits. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Resolution 866-2025: Salaries Effective 01/01/25: A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron to approve Resolution 866-2025: Salaries Effective 01/01/25. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Elect Board Officers: A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to keep the current slate of officers with Marisa Hutcheson as Chair and Jeff Cameron as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- IFSAC testing was conducted last week. Thanks to BC Dearth for his work on this.
- Applications for lateral full-time paramedic and part-time firefighter closes next week.
- January 1, 2025 the trial of the 48/96 schedule started for line personnel.
- About five multi-year agreements in the contract service area were executed at the end of the year and begin January 1, 2025. EGT's contract expires this year, so staff will begin working on this one soon.
- Discussion regarding mutual aid with Longview Fire and their position change on it being geographically driven for delta and echo calls as well as high acuity structure fire calls to get assistance to citizens in the quickest way possible. Initially Longview Fire agreed to this method and change, then a month later changed their mind and required us to no longer operate our mutual aid with this way.
- Modified fire academy will begin in February for the new Rose Valley volunteers coming on board. There are currently eight total.

Payroll:

Commissioner Olson made a motion to approve payroll totaling \$369,430.85 for warrant numbers 66265-66274 and EFTs dated December 5, 2024; \$331,375.86 for warrant numbers 66347-66356 and EFTs dated December 20, 2024 and \$335,467.33 for warrant numbers 66386-66395 and EFTs dated January 3, 2025. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve vouchers totaling \$199,085.94 for warrant numbers 66277-66318 dated December 12, 2024; \$21,692.19 for warrant numbers 66319-66346 dated December 19, 2024; \$107,532.63 for warrant numbers 66357-66385 dated December 31, 2024; \$76,037.29 for warrant numbers 66396-66418 dated January 9, 2025; and VOID warrant numbers 66275-66276 dated December 12, 2024 due to a misprint in the printer. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. All questions by the Board were answered by staff. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hutcheson at 5:58pm.

Commissioner

District Secretary