



KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 7
MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSIONER MEETING
March 13, 2025 at 1800 hours

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1800 hours at Station 72, on March 13, 2025. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Savannah Davies.

PRESENT: Commissioner Chair Jeff Myers, Commission Vice Chair Justin Zipperer, Commissioner Robert Cernick, Chief Aaron Lowe, District Secretary Micallef, five members of KCFD7 and one member of the public.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Debbie Willette of Willette's Towing wanted to let everyone know that they have sold their company after decades in business. She wanted to thank us for the years of working together at accident scenes and training exercises; she asked the new owner to work with us the way they did.

Chief Lowe thanked Willette for all the excellent customer service over the years and for being so kind to people at accident scenes. Commissioner Cernick stated that Willette's Towing has donated cars for extrication training and donated towing many times over the past 40 years. KCFD7 wishes the Willette family a happy and relaxing retirement.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The February Regular meeting minutes were presented for approval. Commissioner Zipperer motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Commissioner Cernick seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0. Minutes were signed.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Report was provided. The ending balance in all accounts for February 2025 was \$4,632,664.39. At the end of February \$69,397.27 or 1.18% in property taxes had been collected, and \$5,827,604.26 was still left to be collected.

Commissioner Zipperer motioned to approve the check registers, Commissioner Cernick seconded the motion, the Board voted 3-0 to approve and sign the check registers as presented.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- **Significant February Calls:**
 - 3/2/25: B shift was dispatched to a difficulty breathing on Nordic Ln. Originally a station 72 call, shortly after their arrival the patient went into cardiac arrest which required a second page for manpower. E731 responded to assist and added Cle Elum Fire for additional assistance due to no volunteers from FD7 responding. While enroute, Chief had KITTCOM rename the call to CPR to try and activate a member response. Unfortunately, resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.



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- There have been three cardiac arrests calls for B shift in the last four shift rotations.
- 3/10/2025: serious motor vehicle accident on I-90 required airlift.

- **Events:**
 - Coeur d'Alene: First Responder Health and Wellness Conference.
 - Conference Call: James Rychard Organizational Behavior & Workplace Wellness Specialist.
 - Station ride-alongs with C, B and A shift.
 - Volunteer Association Meeting.
 - Volunteer Training Updates.
 - Steve Ramirez Services.
 - WFCA: IGNITE.
 - KCFD7/DNR Meeting with Mark Thorne.
 - KITTCOM Updates.
 - County Emergency Preparedness Assessment.
 - Officer's Meetings.
 - EMAC Meeting Overview.
 - Meeting with CERPD.
 - Meeting with CERSD.
 - Suncadia HOA Meeting with DNR and KCFD7.
 - Labor/Management Meeting.
 - ID card machine is having software issues; working with vendor and IT contractor William Stoeck to correct so new 2025 cards can be issued to all district members.
 - Firefighter Interviews to fill the three new 2025 positions.
 - Puget Sound Energy Safety Training.
 - KCFD7 Annual Recognition Banquet on April 17 Drew Bru.

- **Training Summary:**
 - Captain Gordon has done an excellent job of learning the Vector software for training and organizing it. In February, over 650 hours of training was captured for both career and volunteer firefighters. Working to make sure all hours of training get captured so that WSRB can use that for our next rating review.
 - Special Training for the month of February included: Special Operations Rope Rescue, ERG Hazmat refresher, vector training system training, and completing training request forms.

- **Facilities Summary:**
 - A list of station repairs and work was provided, maintenance ongoing, and priority repairs that are scheduled.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:



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- Commissioner Myers provided an update regarding the district's participation on the Washington State First Responder Wellness Task Force. He talked about the current program funding running out at the end of June, and with the state's budget deficit, it is unclear what will be available in the future. We are always looking for opportunities to provide responder wellness support since this is such a critical need.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Training Tower update** – Foundation plans have been received. Working on the permitting. The Tower structure come from Canada and with the notice of tariffs we may need to get the tower delivered early to avoid a 25% cost increase that is not budgeted. The Board agreed that we should work to get the tower delivered now and find a place to store it pending construction.
- b. **Levy Lift Discussion** – The documents for single year levy lift and multiyear levy lift prepared by the agency attorney were presented. Conversation over the benefits and concerns of each were discussed. The Commissioners feel the single year lift is the best option for us currently. Commissioner Zipperer motioned to go with the single year levy lift, Commissioner Cernick seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0 to move forward with the single year levy lid lift, and to finalize the resolution and necessary documents at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **April Meeting Date Change:** Due to Commissioner Myers and Chief Lowe being out of town during the regular April meeting, it was proposed to move the meeting to April 2nd. This was agreed upon by everyone and the District Secretary will post notice of the meeting date change. The Commissioners also would like to discuss at the next meeting moving the regular meetings to Friday.
- b. **Generators:** A proposal for remote generators with a total cost of \$130,804.27 was presented. These generators are needed for the full-time crew stations as they don't have back-up power for when power goes out. This would allow for continuation of government in events of extended outages. This expense was budgeted. Commissioners agreed with the plan pending additional information.
- c. **MOU IAFF 4880- Extra Work Dutes:** This is needed for the firefighters assigned extra work duties as agreed upon between the member and the chief, such as the training tower. Commissioner Zipperer motioned to approve and have Commissioner Chair Myers sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Cernick seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0 and the Chair signed the agreement.



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- d. **KCFD7 Priorities:** After eight months, the Chief has identified a lot of our gaps, lack of processes, and opportunities moving forward. The list of ongoing administrative items was presented to the Commissioners and was reviewed. Everyone is currently very task saturated. The Chief is asking the Commissioners to identify their priorities in relation to the list of tasks presented. The Chief noted the software we are paying for, such as the Microsoft platforms, is being used to increase internal efficiencies.

The Commissioners had no additional input for to the priorities list, other than Commissioner Myers mentioned that he was aware of the pending work on streamlining our social media and website and this should be a priority to enhance communication with the public. The District Secretary commented that the new district website is under final review and should go live by the end of March.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: The Commissioners directed staff to order a plaque or certificate of application for the Willette family in recognition of their years of service and working with KCFD7.

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business before the Board of Fire Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned at 1944 hours.

APPROVED:

Kittitas County Fire District No. 7,
Kittitas County Washington

By: _____

Jeff Myers, Commissioner Chair

By: _____

Justin Zipperer, Commissioner Vice Chair

By: _____

Robert Cernick, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Eryn A Micallef, District Secretary