



Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held August 12, 2025, at the district's administrative office at 3801 East Farwell Road, Mead, Washington and via Zoom.

Chairman Gregory M. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Members present were Chairman Gregory M. Anderson, Commissioner Brian A. Mather, Commissioner James E. Bennett, Fire Chief Matthew T. Vinci, District Secretary Allison M. Sargent, Assistant Chief Nathan P. Jeffries, Assistant Chief Douglas M. Bleeker, Assistant Chief Daniel W. Cecil, Division Chief Douglas G. Strong, and Division Chief Bobby J. Shindelar.

Guests in Attendance: Dan Fry, Eddie Richardson, Able Fisher, Pat Thoen, and Jason Quimby.

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Chief Vinci added an additional item under New Business to review the letter of intent with Professional Sales and Service.

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.

Public Comments

No comments were received.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 22 AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Mather moved TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS LISTED ON THE VOUCHER APPROVAL DATED AUGUST 12, 2025, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #115522 THROUGH #115573 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$114,341.35 ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,954.89, PLUS THE JULY 31, 2025 PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$810,285.03. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.



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Chief Reports

Chief Strong let the Board know the small works crack fill/seal project at admin; 93 & 97 has been completed. Inventory on the new SCBAs is still underway.

Chief Bleeker discussed new construction properties within the district, as well as fire suppression system requirements. Prevention did six fire inspections in July.

Chief Jeffries gave an update on the bridge re-naming for Lieutenant Traber. The group met a couple weeks ago with the Traber family to assemble the information packet that will be sent to the Department of Transportation. Two events will occur in the next two weeks for the Memorial Dedication.

Both entry-level positions have been posted, with 16 applicants so far. The application period will be open until November 1st. The district has scheduled an in-person job fair for September 17th at Union Stadium for anyone interested in applying.

July social media metrics show large increases in Facebook followings and views, with over 1.3 million views overall. August plans include recruitment videos targeting the entry-level positions, coverage on wildland fires and explanations of dark horse and strategic planning.

Chief Vinci discussed a letter of intent with a potential ambulance company that he will be asking to board to make a motion on under new business. Work is ongoing daily on the min/max assessment white paper. Multiple meetings have occurred with Dark Horse, who will present exhibits demonstrating the optimization of ambulance transport within the district. The Spokane Trauma Council will take up the min/max assessment at their September meeting. The goal is to have a motion ready with support at the Trauma Council to increase the number of licenses and grant District 9 one of those licenses.

Horton Ambulances guarantees delivery of three units in December. Getting the units delivered is critical for obtaining the license and getting credentialed with Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. The goal is to have everything ready for a July 1st start date to begin collecting revenue.

The district has received 22 letters of support from various officials and organizations. The letters of support are believed to equate to votes on the Trauma Council.

AMR resubmitted rates for the ASB which were published last Thursday. The BLS rate is the highest in Washington at \$4,699 and they are using the same rate for ALS. Our proposed policy would have a resident waiver program, so District 9 residents would not see a bill outside of what is collected from insurance.

Budget development for 2026 is ongoing, including the ambulance budget and payroll outlay. More final details and numbers will be presented at the next board meeting.



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Old Business

- a) None

New Business

- a) Chief Vinci reviewed the June 2025 Financial Report with the Board. Revenue is on track, with a 53% of total revenue received. Total expenditures are under 50% of the budget year. A budget adjustment is anticipated in late September to finalize 2025's budget for the fourth quarter.
- b) Commissioner Mather moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH 02X HUMAN PERFORMANCE TO PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED READINESS AND INJURY PREVENTION SPECIALIST. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.
- c) Chief Vinci went over the proposed Ambulance Billing Policy which includes a resident waiver program, waiving fees above what is collected from Medicare, Medicaid, or private insurance. Non-residents will be billed, but the policy recommends against collections, sending three bills before writing off the debt. Discussions involve setting reasonable transport fees, considering rates from other districts and collection percentages from private providers. A range of \$1500 to \$2000 is considered, with a per-mile fee not exceeding \$25. The resident waiver program is estimated to reduce transport revenue by about half a million dollars. Vinci proposed 15 new positions, 5 per shift and three full-time transport units. GEMT settlement revenue is not anticipated until the first quarter of 2027. Participation application for the 2026 GEMT program has been accepted.
- d) Commissioner Bennett moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO PROCESS THE FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN FIRE DISTRICT 9 AND DAVID AND TARA DIVINE. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.
- e) Commissioner Mather moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO SIGN A LETTER OF INTENT WITH PROFESSIONAL SALES AND SERVICE FOR THREE NEW HORTON 603 TYPE 1 CUSTOM AMBULANCES MOUNTED ON 2026 FORD 4X4 DIESEL CHASSIS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.



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Executive Session

None

With no further business, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison M. Sargent
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman Gregory M. Anderson