

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF KING COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of King County Fire District No. 2 was held remotely on January 25, 2022, commencing at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to proper notice. District officials in attendance, pursuant to virtual meeting software Go To Meeting, were: Commissioners Elwell, Sitterley, and Peden. Also attending virtually were: Chief Mike Marrs, Assistant Chief Ray Pettigrew, Assistant Chief Wayne Metz, Administrator Trina Norsen, IAFF Local 1461 President Matt Ready, and District Secretary Joseph Quinn. Others in attendance will be shown on the Attendance Roster.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Commissioner Elwell who led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Agenda Approval. It was moved, seconded and carried 3-0 to approve the agenda as submitted immediately prior to the meeting.

Presentations/Announcements.

- a. Presentations: Chief Marrs administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Elwell, who was re-elected to a six-year term. The Board proceeded to election of its Chair and Vice Chair for 2022. By unanimous motions, the Board elected Commissioner Elwell as Chair and Commissioner Sitterley as Vice Chair.

AC Wayne Metz presented the Summary Call Reports and discussed notable calls so far during the month of January, including a fatality fire call. Upon a question by Chair Elwell, AC Metz explained that a “striped” patient is a deceased person. In summary, call volume is increasing again.

- b. Announcements: Chief Marrs announced that former Commissioner James Fosso of South King Fire & Rescue recently passed away. He will be interred at the Tahoma National Cemetery in Kent. Chief Fosso served in the United States Marine Corps and worked for many years at Seattle Fire Department.

Public Comment. None.

Correspondence. The District received a letter from AC Ray Pettigrew announcing his retirement, effective on April 30, 2022.

Local 1461 Comment. President Matt Ready said two memoranda of understanding (MOUs) had been negotiated and might be coming before the board. He asked if the probationary periods for the two promotions should be six months. He also asked for an informal meeting to talk with individual board members. Chief Marrs stated that he thought the 12-month probationary periods mentioned in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) pertained only to new hires, and not promotions. After discussion and checking by ACs on the

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CBA language, it was stated that now it will be listed as 12 months so the motion under New Business on the agenda would be altered as appropriate. President Ready also spoke about an infant CPR call that was a difficult call. Ed Marrs did a critical incident stress debriefing with the crew that was involved in that call.

Administration Reports. Chief Marrs delivered the Chief's report as follows:

Facilities. Chief Marrs said there is no heat at Station 28. The large invoice from Hermanson's is for trouble shooting primarily. We have two bad compressors out of a total of four at Station 28. One compressor was replaced 18 months ago. Chief Marrs said there may be a product problem and perhaps a warranty claim. The administration is not happy with the situation at all. See Motion under New Business.

Chief Marrs updated the board on the Station 19 remodel project. The staff is working on a scope of work for an architect contract.

Equipment. N/A.

Personnel. Chief Marrs noted that Joe Kupferling had sent in a thank you letter as to his promotion to Battalion Chief. The Chief praised BC Kupferling for his outstanding contributions to the district throughout his career thus far.

Chief Marrs noted that BC Paul Fray is retiring after 36 years, as is Firefighter Bredl after 34 years.

Chief Marrs said an MOU has been negotiated with the Local as to the new hires and the calendar so that MOU will be distributed for electronic signatures by him and President Ready.

Chief Marrs called upon AC Wayne Metz for an operations update. AC Metz noted that district personnel helped with a Captain test at Puget Sound Regional Fire Authority. He also said our new recruits did great at Academy. Firefighter Langbehn made the Chief's Company and also got the Top Rung Award, having been awarded that honor by his peers. Three of the new recruits have started work already. New hires are going to a Fire Academy run by the Training Consortium and will graduate on or about May 19, 2022.

AC Metz also reported that due to retirements, a new Captain position has opened up. Later in the meeting, there is a motion to appoint Troy Harris to that vacant Captain position. Finally, he said the Firefighter posting for an entry level position is up on the National Testing Network and 300 persons have signed up to get an application.

