



BRYAN COLLINS, FIRE CHIEF

2120 N. Wilbur Rd.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
(509) 928-1700 Main
(509) 892-4125 Fax
spokanevalleyfire.com

REGULAR FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING

August 23, 2021

4:00 P.M.

Commissioners Room, SVFD Administration

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Burch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Commissioner Kester led the Board and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

All Fire Commissioners were present in-person with the exception of Commissioner Kester, who participated remotely via video conferencing. Fire Chief Collins was present (in-person) representing Administration.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Burch called for a motion to move up New Business **Agenda Item 2, Governor's Proclamation 21-14 Covid19 Vaccination Requirement**, as the next order of business. It was so moved by Commissioner Guarisco, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

Chief Collins began his comments by stressing that SVFD does not want to lose employees because of the Proclamation; however, it is equally important to note that SVFD has an obligation to follow the law. He said that the two subjects do not have to be in conflict with one another and that we can, as an organization, move through this mandate together.

Chief Collins explained that the Proclamation released on August 9 requires healthcare workers to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021, or they can no longer render care. Additionally, there are two exemptions allowed by proclamation: (1) Medical and (2) Sincere Religious Belief. He received a legal opinion from Snure Law on August 10 that explained the term "Healthcare Provider," in accordance with the proclamation, *does* include Emergency Medical Technicians



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(EMTs), Paramedics, and anyone who renders First Aid. He continued that the mandate is enforced by Washington Department of Health, and that it is the obligation of SVFD to report any individuals who are unvaccinated and working without exemptions on file.

Chief Collins added that he and his executive staff have scheduled meetings with IAFF Local 876 to discuss the impact of the Proclamation. He said that during the meetings, he addressed concerns that were brought forth from members; of those concerns, a list of questions was established and has been presented to legal counsel. He stated his next goal is to meet with IAFF Local 876 and both legal councils to address the questions as they pertain to Civil Service Rules, Collective Bargaining, Department of Health, and the Proclamation itself. Chief Collins stated that based on the cooperation to date, he is confident that SVFD will accomplish both objectives of retaining its members and complying with the law.

Commissioner Guarisco inquired as to how many members were affected. Chief Collins stated that roughly 60 members were unvaccinated as of the previous week.

Commissioner Asmus inquired as to the Chief's and staff's confidence that all components would come together to meet the goal of member retention in that short amount of time. Chief Collins replied that there would be no choice, and SVFD must get it done. He added that he has the commitment from the labor groups to do what is necessary to work through the process, and the members affected are under a deadline as well, depending on the vaccine they choose. He stated that this process is the priority of the department, and work at it will proceed every day if that is what is needed.

Commissioner Burch moved on to Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Burch repeated the regular instructions for public comment: *"Please see our website to sign up prior to the meeting to make a public comment all comments must be received in writing by 2 p.m. prior to the start of this meeting."* Additionally, he cited Board Policy #027 Public Comment, specifically Procedures for Public Comment.

Shawn Pichette, representing IAFF Local 876, addressed the Board, and thanked them for their quick response to change the meeting format the previous Friday even when there was a notice of protest. He clarified that the union was not the organizer or participants of that protest on the Pines I-90 overpass, and he apologized for any confusion this caused. He stated appreciation for opening the meeting for members come and speak to the Board to express their feelings and beliefs on the Proclamation. He confirmed collaboration efforts with Chief and staff, and mentioned



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they are in communication daily to seek solutions with the same goal in mind (i.e., member retention). He reported that Local 876's legal counsel told him that productive conversations were had with the Department's legal counsel, and that a follow-up meeting would occur.

Jeremy Whisman, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Bob McCaslin, State Representative 4th District, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Jeremy Kish, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Ian Sutherland, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Matt Kovich, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Jeremiah Hazard, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Ben James, L876 member, addressed the Board in regard to the Proclamation.

Commissioner Burch thanked all who addressed the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Burch explained that the Consent Agenda consisted of items considered routine, which may be approved by a single motion. A Board member may remove any item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately. No items were removed from the agenda. Commissioner Burch requested a motion to amend the Consent Agenda to include two additional travel requests: (1) D. Patterson and (2) J. Evans. This was so moved by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Guarisco. Motion carried.

1. Approval of Minutes: August 9, 2021
2. Approval of Vouchers
 - 36 vouchers in the amount of \$357,502.80
 - 36 EFTs in the amount of \$163,431.36
 - Premera wire transfer in the amount of \$40,472.06
3. Approval of July Payroll: \$1,359,074.04
4. Meeting Approval
5. Travel Approval – T. Harvey, D. Patterson, J. Evans



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Commissioner Burch called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, so moved by Commissioner Guarisco and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. All Board members voted “aye.” Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS: None.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Commissioner Guarisco represented the Marketing Committee and reported:

Novelis lunch delivery is scheduled for September 10. The After-Fire Bags Program needs toiletry item donations. A Bike Rodeo Event coordinated by CRRS Kusher is scheduling, date to be determined. And, the Safe Kids Car Seat Safety Event will be at Station 3 on September 18.

