



**KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 7**  
**MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**March 8, 2023 18:00**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 18:08 hours at Station 72, on March 8, 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson.

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Vice Chair Robert Cernick, Commissioner Justin Zipperer, Chief Sinclair, Deputy Chief Hutsell, Finance Admin/District Secretary Micallef, Chris Martin from UKC Fuels & Roslyn Fire, 2 members of the public, 2 members of HD2 and 3 members of KCFD7.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Removing item 13 BVFF Meeting. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick moved to approve the agenda, Commissioner Zipperer seconded the motion and the Board voted 3-0 to approve the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chris Martin with Upper Kittitas County Fuels Crew talked about the plan for the summer fuels crew. This will be a 8-9 person crew funded by grants and the Conservation District. Hoping to work with DNR to have a larger crew. This crew will be available as needed for initial attack in Upper County. Chief Sinclair supports this crew and only having this crew, and not having a separate fuels crew for KCFD7. Tony Cebe stated that 4 others in the Liberty area have received notices that their home owners insurance is being cancelled. Seems Foremost Insurance is cancelling many in the Kittitas County area.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Meeting minutes were from the March Regular Meeting. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick motioned to approve and sign meeting minutes, Commissioner Zipperer seconded the motion, the Board Voted 3-0 and signed the meeting minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter from the Food Bank thanking us for support during the holiday season. Thank you from residents at Westside Road who had a fire the week before.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Treasurers Report was delayed due to a early in the month meeting. Balance in accounts at the end of February was \$1,049,969.34. In 2023 so far \$56,945.31 has been collected in taxes.

Check registers were presented and were signed.

**CHIEFS REPORT:**

Grant Victor—suffered an off-duty injury. He was forced to withdraw from the State Training Academy and has been placed on Light Duty for his healing time. He will return to the academy in August. Once he heals, he will be able to return to shift and work, he is interior qualified and red-carded.



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**April 20, 2023**, is the Fire Service Appreciation and Awards banquet. Please mark your calendar. Chief Sinclair will be having surgery that day and will be unable to attend. This is also graduation day at the State Academy and all Commissioners are invited to attend graduation. **Upper Kittitas County Chipper Crew**—Last week Chief Sinclair met with Chris Martin, Anna Lael (Conservation District), Wyatt Leighton and Spenser Slyfield both from DNR regarding the Chipper Crew. Conservation District has provided approval to bring the crew on under the Upper Kittitas County Crew. This was discussed prior by Chris Martin. After meeting with the Station 7-7 volunteers who passionately wanted Russ Hobbs brought back as a firefighter after he resigned in 2021. Sinclair met with Mr. Hobbs. He has agreed to return as a firefighter, not as an officer. He will be assigned to Station 7-5.

**Impacts from the Vantage Bridge Repair.** Starting in April DOT will take the Vantage Bridge down to one lane. 30-to-60-mile back-ups have been predicted for concert weekends. Highway 97 will be getting a great deal more traffic which means we will have more wrecks and fires on the 970-97 corridor. Chief Sinclair has raised this issue to the Kittitas County Emergency Management Council and hope to get a meeting scheduled with DOT. Possibly doing some preemptive burning of the area for safety reasons.

**Chief Hutsell and Chief Sinclair met with Geoff Scherer** and one of his Commissioner's from Upper County Medic 1, regarding an operational plan for the impacts of the Vantage Bridge restrictions. We will be drafting a plan that creates more depth.

**Chief Hutsell and Chief Sinclair had a meeting with Mark Thorne** from Suncadia to discuss future development and fire service impacts. They continue to have steady growth within Suncadia and Tumble Creek.

**MECHANIC AND FACILITIES REPORT:** Station 73 had pretty extensive water damage from a roof leak. Clean Image did some clean up and a bid, hoping to send to insurance just not sure if it will be covered. Roof needs major repairs this summer. Annual inspection of doors at 72 & 76, 73 is already finished. Working on Bid documents with Eryn for generator at 73. Fleet: Last two new brush trucks are finishing up. New Tender #3 is almost completed. New white pick up had decals done.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORT:** Legislative committee; lots of bills have not made it past proposals. BVFF increase is still alive, Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson talked with an attorney about eminent domain of Station 75. Attorney stated that case is not likely to win, best bet would to be to talk with State Officials and try to make headway there. Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson would like a copy of the document that allowed KCFD7 to build on lot.

**DEPUTY CHIEF REPORT:** Many Community Events, State send off for High School Basketball, Coffee with Chiefs, Westside Road Fire. Discussed the adding of Hinkle and Victor to paid staff. Many more community events and another coffee with Chiefs planned.



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**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **ESCI/KVFR Joint Meeting:** April 19<sup>th</sup> works for KCFD7 board, Chief Sinclair will take that to the KVFR meeting and see if that works for them and ESCI.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Resolution 2023-6 Surplus Hose** – Commissioner Zipperer moved to approve and sign, Commissioner Vice Chair seconded the motion, the Board voted 3-0 for resolution and signed.
- b. **Resolution 2023-7 Cost Recovery-** EF recovery informed us we need this to be able to bill for responses that are out of district but we use our rescue equipment and apparatus. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick motioned to approve and sign the resolution, Commissioner Zipperer seconded the motion, the Board voted 3-0 and signed the resolution.
- c. **Signature Card for County** – Some small clerical errors fixed, everyone signed.
- d. **GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Commissioners conference coming.

Meeting was adjourned at 19:24.

APPROVED

Kittitas County Fire District No. 7,  
Kittitas County Washington

By: Bill Dickinson  
Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Chair

By: Robert Cernick  
Robert Cernick, Commissioner Vice Chair

By: Justin Zipperer  
Justin Zipperer, Commissioner

ATTEST: Eryn A Micallef  
Eryn A Micallef, District Secretary