



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 January 14, 2025. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. Information for the public to participate was posted on our website and on the door of the main station. The meeting was recorded by Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 16:00 by Chair Commissioner Russell Brixey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Commissioners present: Russell Brixey, Scott Nesbit, and Debra Crain. A quorum was established. Davis stated that Commissioner Paul Parker had an excuse for medical reasons. A motion was made to excuse Commissioner Paul Parker for medical reasons. **Motion: Nesbit. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.**

Others present: Chief Matt Hyndman, District Secretary Barbara Davis, Richard Jenkin, FF/EMT Christian Robbins

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

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

Appointment and Oath of Office: The Board welcomed Mr. Jenkin and thanked him for his desire to join the Board. A motion was made to appoint Richard Jenkin to the open commissioner position #3. **Motion: Brixey. Second: Nesbit. Motion approved unanimously.** Commissioner Jenkin spoke his oath of office and signed the form. All congratulated him.

Election of Board Chair and Vice Chair: Commissioner Brixey opened nominations for Board Chair. Commissioner Nesbit nominated Commissioner Brixey and he accepted the nomination. Commissioner Brixey asked for any other nominations and there were none so he closed nominations. The Board voted for Russell Brixey as Board Chair with 4 ayes and 1 abstention. Commissioner Brixey opened nominations for Board Vice Chair. Commissioner Jenkin nominated Commissioner Nesbit and he accepted the nomination. Commissioner Brixey asked for any other nominations and there were none so he closed nominations. The Board voted with 4 ayes and 1 abstention. Commissioner Brixey remained Board Chair and Commissioner Nesbit became Board Vice Chair.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda with Vouchers, Payroll, and Transactions was reviewed. 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 was made available to the Board. Commissioner Crain asked about the sports poster advertising and Davis explained. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion: Nesbit. Second: Crain. Motion approved unanimously.** The documents were signed by the Board.

Chief's Report: Chief reviewed his written report. Call volume in December: 46 calls - EMS 35, Fire 11. There were 608 calls at the end of the year and last year we were at 638 calls, which was about 5% less calls. The major reduction in calls was fire calls at 81% of the 2023 numbers. Chief reported

on apparatus repairs for various apparatus and he outlined recent acquisitions from DNR. There was discussion on the D-6 dozer, which lead to discussion on wildland fire mitigation. Chief stated there was still one open resident position. Chief said he would discuss the CBA later in the agenda. Chief reviewed the training schedule. Chief stated that we need to post the bid for the shop and we were waiting to hear back from the engineer on the timing. Chief stated we were awarded the DNR Phase 2 grant for \$18,000 that would be used for the dozer repairs. He reported that he opted out of the SAFER grant this year. Chief stated that the Sheriff's department had a boat for sale and he reviewed the details. There was discussion on the condition of the boat, insurance, and training for drivers. Chief reminded the board that the WFOA conference was going to be in Marysville this year and we needed to make reservations ASAP. Several commissioners stated they were interested in going. He said he would be going to the WFOA Legislative Day on February 6, 2025. Chief reported that he passed his national EMT test and his application for the state certification was in process. Chief said there was nothing further. There were no questions.

Business Manager/District Secretary's Report: Secretary Davis reviewed her written report and the financial reports. Davis shared the certified 2025 tax year assessed valuation (AV) for the District. There was discussion about the history of annual AV increases. Davis reported that she had visited with Commissioner Parker on Christmas Eve and he said he was thinking about retiring from his commissioner position. There was discussion on the details and Davis reported that she would visit him again to learn his plans and she would share them at the next meeting. She had nothing further and there were no questions.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

1. Strategic Planning Workshop – There was discussion on the strategic planning workshop and the Board thought the end of March would work. The date is to be decided next meeting.
2. Administrative Interlocal Agreement with Yakima County Department of Emergency Medicine – Davis presented the annual agreement and reported that the costs had gone up due to increased overhead and software costs, but the new amount was within budget. A motion was made to approve and sign the Administrative Interlocal Agreement with Yakima County Department of Emergency Medicine. **Motion: Nesbit. Second: Jenkin. Motion approved unanimously.** The document was signed by the Board.
3. Collective Bargaining Agreement – Chief updated the Board on negotiations and there was discussion on the details. Chief said the union members asked him to ask the Board if they were open to guaranteeing a 4% COLA for 2026. The Board members were not in favor of guaranteeing a set COLA. Chief said he would share that with the union members and went on to say that there were some changes to the training aspect due to some new case law and he felt it could be handled with an MOU. There was discussion on the details as well as discussion on OSHA requirements for volunteer physical abilities.

Additional Business:

Commissioner Nesbit asked if we had a social media policy. Chief said we have a policy in place. There was discussion on a specific incident regarding a social media post. Chief said he was able to review the post and didn't see anything that identified the District and that the post had been removed. There was additional discussion on that specific incident and social media posts in general.

Commissioner Brixey asked if there was a need for an Executive Session. There was none.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

1. Next regular meeting: February 11, 2025 at 16:00 via Zoom and in person.

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



Board Chair



District Secretary



Date



Date