

KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2
Ellensburg, Washington

Minutes of: Commissioners' Board Meeting, Special Session
Meeting date: October 14th, 2025
Meeting time: 10:00am
Meeting place: 400 E. Mountain View, 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 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 on October 13th, 2025.

Commissioners in Attendance: Commissioner Ross Ogan, Pat Clerf, Jerry Pettit, Scott Ciraulo. Commissioner Neil O'Neill has an excused absence.

Others in Attendance: Chief DJ Goldsmith, DC Moen, FSM Danae Cramer, ASM Sydney McBride and numerous firefighters/members of the public.

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Ogan called the meeting to Order at 1000 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Executive Session: Commissioner Ogan announced at 1002 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. At that portion of a meeting for the strategy or position. The executive session would be for 30 minutes until 1032. Commissioner Ogan requested just the board remain for the executive session. At 1037 the board announced it will be extending the executive session for an additional 5 minutes until 1037. The special regular meeting resumed at 1037.

4. First Budget Workshop

4.1 Revenue: FSM Addressed the following:

- The highest sources of revenue for the gen fund are the property taxes and CWU contract. Property taxes are plugged in at 8.75 million.
- The City of Ellensburg and KVH have been presented with contract for service letters which are not reflected in the revenue sources.
- Mobilizations are budgeted to be maintained.
- Commissioner Pettit asked about if it is still happening with airlift utilizing the front office and negotiating a contract. Chief Goldsmith responded that they are looking at a feasibility study. Lifefight is actually in the county CBA for being the service they pay for a membership to.

- The EMS Fund Revenues show a 22% decrease in revenue for transports to reflect some reduction in funding from add on payments. Chief Goldsmith commented that he attended a seminar on it last Thursday and it doesn't look like it is coming back.
- EMS Fund Revenues also show a decrease of 15% for transports that are projected down this year.
- This current version of the budget doesn't have a transfer of funds from Gen to EMS.
- Commissioner Pettit asked about the sources of revenue for the bond. FSM Cramer responded that she needs to call the county on that but we have it set at \$485,000.
- Revenues are shown as \$10.11 for Gen, \$1.8 for EMS, \$6,500 Construction, \$20,000 Reserve Fund, \$15,000 Equipment Fund, \$20,000 Long Term Planning Fund, \$2,000 Long Term Care Fund, \$489,000 Deb Mgt Fund. All funds combined Revenue \$12.47 million.

4.2 Expenditures: FSM Addressed the following:

4.2.1 Personnel Costs:

- A budget request was submitted for a second deputy Chief position, the workbook shows a scenario with them added and one without the position added.
- Administrative staff salaries show a slight increase for 2026 and OT has been included for the Fire Chief Mobilizations.
- Commissioner Pettit asked about why there is an increase in the office machines/software, Danae said she needed to look it up. While she was looking that up, Chief Goldsmith commented that the professional services \$75,000 is for the strategic plan. Danae commented that the amounts we are paying is \$4,000 for bias cloud migration and then \$15,000 for the software fees.
- Commissioner Pettit asked about election fees for 2026, and the office phones increase. Danae commented that the \$9,00 increase was calculated utilizing the monthly invoices.
- Commissioner Pettit noted that he was worried that the meals, lodging for travel was dropped lower. He asked further questions about the Class A uniforms. ASM commented that we per contract need to purchase those and we have longs of firefighters eligible for uniforms next year.
- Danae continued that L&I insurance went up due to the number of hours that are being worked that we pay on.
- DC Moen spoke that the SCBA testing machine needs to be calibrated for testing and the line item is for \$6-7,000.
- Chief Goldsmith said that rates for Kittcom didn't necessarily go up it's the call volume that went up resulting in more radio logs. The more radio logs the more you get charged. We would see less influx in that cost if Kittcom adopted a different fee schedule, Chief Goldsmith said he proposed this already to Kittcom but law enforcement doesn't like that because they would have to pay more.
- Commissioner Ogan asked about the repairs and maintenance supplies and if that included the budget requested items. Danae said yes, it does, the expenditures presented show the requested items that were deemed necessary from the finance committee meeting.
- Commissioner Pettit asked about the prevention wage line item. It was commented that it includes some of the buyouts for people who are eligible.