Commissioner Kester represented the Facility & Apparatus Committee:

Facilities updates: New maintenance facility meetings are ongoing with no changes to report. Station 1 fence work project is on hold, waiting for survey of property, and the asphalt project is scheduled. Stations 2, 3, and 4 -- no changes to report. Station 5 asphalt project is scheduled. Station 6 roof project was completed, and asphalt project is scheduled. Stations 7 and 8 asphalt projects are scheduled. Station 9 asphalt project was completed. Station 10 asphalt project is scheduled.

Apparatus updates: Engine 4 is scheduled for preventative maintenance. Ladder 10 was involved in a minor accident. Training TDA was delivered to Station 3. Comms Trailer was mobed to Bulldog Mountain Fire. Brush 3 was mobed to Walker Creek Fire. New V22 is in the shop for Opticom and emergency light package. The Ecology Grant Unit's 5500 Silverado Duramax with trailer is scheduled for an emergency light package. The Zodiac Power Boat resides at Station 2 and is in service for training only. The UTV is scheduled for an emergency light package. The old Zodiac is still in shop for repairs. And, the apparatus replacement schedule is moving forward as planned.

COMMISSIONER REMARKS:

Commissioner Asmus stated due to the increased number of responses to traffic accidents, he and the media team will film a public service announcement next week regarding courteous driving.

Commissioner Kester reported at the last facility and apparatus meeting that Chief Soto presented an idea to hire a Fleet Supervisor. He stated current shop personnel (3 members) are



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overwhelmed due to the volume of work, and considering the size of SVFD's fleet, this may be to the Department's advantage. Additionally, he commended the crews on their performance during the summer conditions.

Commissioner Guarisco thanked those who were courageous and publicly commented regarding the Proclamation. He shared his sentiments on the subject and stated that he was a fire commissioner to advocate for SVFD members and Spokane Valley citizens -- as he was elected to do. He encouraged the continuation of the tireless efforts in finding the solution to this situation.

Commissioner Anderson reiterated Commissioner Guarico's comments, stated appreciation to all who addressed the Board today, thanked Chief Collins, staff, and labor groups for working through the Proclamation mandates, and to Commissioner Kester for his report.

Commissioner Burch expressed gratitude and thankfulness to those who work tirelessly to find a resolution to the vaccine mandate. He reminded the Commissioners that September 9 is the Spokane Fire Commissioners Association Meeting, to which SVFD Commissioners are the host. There is an effort to secure a venue and a rescue helicopter demonstration. He inquired if there are 9/11 memorial ceremony events scheduled. Chief Collins confirmed. Commissioner Burch stated that a Notice of Quorum must be posted for those events. And finally, he thanked Community Affairs Manager Julie Happy for a job well done on the publishing of the annual report.

ADVANCED AGENDA:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

1. Board Subcommittee Approval

Commissioner Burch formally announced the future retirement of Fire Chief Bryan Collins. He continued that Chief Collins' retirement is scheduled for March 1, 2022, and that the Board will establish a subcommittee to start the process of finding his replacement. Commissioner Burch expressed gratitude for Chief Collins, thanked him for all his work with SVFD, and wished him well in future endeavors.



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Commissioner Burch requested a motion to appoint Commissioner Asmus and himself, as Board Chair, as the subcommittee members and to begin the new chief selection process. It was so moved by Commissioner Guarisco and seconded by Commissioner Anderson. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Burch read the following:

Rob Chase's written address in regard to vaccine mandates.

Chris Cornelius, L876 member, written address in regard to the Proclamation.

Blake Sorensen, L876 member, written address in regard to the Proclamation.

There were no additional public comments received for this meeting.

Commissioner Burch stated that the public is invited to submit comments by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting by going to the Department's website at www.spokanevalleyfire.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Commissioner Burch announced that the next regular meeting will occur Monday, September 13, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. (virtual meeting). He reminded those in attendance of the Budget Workshop scheduled for August 24, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. (virtual meeting).

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Personnel - Collective Bargaining. RCW 42.30.140 (4) (b) states: "That portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress." (*Approximate total time for executive session – 15 minutes*)

Commissioner Burch read the RCW for *Executive Sessions, Personnel – Collective Bargaining* and stated the approximate time would be 20 minutes, with additional time for relocating to the second-floor conference room. He noted that the Board would not be taking action after the Executive Session.



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The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 5:06 p.m. All Board members and Chief Collins attended the Executive Session. At 5:27 p.m., the Executive Session was extended for approximately 10 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:40 p.m., Commissioner Burch called the meeting back into open public session for the purpose of adjournment. Commissioner Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting, and Commissioner Guarisco seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted "aye." Motion carried. Commissioner Burch adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Patrick Burch

Patrick Burch (Sep 14, 2021 14:15 PDT)

Patrick Burch
Chair
Board of Fire Commissioners

08-23-2021 Board Minutes

Final Audit Report

2021-09-14

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