



Regular Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held April 22, 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 and Division Chief Douglas G. Strong.

Guests in Attendance: Able Fisher

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS IS. 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 APRIL 8, 2025, 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 APRIL 22, 2025, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #115274 THROUGH #115287 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,192.33 ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,161.55, PLUS THE APRIL 15, 2025 PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$594,283.72. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Cecil is at an ESO conference and Chief Shindelar is out this week.

Chief Strong updated the Board on Engine 942's recent damage. The quote we receive from 942 will be broke down between the most recent damage and previous damage that will all be fixed. The shop is continuing to work on wildland vehicles to get them ready for the season. All 11



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Streetwise monitors have been installed between career stations and admin. Spring start up with irrigations systems at the stations has begun as well.

Chief Jeffries let the Board know the UDS physicals and ultrasounds will be starting soon with tentative dates already scheduled. The FEO testing process was completed on Wednesday with four candidates. Results are pending from PST. The Temporary PT Maintenance Assistant will start tomorrow, the individual previously did an internship with the prevention division. Jeffries and Vinci attended the 2025 Area Coordinator Refresher training earlier this morning. This program guarantees a Fire Chief be on duty within the County at all times to respond to major incidents.

The Prevention Division has completed 50 fire inspections and 12 pre-inspections in the last 30 days. Chief Bleeker gave an update on new buildings within the district. Streetwise MDCs are up and operational. The initiative to provide Wi-Fi corner to corner at every career station is in progress.

Chief Vinci let the Board know he is developing an internal working group with representation from all stations, including volunteers, local administration, staff officers and a commissioner, who will be appointed. The group will conduct 4-6 meetings to cover risk assessment and facilities evaluations. RFQ reviews for architectural firms will take place on May 6th, with interviews of four firms. The RFP for the strategic plan is drafted and ready to launch later this year. The IT projects will begin the week of April 28th and concluded by June 15th. There will be four phases to this project beginning with email server, hardware installation, new computers and launching Office365. We recently met with a new insurance broker to competitively bid coverage while looking to improve premium for the district. A report with recommendations will be presented to the board in about 2 months. A district wide survey was sent out to get additional feedback. The feedback will be compiled and shared with the Board. So far 40 responses have been received. The overtime expenditure is at 40%, prompting a review. The goal is to manage overtime and schedule training and meetings across the fiscal year. Dashboards for this will be presented to the board regularly.

Old Business

- a) None

New Business

- a) Commissioner Bennett moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO PROCESS THE CONTRACT WITH DARKHORSE ANALYTICS FOR A THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.
- b) Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER ANDERSON TO REPRESENT THE BOARD ON THE INTERNAL WORKING GROUP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.



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- c) Guidelines on Wildland Mobilizations were drafted after working with the local and internal discussions. The guidelines set expectations and provide a path forward for mobilizations throughout this year and in the future.

Executive Session

Chairman Anderson announced at 6:57 p.m. that the Board was going into a 15-minute Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency per RCW 42.20.110(1)(i).

Chairman Anderson called the meeting back to order at 7:04 p.m.

With no further business, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison M. Sargent
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman Gregory M. Anderson