- The fire training academy line item increased because we are Yakima academy is not happening next year. Chief Goldsmith commented that Yakima lost the Union Gap contract and will be laying off about 21 firefighters depending on who gets elected for next year.
- Commissioner Ogan asked about solid waste going up and Dane said yes it was.
- Commissioner Ogan also asked about the copier lease, ASM McBride commented that we added station 21 because we have been spending more money trying to keep the home style printer out there than leasing the commercial one.
- Danae commented that we currently have one less position in the EMS fund than what has historically been in there.
- Commissioner Ogan asked about the dispatch services to confirm it is split between the Gen and EMS fund. Chief Goldsmith commented that he is working with Kittcom to bring some of the costs done through a push to respond, which will be implemented in the first quarter next year.
- Commissioner Clerf commented that there is \$2,000 for OT administrative staff budgeted, Danae said for the non-exempt employees.
- Commissioner Pettit asked a concept question about the long-term planning fund. ASM McBride responded it is a fund set up for identify or setting aside capital asset purchases. They are not committed funds, still gen funds but the commissioners have treated this as a capital planning fund.
- The equipment fund and the building improvement is budgeted for \$80,000.
- Commissioner Pettit would like to see the fund balances, Danae commented that the September balance is \$281,000. Commissioner Pettit responded that he would like to see the format of the budget in a way he can see all the fund balances.
- Commissioner Ogan is confused by the apparatus line item. The way it is plugged in doesn't make sense; Danae commented that this includes PPE on the medic units as the new air packs and the miscellaneous tools that were not included on the grant.
- Chief Goldsmith shared that the finance committee met to go through the list of purchase requests, and we felt that some were critical to the mission to fund. Commissioner Pettit said that he would like to finish going through the expenditures before we move on because he has some major concerns.
- Commissioner Ogan asked about the Wildland shelters and Chief Goldsmith responded that NWCG put a bulletin out that requires us to replace all the shelters and we need to purchase an additional 46 in 2026 in addition to the 40 that were already purchased.
- Commissioner Ogan asked how much is left for the two ambulances, Danae said about \$500,000 total.
- The board then discussed that they would like to see the format updated and ASM clarified that the board would like to see the budget without the requests plugged in and then start with an updated format. The board unanimously agreed.

4.3 Purchase Requests: FSM Addressed the following:

- A fence at Station 21 was requested for \$135,000.
- Command Rig for 2002 was requested. DC Moen wanted to say that he did not request it.
- FF PP \$89,290, inclusive of new hire and volunteer replacement gear.

- Commissioner Pettit asked about the Plymovent equipment. ASM responded that it is for Station 21 and the grant pays for \$25,000 of the request. Commissioner Clerf talked about how there is parts he heard. DC Moen said that there is a exhaust capture system on E291 and this vent would be for a brush truck but recently it was discussed the medic unit is closer to the apparatus bay. It is just a \$25,000 grant no match requirement.
- Commissioner Pettit had a question about the deicer spreader, DC Moen said this would be for a back of pickup with front plow.

4.4 Long-Term Savings Analysis: Discussion occurred that nothing is planned to be transferred into this fund.

4.4.1 Capital Facilities Plan: Discussion occurred that this fund is treated as a capital purchase fund.

At 11:55am Commissioner Ogan requested that the board take a 5-minute recess. The special meeting resumed at 12:00pm.

4.5 Reserve Analysis: KVFR has 1.1 million in the Reserve fund.

4.6 Budget Position: FSM stated that bulk of the budget requests will be coming from the gen and equipment fund for 2026. The current draft of the budget shows 11.8 in revenues and 12.7 in expenditures. The EMS fund doesn't have any transfers plugged in for 2026. Commissioner Pettit commented that we can into 2025 with a healthy budget position and is wondering if there are things, we can move to other funds to take the pressure off of the Gen and EMS fund. Commissioner Pettit stated that his sense is we don't have the funds to transfer any money out of the gen fund, but we also need to figure out how to cut spending because we are spending the fund balance down. Chief Goldsmith said that he is going after county contracts and is looking at every source of revenue. The 1% is a killer on the budget, and its only a couple of hundred thousand for the new construction added each year. We have a revenue problem mostly based on the caps, there are no other options for us. As operational costs continue to increase, we are at the tipping point for what we need to maintain operational readiness and have people in 20-year-old turn outs. Commissioner Pettit said we are not looking at cutting personnel, the rest of the board echoed that statement, he then said it's the hard decisions that we need to make but doesn't want to continue to dip into the fund balances. We could go to the public next year for a lid levy but is not certain they want to do that; our strategic plan will help with planning. Chief Goldsmith stated 80% of what we do is medical, the EMS tax would be 50 cents and he estimates bring in about 2.4 million in revenue. Looking at our budget position we need to have serious conversation to get this into the plan for next year. Commissioner Ogan stated that he believes that we need to do more with less and Washington has some of the highest taxes in the continental US. He doesn't believe we should ask our taxpayers for more money at this point of time, when our citizens are having to do more with less. Chief Goldsmith is surprised the EMS hospital tax passed but it shows people are supportive. Everything that is Fire and EMS is supported, we are loved because of our amazing team, if we need to capitalize on it to keep our operational readiness, we should have a conversation about it. Commissioner Pettit asked everyone to go back and do some additional work to prepare a workbook with fund balances and ideas to cut some costs not including personnel.

5. Adjournment:

Commissioner Clerf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Pettit seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:21 hours.


Board Chair


District Secretary

