



**Grant County Fire District No. 8**

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

**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 January 11, 2022. 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 16:05 by Board Chair Scott Nesbit.

The Pledge of Allegiance was not spoken as all participants were virtual or telephonic.

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

Others present: Chief Joe Noonchester and 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: Kummer. Second: Brixey. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Oath of Office:** Commissioner Richard Kummer read his oath of office. The Board congratulated him on his new term of office.

**Elections:** Commissioner Nesbit opened nominations for Board Chair. Commissioner Kummer nominated Russell Brixey, who accepted. Commissioner Crain nominated Scott Nesbit, who accepted. Commissioner Nesbit closed nominations and asked for votes for Commissioner Brixey and he received two ayes. He then asked for votes for himself and received three ayes. Commissioner Nesbit was congratulated on being Board Chair again.

Commissioner Nesbit opened nominations for Board Vice Chair. Commissioner Parker nominated Debra Crain, who accepted. Commissioner Nesbit asked for any other nominations and there were none so he closed nominations. Commissioner Nesbit asked for votes for Commissioner Crain and he received five ayes. Commissioner Crain was congratulated on being Board Vice Chair.

**Consent Agenda:** 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. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented without the minutes. **Motion: Kummer. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.** The documents were signed by the Board later in the month.

**Chief's Report:** Chief reviewed his written report and discussed the COVID closure of the station and testing protocols for responders. He stated the residents started at the beginning of the month and they were getting used to their schedules. Chief stated he reviewed the City of Mattawa contract and that he and Davis attended a council meeting to discuss fire impact fees. He reported that MACC had received a grant for radios and they would be replacing the base units as well as some of the mobile and

portable units. He stated Davis would speak later in the agenda about purchasing additional portable units. Chief reported that we submitted the FEMA training grant. Chief stated the career firefighters have been approved to go into negotiations for a union contract. Call volume for December was 46 EMS and 6 fire calls ending the year at 612, which topped our previous all time high in 2019 of 580 calls for service. Chief stated he had nothing further unless there were questions. There were no questions.

**Business Manager/District Secretary's Report:** Secretary Davis reviewed her written report. Financial reports were reviewed. Davis reported that she was catching up on year end tasks and stated once the County certified the levies, she would begin working on a budget amendment. Davis stated she had nothing further and there were no questions.

Chief stated he had one more thing. He discussed the budgeting process and requested a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for administrative staff. Davis stated that historically, the Board gave a 3% COLA increase. There was discussion. There was a motion to give Chief and Davis a 3% COLA increase effective the beginning of the current pay period (January 1, 2022). Davis stated Chief's salary would change from \$115,000 to \$118,450 and her salary would change from \$78,000 to \$80,340. **Motion: Parker. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.**

#### **Unfinished Business:**

1. Facilities – Chief stated the contractors are working on the final touches at Station 81 with the door company coming to replace seals around the bay doors tomorrow. The replacement siding has been purchased for Station 82, but warmer weather is needed for installation. Chief reported that he goes to Station 83 at least once a week. Davis mentioned that MH Construction was working on their final pay application and there was discussion about it.
2. Grants – Chief stated he gave an update in his report on the training grant. He also stated that the FEMA SCBA grant required we purchase two more SCBA sets, which we did. Davis stated that the SAFER grant is being reimbursed at 35% this year and ends 10/31/2022.
3. Policy Reviews and Updates – Davis gave an update on the volunteer stipend policy.
4. Strategic Planning Workshop – There was discussion on the workshop and it was agreed that it would tentatively be scheduled for Saturday, March 12, 2022 beginning at 10:00 AM. Chief discussed his focus on the strategic plan and the ladder truck. Lunch will also be served. Chief is to work on key points and Davis is to send out the 2015 Strategic Plan.

There were no additional unfinished business items.

#### **New Business:**

1. Interlocal Agreement with City of Mattawa – Chief discussed the details of a new contract to include fire impact fees and inspection fees. Commissioner Nesbit asked about annexing the city. Davis stated she would do research and get more information from a legal aspect.
2. General Levy Lid Lift – Chief stated that it is our responsibility to provide services to the community. Davis discussed the general levy history. Davis was directed to contact Brian Snure to create a resolution for the April 26 Special Election.
3. Radio System – Davis discussed the history and the grant MACC received to replace the system. She shared the quote from MACC for the additional radios and stated that money was earmarked in the reserve funds to replace all of the radios. She stated the quote was

reasonable and affordable. A motion was made to approve the purchase of additional portable radios as quoted. **Motion: Kummer. Second: Brixey. Motion approved unanimously.**

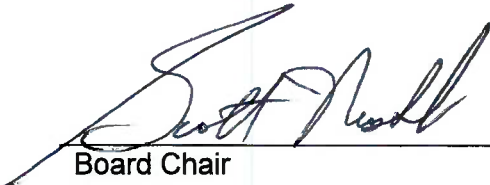
**Additional Business:** Commissioner Brixey asked Chief how the environment was after the December executive session. Chief stated things had improved and he was impressed with the responses the last few weeks. He stated he hadn't heard any negative comments and meets with BC Anderson several times a month. He also mentioned that he's spoken with several community members to dispel rumors. There was discussion on recent calls.

Commissioner Nesbit asked if there was a reason for an executive session and there was none.

**Announcements & Upcoming Events**

1. Next meeting: February 8, 2022 at 16:00 via Zoom and in person

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

  
Board Chair

  
District Secretary

2/8/2022  
Date

2/8/2022  
Date

