

KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2
Ellensburg, Washington

Minutes of: Commissioners' Board Meeting
Meeting date: June 22, 2023
Meeting time: 7:00pm
Meeting place: 400 E. Mountain View Ave, Station 29

The special meeting was publicized according to the requirements of Chapter 188, Laws of 2012. Each Board member was sent a written notice via e-mail; the Daily Record and Upper Kittitas County Tribune was notified via an e-mail, a notice was posted on KVFR's website, and the notice of special meeting was posted in the front window at 400 E. Mountain View.

Commissioners in Attendance: Pat Clerf, Neal Houser, Neil O'Neill, Jerry Pettit and Ross Ogan.

Others in Attendance: Chief John Sinclair, Deputy Chief Elliott, ASM McBride, and 9 firefighters and 5 members of the public.

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Clerf called the meeting to Order at 7:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Pettit a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner O'Neill seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Station 29 Roof Update:

The Roof Bid Packet has been sent to companies on our small works roster, in compliance with bid laws.

- Bids will be due June 28th at 4pm.
- We will award it to the lowest responsible bidder.
- In the packet we have requested the project be done by September 29th.

5. IAFF Local 1758 Grievance:

Union President Wallace provided on behalf of the Union responses to the Commissioner's follow up questions on June 12th. Commissioner Clerf would like to have time in executive session to further discuss the matter.

6. Fire Chief Contract:

Chief Sinclair is requesting the same wage increase as the Union in his contract and an increase of 10% for his sick leave buyout. Commissioner Pettit made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Resolution 23-11: KVFR & KCFD7 Consolidation Effort:

Chief Sinclair presented Resolution 23-11 and stated that this is not a merger document; this is an aspirational document that says KVFR & FD7 will work toward a contract. Currently KVFR & FD7 have a contract for Fire Chief services only. This resolution says that we intend to work toward a contract for administrative services. Phased contract consolidation is the intent of this document. This document is important because it gives the Fire Chief the go ahead to start working toward building a contract and answering questions from the internal stakeholders and the public at large. We are not ready to bring the operational staff together, that will take time. Commissioner Clerf would like to have a committee established with both boards to review the benefits.

O'Neill Made a motion to approve Resolution 23-11. Commissioner Pettit seconded the motion. The following discussion occurred:

- There are some differences between the districts that need to be evaluated.
- Commissioner Pettit asked to be considered to be on the committee and shared that he would like to see the details of any cost sharing between the two districts and how the financials would be split. Ensuring both districts are getting what they pay for.
- Gary introduced himself as an upper county resident and shared that he would like this potential consolidation to be as transparent as possible. He has not heard a positive comment thus far about the consolidation and needs more information before he can make a decision. He appreciated this board tabling the matter until all the commissioners could be here.
- Commissioner Clerf doesn't believe money savings will be immediate but would occur in the long term. He wants to build something for the future.
- FF Mabbutt would like to see some strategic planning for Fire District 2. Thousands of homes are planned here in Ellensburg, and we need a plan.
- Commissioner Houser has talked to some members of the community about this and has received feedback about how they want to see benefits right now not necessarily just in the future. Commissioner Ogan has received the same feedback.
- Chief Sinclair says all this resolution does is allows us to build a plan.
- Commissioner Pettit said that the ESCI recommendations talked about strategic planning both individually and together. He has some concerns about consolidation and would like to further explore the issues.

The Board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 23-11.

8. 2023 Budget Review:

KVFR was awarded an SCBA grant. During previous budget committee meetings, it was decided that if we received the grant the board would consider a service truck purchase. Commissioner Clerf gave this direction to the Chief to move forward with purchasing the truck. Commissioner Pettit made a motion to ratify the direction that the Board Chair gave Chief Sinclair to purchase a service truck. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

4. Executive Session:

At 7:50pm Commissioner Clerf announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b)- "that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress" and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(G) "to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee." Commissioner Clerf requested that Chief Sinclair, Deputy Chief Elliott, and ASM McBride remain for the entire executive session to meet with the Board members. The Board is expected to take further action following the Executive Session. The Executive Session would be for 30 minutes until 8:20pm. At 8:20pm it was announced that the board will be extending the executive session for an additional 5-minute extension until 8:25pm. The regular meeting resumed at 8:25pm.

Commissioner Clerf announced that the board reviewed the information on the grievance. Commissioner Pettit made a motion to deny the grievance and direct administration to work with the

Union to develop solutions. Commissioner Ogan seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to deny the grievance.

5. Adjournment

Commissioner O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Houser seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

Pet Cole

Board Chair

A. M. B.

District Secretary

