



Grant County Fire District No. 8

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Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Grant County Fire Protection District No. 8 was held on March 9, 2021. Gubernatorial Proclamation 20-28 regarding open public meetings act and public records act prohibited 100% in person meetings. This meeting was virtual, telephonic, and in person in compliance with the proclamation. The meeting was held via Zoom and information for the public to participate was posted on our website and on the door of the main station on November 4, 2020. The meeting was recorded by Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 16:00 by Board Chair Scott Nesbit.

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Commissioners present: Scott Nesbit, Debra Crain, Paul Parker, Richard Kummer, and Russell Brixey. A quorum was established.

Others present: Chief David Patterson, District Secretary Barbara Davis

There were no members of the public to be welcomed and invited to comment.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion: Parker. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.**

The Consent Agenda with Vouchers, Payroll, and Transactions was reviewed. Review and Approve Vouchers, Payroll, and Transactions: Vouchers were audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expenses reimbursed claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, having been recorded on a listing that had been made available to the Board. Commission Kummer pointed out typos in the Chief's report. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with corrections noted. **Motion: Kummer. Second: Brixey. Motion approved unanimously.** The documents were signed by the Board.

Chief's Report: Chief reviewed his written report.

1. Call Volume – February had no fire calls and 48 EMS calls for a total of 48 calls for the month for a year-to-date call volume of 96. There were 87 calls at this time last year.
2. City Annexation – Chief reported that the City of Mattawa is talking about being annexed into the Fire District again. There was discussion on the topic. Chief recommended that the Board not agree to annexation, but he urged the Board to renegotiate the contract because there are several things in the current contract that need to be revised. There was more discussion.
3. Training to Restart – Chief stated that tomorrow would be our first OTEP training of the year and other trainings will be scheduled. He stated that wildland refreshers need to be started. Commissioner Parker asked about the mask requirement and Chief stated that masks would be available and distance encouraged.

Chief stated he had nothing further and unless there were questions. There were none.

Business Manager/District Secretary's Report: Secretary Davis reviewed her written report.

1. Financial reports were reviewed. There were no questions or comments.
2. Springbrook Software – Davis reported that she had a training schedule later this week and she is planning to be completely converted to the cloud-based modules as of April 1, 2021.
3. Executive Recruitment – Davis reported that the job was posted on March 4th and there has been some interest. Chief stated that he had been contacted by interested individuals.
4. Ambulance Billing – Davis shared a memo from Systems Design West (SDW) who is offering new payment options for patients, which includes a patient payment portal for secure, online payments. She also stated that SDW now has the ability to securely process paper checks for us and information about that was also in the memo. Commissioner Crain asked about Medicaid write-offs after noting that it was a substantial amount. Davis explained that the state legislature set the amount Medicaid programs would pay for ambulance transports, which was usually less than one-third what we generally bill. However, the GEMT program provides us a means to recover most of the amount written off.

Davis stated she had nothing further and unless there were questions. There were none.

Unfinished Business:

1. Facilities –
 - a. Station Report
 - i. Progress Report – Chief reviewed the current progress and offered tours of the interior to the Board. He reported that work has started on the landscaping and continued on monument. He stated that the floors were polished, the trim work was being done on the admin side and the bathrooms were being tiled. He stated the roof and siding was scheduled to be complete by 3/12/2021. He stated that we would probably be able to get in there by mid-April. Commissioner Nesbit asked about a building dedication and commemorative plaque and there was discussion about this. Commissioner Kummer asked about a ladder truck and Chief stated that we will need to wait on it until we know if we got funding on the FEMA grant for replacing 831. There was discussion about the project and Davis mentioned the need for a Strategic Planning workshop.
 - ii. Budget Report – Davis provided a cost status report for the project.
2. Grants –
 - a. FEMA AFG Apparatus Replacement Grant – Davis reported that FEMA would probably not start reviewing applications until May or June.
3. Policy Reviews and Updates – none

There were no additional unfinished business items.

New Business: None


Additional Business: None

Commissioner Nesbit asked if there was a need for an Executive Session and there were none.

Announcements & Upcoming Events


1. Next meeting: April 13, 2021 at 16:00 via Zoom and in person.
2. Other Events – There was discussion on Chief’s retirement, the new station dedication, and the monument.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 17:07 hours.



Board Chair
4/13/2021

Date



District Secretary
4/13/2021

Date

