



KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 7
MINUTES OF SPECIAL FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
January 20, 2024 1000 hours

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting started at 1003 hours at station 72, 5511 Airport Road, Cle Elum, WA, on January 2ⁿ, 2024. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by KCFD7 Commissioner Jeff Myers. This meeting was a work session with input solicited from all in attendance.

PRESENT: Commissioner Bob Cernick, Commissioner Justin Zipperer and Commissioner Jeff Myers. Interim Chief McFarland, and Finance Admin/District Secretary Micallef were all present. Eight members of KCFD7 and two members of HD2 were present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Cernick motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Zipperer seconded the agenda, the Board voted 3-0 to approve the agenda.

INTERIM CHIEF UPDATE: Interim Chief McFarland updated everyone on the cold weather issues plaguing the area and the number of broken pipe calls in Suncadia and Tumble Creek. Just the start of it. PIO Carlson sends out a newsletter to residents in the area and is trying to educate them on cold weather and safeguarding property when you don't live in the residence full time.

Also, if five FFs are on duty they are now allowed to be housed at Station 99 temporarily until the new crew quarters at 72 are done.

RESPONSE GUIDELINES: Original Guidelines have been removed. Currently communication between HD2 and our crews is good. Commissioner Zipperer would like any policy on guidelines to state "shall" to give crews some leeway to make judgments calls as needed. Commissioners need to make sure service is being provided but the day-to-day operations shall be up to the Fire Chief. Interim Chief McFarland met with County Chiefs and they are excited to be working with KCFD7 again. Some examples of guidelines for response will be given to the Interim Chief to start working on new guidelines.

CHIEF SEARCH: Current flyer has been sent out. Commissioner Zipperer wants an operationally minded Chief and less administrative. Someone hands on. Lead by example and expected to respond to major incidents. Conversation with those in attendance came up with these items they want to see in the flyer and in a Chief, including:

- Needs to be aware of the growth in the area, and what it is predicted to do.
- Needs to be engaged with volunteers.
- Needs to have an idea how to handle recruitment and retention of volunteers and paid FF.
- Residency requirements. Must live between Elk Heights and Easton within 12 months of taking position, and must be primary residence.
- Will be advertised in Daily Dispatch, Tribune, Website, WFC, and social media.
- Deadline for applications is 5pm on 2/29/2024.
- Will follow with timeline for process which will include an assessment center and interviews.
- Extensive knowledge of wildfire is needed in our area.

Recess in meeting for refreshments for fifteen minutes at 1158 will resume at 1215 hours.



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Resumed meeting at 1217 hours.

INTERIM FIRE CHIEF DUTIES: Should be responding on major calls, not every call. No interior firefighting. Currently work on getting the crew quarters at 72 finished and continuing the Training Tower construction.

Contract negotiations should be handled by outside company. Commissioner Zipperer has been in contact with Cabot and will work on a contract with them, stating both administration and unions have been happy with them.

Would like the Interim Chief to work on a formal agreement about DNR's use at Station 75 and parking a vehicle there in the summer. Commissioners made sure that Interim Chief McFarland documents the hours he is working so that he doesn't work more than part-time.

Meeting was adjourned at 1305 hours.


APPROVED

Kittitas County Fire District No. 7,
Kittitas County Washington

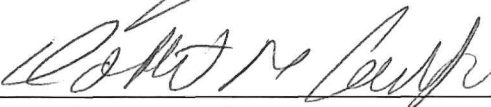
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Jeff Myers, Commissioner Chair

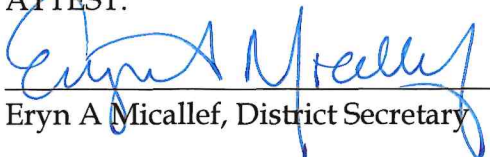
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Justin Zipperer, Commissioner Vice Chair

By: _____


Robert Cernick, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Eryn A Micallef, District Secretary