

**Board of Fire Commissioners
Spokane County Fire Protection District 10
929 South Garfield Road
Airway Heights WA 99004
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

October 3, 2023

5:00pm

Commissioner Mericle called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Present

Commissioners Scott Mericle, Kevin Haughton and Gordon Hester, Chief Ken Johnson; Deputy Chief Don Malone; Deputy Chief Nick Henry; Deputy Chief Andres Steevens; Board Attorney Michelle Fossum and Administrative Director Peggy Callahan.

Approval of the Agenda

Agenda was approved as mailed.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from September 12 and 14, 2023 meetings were approved as mailed.

Correspondence

None

Financial Report

AP Warrants 13800 – 13813 totaling \$17,498.64 were approved. AP EFT/ACH totaling \$45,546.27 was approved. Payroll Warrants 808246 – 808248 totaling \$6,830.48 were approved. PR DD/EFT/ACH totaling \$224,758.11 were approved. August bank statement was reviewed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Commissioner Mericle took the board, Chief Johnson, Attorney Fossum, AD Callahan into executive session at 5:01pm for fifteen minutes.

5:16pm – regular meeting resumed.

Chief's Report

- The 2021 Fire Codes adoption was delayed again.
- EWU Geologist -Partner to monitor water plume-
- FDR to low and Burn Restriction lifting October 6th
- Fire Prevention Week Coming up (Nick Henry)

- LNI Grant (Nick Henry)
- Applied for Department of Ecology Grant
- Looking at a fuel's mitigation grant
- EMT's in D10 are able to give Albuterol and DuoNeb
- Annual hose testing completed; Pump testing completed.
- Mobilization program provided resources to 28 wildfire incidents in 14 counties costing approximately \$20 million
- Fire season continued at a steady pace through mid-August. The two largest and most devastating fires in recent history were the Gray and Oregon Road fires in Spokane County. Each fire burned over 10,000 acres (15.6 square miles). The Gray Fire destroyed 240 homes and 86 other structures. The Oregon Road fire destroyed 126 homes and 258 structures were lost. Sadly, each fire accounted for 1 fatality, and there was 1 injury reported for the Gray Fire. Both fires started August 18, 2023, and were strengthened by high winds and low relative humidity.
- 1991 Spokane Fire Storm-
 - October 16, 1991, was the beginning of the Spokane Fire Storm. 92 fires started across Spokane County, burning more than 35,000 acres destroying 100 home, killing one person and overwhelmed local fire agencies. Although fire service resources responded from across the state, there was no mechanism in place for requesting, ordering, or reimbursing those resources.
 - In 1992, the Washington State Legislature passed the Mobilization Act which directed the creation of the Washington State Fire Services Mobilization Plan (Plan). The State Fire Defense Board, now the Fire Defense Committee, was formed with representatives from nine regions across the state.
 - The purpose of the Plan is to quickly notify, assemble, and deploy fire service personnel and equipment to any local fire jurisdiction in the state that has expended or will expend all available local and mutual aid resources in attempting to manage fires, disasters, or other events that jeopardize the ability of a jurisdiction and/or region to provide for the protection of life and property.
 - On August 18, 2023, the SFMO and the FDC worked collectively to provide 14 task forces of fire service resources for the Gray, Winona, and Oregon fires.
 - Insurance companies are implementing substantial rate hikes across the region. For instance, one individual saw their annual premium surge from \$2,500 to an astonishing \$10,000. In a concerning development, certain agencies are even canceling policies for those residing in wildland interface areas. The impact of wildfires on insurance companies in the region became a topic of discussion during a recent community meeting, where one member raised questions about how these fires are affecting insurance providers in our area.

6-12 month Short Term Plan

S10-5 Bathroom to be installed by 2023

Continuously training to increase the number of drivers and EMTs to expand St2 Coverage

Increase volunteer opportunities (Completed with Staffing Station 2 consistently)

Developing Comprehensive plan (Initiative 5)

Old Business

1. Roundtable Meeting Follow Up – DC Steevens reported on Training Department activities including new roof prop for training tower and IQS/Experience updates.
2. Strategic Plan Timeline Update – Initiative 1 Objective 2C was discussed.

New Business

1. 2024-2026 Union Contract – Commissioner Hester made a motion to approve the contract as presented; seconded by Commissioner Haughton. Motion carried.
2. Kalispel Tribe 3rd Amendment - Commissioner Hester made a motion to approve the contract as presented; seconded by Commissioner Haughton. Motion carried.

Public Comment – Commissioner Mericle opened the meeting to public comment.

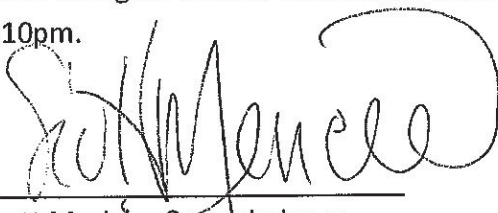
Executive Session - At 5:46pm Commissioner Mericle took the board into Executive Session Per RCW 42.30.110(1)g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. Attendees include Board Members, Chief Johnson and AD Callahan. Session will last 20 minutes.

6:06pm – regular board meeting resumed.

Adjournment

The next regular meeting will be November 7, 2023, at 5pm at Station 10-1.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.



Scott Mericle, Commissioner
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