Events. Chief Marrs said the usual meeting dates of February 1 and March 1 are unworkable as they are too early in the month. He suggested February 8 and March 8 for special meetings instead and by unanimous consent, the board agreed to change the schedule accordingly. The second meeting of each month, respectively, will be February 22nd and March 22nd.

Chief Marrs said the Covid-19 case count is steeply declining. Hospitalizations are decreasing somewhat too. The Washington National Guard was dispatched to Harborview to assist there. The District has had 19 Covid cases and one firefighter is in quarantine now. South King has had to “brown out” one aid car and Seattle Fire has had to do that too, due to Covid. At the District, voluntary testing before shift is working well.

Chief Marrs reported on the status of the King County Superior Court vaccine mandate litigation, in which the religious exemption process of the employers was being challenged. He said the motions for preliminary injunction and for class action certification were both denied by the judge. Attorney Quinn added that, subsequent to the judge’s decision on those motions, the plaintiffs’ attorney filed a motion to dismiss the case without prejudice (this means it could be refiled later) and now a judge has entered an order dismissing the entire case. The judge who denied the motions indicated that she felt there was little or no likelihood of success ultimately on the merits, as she was inclined to believe the plaintiffs had to file complaints with the Equal Employment

Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and tort claims with the districts or cities before filing a court action.

Chief Marrs mentioned the CARES program, which is being pursued collaboratively with the City of Burien. He also mentioned the GEMT program as a possible revenue source for the district, especially within the North Highline district. He felt that might be a way to place an aid car in service. Chief Marrs mentioned that Enumclaw Fire had been able to put a two-person aid car in service due to GEMT money. Attorney Quinn discussed the GEMT program and that many departments all over the state are receiving millions of dollars in reimbursement from the administrators of Medicaid, due to transports of Medicaid-eligible patients. Mr. Quinn also explained charging for BLS services under RCW 52.12.131, and that many departments have “membership” programs allowing the forgiving of charges to the taxpayers of the district.

Chief Marrs mentioned that the Burien City Manager is retiring and that the Interim City Manager is Caroline Hope. He also said Vic Pennington is ending his service as Fire Chief at South King Fire & Rescue, after the end of January, and that Dave Mataftin will be the Interim Chief.

Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda, all of which was approved 3-0, upon a motion made by Commissioner Sitterley and seconded by Commissioner Peden, consisted of the Chief’s Report, the meeting minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2022, and Voucher Approval for January 2022 as follows: Expense Fund: Voucher No. 220101001 through 220101095 in the amount of \$1,452,321.96, due for payment on January 31, 2022.

Unfinished Business. None.

New Business. Motion: Permanent Appointment to Captain.

Commissioner Sitterley moved, and Commissioner Peden seconded, a motion to authorize Chief Marrs to appoint Troy Harris to a permanent Captain position. The start date for

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the position is February 1, 2022 with a probationary period of 12 months. The promotion is being made from the 2021-2023 Captain Promotional List. Motion carried, 3-0.

Motion: Repair of HVAC at Station 28.

Commissioner Sitterley moved, and Commissioner Peden seconded, a motion to approve and authorize payments for HVAC repair at Station 28. Services were performed by Hermanson Company, LLP from the current vendors list, for a total price including tax of \$19,362.69. Motion carried, 3-0.

Executive Session: None.

Good of the Order. Commissioner Peden asked if the district has any volunteers. Chief Marrs said we have a few and he called upon Ray Desmarais for a more detailed answer. Ray said there are three active volunteers and that in the fall of 2022 there will be a volunteer fire academy, coordinated here by the Captains.

Adjournment. Pursuant to motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Attachments. Attached to these Minutes are copies of:

1. the Meeting Notice
2. the Meeting Agenda
3. the Attendance Roster
4. letter from AC Pettigrew announcing retirement
5. Hermanson invoices
6. Voucher approval forms

Minutes Approved: **February 8, 2022.**



Chris Elwell (Feb 12, 2022 08:38 PST)

Chris Elwell
Chairman



Ted Sitterley
Commissioner



Rudy Peden (Feb 9, 2022 13:53 PST)

Rudy Peden
Commissioner

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KCFD2 Minutes of the January 25th Board Meeting

Final Audit Report

2022-02-12

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