



## Board of Commissioners Meeting

*March 26, 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 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 February 26, 2025 board meeting minutes with an edit. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

### **Public Comments:**

None

### **Awards & Recognition:**

Commissioner Headley thanked the staff who executed the District's annual banquet.

### **Verbal Reports:**

None

### **Written Reports:**

None

### **Action Items:**

**Commissioner Council/Board Appointments for Outside Committees:** Commissioner Hutcheson reminded the group of the proper procedures for Board members to be appointed to outside committees as an official District representative. Staff will put together a list of appointments that require Board approval to assist with tracking and bring that back to the next meeting for review to ensure we have captured everything. There is one appointment the Board needs to make tonight for the SW EMS Trauma Care Council.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron to appoint Jon Olson as the District's representative to the SW EMS Trauma Care Council. Commissioner Hutcheson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

**Bunker Gear Purchase (Staff Report 3-2-001):** The District received a Hazmat-focused grant from WA State Dept of Ecology and is ready to move forward with purchasing Hazmat suits/bunker gear for \$34,341.91 from LN Curtis.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron to purchase nine sets of Hazmat suits/bunker gear from LN Curtis for \$34,341.91, including sales tax, as identified in Staff Report 3-2-001. Commissioner Hutcheson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

**New Full-Time Positions (Staff Report 3-2-002):** Chief Goldstein is recommending adding three additional full-time line staff to bolster response and improve the flexibility of service to the community. Adding these positions would put 14 people on each shift (this would bring the total union authorized positions to 44). With this staffing plan, the Chief is recommending shifting money from the part-time program and using the increase in revenue from service area contracts to help offset the costs. The Chief estimates it will cost approximately \$450,000 in year one. These positions will be either firefighter/EMT or firefighter/paramedic, depending on the job pool.

Questions by the Board overview:

- Does the \$450,000 include the total cost of compensation as well as all gear, supplies, etc. needed? The answer was yes.
- Will this lower the overtime budget? The answer was yes.
- Will intern positions be impacted? The answer was no.
- Concerns about whether there is a decrease in contract service area properties' assessed value and what that will do to the revenue stream. The answer was that six of the companies are on multi-year agreements and there is a COLA escalator built in. However, when a renegotiation is requested by either party, the assessed value may impact the fees we collect at that point. We currently forecast that to be quite a few years down the road and the impacts at this time are unknown.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Cameron to add three new full-time line positions (for a total of 44 union positions) as outlined and recommended in Staff Report 3-2-002 with the flexibility for the positions to be firefighter EMTs or Paramedics. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

## **Chief's Report:**

- Due to BC Tone resigning, Dan Cothren is temporarily promoted to BC on C shift until a new BC list process is complete; and with Dan Cothren moving up, Robert Brown is temporarily promoted to Lt, both effective today.
- A conditional offer has been given to a lateral firefighter/paramedic.
- Crews responded to a fatal structure fire earlier this month.
- We applied for a grant/loan from Cowlitz County Rural Public Facilities to support our expansion project at St 24 in Rose Valley. We should know more in April or May.
- Staff is still working through the process for site work and a mobile home at St 24 in Rose

- Valley. We expect to move forward with this part of the project in the next couple of months.
- Staff will need to respond to WSRB by July 31, 2025, with an update on active volunteers at St 24 in Rose Valley to keep the fire protection rating it is currently set at. We are on track to meet the requirements and do not see any issues with being able to accomplish this.
  - Our financial services support ends for Cowlitz 911 on March 31, 2025.

### **Payroll:**

*Commissioner Olson made a motion to approve payroll totaling \$345,275.04 for warrant numbers 66595-66604 and EFTs dated March 5, 2025 and \$338,042.46 for warrant numbers 66649-66658 and EFTs dated March 20, 2025. Commissioner Headley seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

### **Vouchers:**

*Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve vouchers totaling \$64,763.20 for warrant numbers 66605-66648 dated March 13, 2025; \$48,235.29 for warrant number 66659 dated March 24, 2025; \$54,953.68 for warrant numbers 66660-66702 dated March 27, 2025; and VOID vouchers totaling \$48,235.29 for warrant number 66215. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. Questions by the board were answered by staff. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

### **Announcements:**

None

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Hutcheson at 5:13pm.

---

Commissioner

---

District Secretary