



Regular Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2025

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held May 13, 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 Bobby J. Shindelar and Division Chief Douglas G. Strong.

Guests in Attendance: Robert Gray, Jeremy Bunney and Attorney Eric Quinn

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Anderson asked to add a 10-minute executive session to review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs per RCW 42.30.110(1)(d).

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 Mather moved TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2025, AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS LISTED ON THE VOUCHER APPROVAL DATED MAY 13, 2025, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #115296 THROUGH #115348 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$119,019.18 ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,285.45, PLUS THE APRIL 30, 2025 PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$841,816.01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mather and unanimously approved.



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Chief Reports

Chief Strong gave an update on Engine 94, Engine 99 and Tower 92. Station 93 recently had their irrigation line replaced and station 92's water fountain leak is still being worked on.

Chief Cecil reminded the Commissioners that there are 9 days left to complete the ADO program with a completion date of June 30th. Additional training throughout the district currently taking place consists of Regional Ropes, FEO test, wildland refresher training, off road driving, regional trench drill and Tower 91 & 92 driving recertifications. The Difficult Airways class is coming up and required for medics recertifications. We recently received 5 sets of test PPE gear and will get those distributed to individuals to start wearing. SCBAs have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in late June. Funding for these will be available June 10th. Our 3 new volunteers will be graduating the Rattle Snake Ridge Academy tomorrow, while the Career recruits have about 6 weeks left with an estimated shift date starting on June 30th.

Chief Jeffries gave an update on the UDS physicals which will begin on June 9th & 10th starting with 30 slots. Jeffries and Firefighter Richardson recently attended the Nation Fallen Firefighter Memorial while being escorts for the Cato family. Chief Jeffries reviewed the April Social Media numbers which had a large increase in views from March. We have received lots of positive feedback from other agencies within the County about our social media.

Chief Bleeker went over the March Incident Report consisting of agency aid comparisons, aid given and received and response times performance. We've had the fastest response times in the last year for first arriving structure fire, full alarm assignments. This weekend we will be hosting an IFSAC test for certifying fire investigators in the region.

Chief Shindelar let the Board know the WA DNR agreement has expired and he is currently representing the NE Region while working with the WFCA to update the Forest Land Resource Agreement (FLRA). We recently were awarded a new \$25K grant to buy 10 more EKR portable radios and have submitted for another new grant for \$100K in hopes of purchasing upgraded wildland PPE. The annual wildland refresher has been completed for all career and volunteers as well as the off-road driver training for brush trucks, UTVs and Dozer Operator training. 10 more wildland property assessments for private landowners have been completed as well.

Chief Vinci let the Board know that the Dark Horse contract is being executed. It will take about 10 weeks to upload district data, with meetings every two weeks to keep us updated on the process. There will be a presentation for the Board once all the data is uploaded. The strategic planning working group met to receive presentations from for architectural firms with a unanimous vote to move forward with TCA Architects out of Seattle. The contract for this will be presented at the May 27th board meeting.



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We recently started using HUB Risk Insurance to bid out our insurance to look at additional options for premiums, coverage and deductibles. The goal is to obtain the best coverage for the district. Vinci presented the overtime dashboard to the Board; these will be presented quarterly.

Old Business

- a) None

New Business

- a) Recently Chief Vinci and Chief Jeffries met with Commissioner Boling from SCFD8 to gather information on the possibility of re-naming a bridge or making a memorial sign for the Traber Memorial organized by Local2916. They reached out to the Local and Firefighter/Paramedic Austin Pea will be involved with helping gather information on Cody to present to the Department of Transportation. The family is in support of this and will be involved in the process. The ground breaking for this memorial will be tomorrow, May 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Executive Session

Chairman Anderson announced at 6:52 p.m. that the Board was going into a 30-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 7:14 p.m. and released Attorney Quinn from the remainder of the meeting.

Chairman Anderson announced at 7:15 p.m. that the Board was going into a 30-minute Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

Chairman Anderson called the meeting back to order at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman Anderson announced at 7:28 p.m. that the Board was going into a 10-minute Executive Session to review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs per RCW 42.30.110(1)(d).



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Chairman Anderson called the meeting back to order at 7:34 p.m.

With no further business, Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison M. Sargent
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Chairman Gregory M. Anderson