



## Grant County Fire District No. 8

20643 Rd 22.5 SW  
Mattawa, WA 99349  
(509) 932-4777  
Fax (509) 932-4747

### Board of Commissioner Special Meeting Minutes

The special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Grant County Fire Protection District No. 8 (District) was held on February 15, 2023 for the purpose of holding a Strategic Planning Workshop. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom and information for the public to participate was posted on our website and at the main station February 9, 2023. The meeting was recorded by Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Debra Crain at 16:01 hours.

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Commissioners present: Debra Crain, Paul Parker, Scott Nesbit, and Russell Brixey. Commissioner Richard Kummer arrived at 16:25. A quorum was established.

Others present: Chief Matt Hyndman, 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 with a correction to the date. **Motion: Nesbit. Second: Parker. Motion approved unanimously.**

#### ***Strategic Planning Workshop***

1. Apparatus Plan Updates – Chief reviewed the plan and discussed future needs. He stated that used trucks get the same WSRB rating as new trucks and are a lot more affordable. He reported that having two reserve engines would eliminate the truck age negative score. There was discussion on structure engines, the WSRB rating, brush trucks, and DNR grants.
2. Facilities Updates – Chief reviewed ideas for adding resident quarters at the south end of the dorm rooms. He discussed how utilities could be tied in and stated that he needed to check if the septic system was big enough for additional personnel. There was discussion on the details as well as adding parking spaces at Station 81. There was discussion on Station 82 as well as ideas for adding quarters and office space to it. There was considerable discussion on options for Station 82 and service to Desert Aire. No decisions were made and Chief and Davis were instructed to look for grants to help build a new station. Commissioner Brixey asked about plans for Station 83 as a potential multiagency facility for use during wildland season. There was discussion on this idea and it was determined that the property would need a well.
3. Staffing Plan – Chief stated that we receive the same credit for resident firefighters as we do for career personnel on the WSRB. There was discussion on applying for another SAFER grant for three firefighter/EMTs and how the salaries and benefits would be sustained after the grant period. There was discussion on the ratio of salaries and benefits to the rest of the expense budget and what was needed for operations. Chief suggested a Captain position that would be a 40+ hours a week, Monday through Friday position. The job description would need to be rewritten to include training, EMS administration, resident coordinator, operations, mechanic, as well as recruitment and retention. He stated this type of position has more value than adding more career staff at this point. Davis stated that the SAFER grant includes a recruitment and retention position and the earliest time to hire, if awarded, would be 2025. There was discussion

on the details. The Board agreed that the target ratio of salaries and benefits to the remainder of the expense budget should be around 60%.

**Additional Business:** Commissioner Brixey asked about the SR 243 S pavement plan and Chief replied that WA DOT has funding to resurface and widen the highway from the Vernita Bridge to the main entrance of Desert Aire and it's scheduled for 2027. There was discussion on safety at the intersection of SR 243 S and Rd 22.5 SW as well as the condition of the Vernita Bridge. There was discussion on getting the new ambulance tomorrow and when it would go to Racom to have the radios installed as well as when C801 would go to Racom to have the lights and radios installed. Chief stated he was also looking for more DNR grants

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 17:34 hours.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date