



KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT # 7
MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
June 14, 2023 18:00

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 18:00 hours at Station 72, on June 14th 2023. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson.

PRESENT: Commissioner Chair Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Vice Chair Robert Cernick, Chief Sinclair, Deputy Chief Hutsell, Finance Admin/District Secretary Micallef. 28 members of the public and 7 members of KCFD7 in attendance. Commissioner Zipperer had an excused absence.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Commissioner Vice Chair moved to approve the agenda, Commissioner Chair Dickinson seconded the motion and the Board voted 2-0 to approve the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Walt Wagner a resident of Hidden Valley talked about the last special meeting and the potential consolidation with KVFR.
- Ernie McCarthy asked if the commissioners would consider postponing a vote until all commissioners could be present
- Jeff Myers a resident in Sky Meadows stated residents are worried about 3 things: life safety, incident stabilization and property preservation. Thanked Staff and Chief for financial stability and also asked the vote be tabled until all three commissioners were present.
- Ira Astrachan a resident of Suncadia stated he would like some clarification on what “level of service” meant. Discussed past special meetings and consultants comments. Stated he felt the contract for service was being rushed and that this isn’t baby steps.
- Debbie Willett a resident from Airport Road stated she didn’t understand how the districts of Upper County couldn’t work together, and that really an Upper County consolidation needs to be first.
- Del Holter a resident from Liberty asked the discussion about the consolidation to be tabled.
- Carl Nelson a reporter for the Tribune stated he was there to get all of the story. He was new to all of this and it seems to be turf wars that are hurting brotherhood of the fire service.
- Ernie McCarthy ask if the Union had been consulted on the consolidation for their input.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. Meeting minutes were from the May Regular Meeting and the May 31st Special Meeting. Commissioner Vice Chair motioned to approve and sign meeting minutes, Commissioner Chair Dickinson seconded the motion, the Board Voted 2-0 and signed the meeting minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Two letters were presented. The first one was a thank you to Chief Sinclair for his help with the Covid Task Force from FEMA. The second one was a letter about Chief Sinclair’s nomination for IAFC Chief of the Year. Commissioner Chair Dickinson thanked the Chief for his work, and congratulated him on the nomination.



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FINANCIAL REPORT: Balance in accounts at the end of May was \$3,320,480.19 In 2023 so far \$3,018,287.80 has been collected in taxes.

May 2023		
Batch #	Amount	Description
2023.05.02	\$21,429.25	Claims – General Fund
2023.05.01	\$33,223.41	End of Month Payroll – General Fund
2023.05.06	\$87,242.05	Mid Month Payroll – General Fund
2023.05.05	\$78,499.24	End of Month Payroll – General Fund
\$220,393.95		

CHIEFS REPORT:

Shift Lieutenants—In a conversation with Commissioner Dickinson after the last meeting the idea of shift officers was broached. Would like to formally explore this with the Union and begin to create a testing and selection process. The Board all agrees to move forward.

Rescue 731—was rear-ended this week by a teenage driver. The mechanic is working to have it repaired.

Meeting with KCHD2—During the joint Board meeting at Station 2-9 and in the consultant’s supplemental report, there was mention of Kittitas County Hospital District 2 wishing to have a meeting with Kittitas County Fire District 7 Commissioners. They were waiting for their Board Chair to return from Europe. To date Chief Sinclair has not heard from any representative of HD 2. Have any of the Commissioners? All said no.

Coffee with the Fire Chief—Had third “Coffee With the Fire Chief” meeting a couple of Fridays ago. Good conversations with interested people within the community.

BC 7-2 Vehicle—Was struck by a deer and sustained damage. It has been repaired and should be back in service. Enduris has proved difficult to deal with will be shopping for other quotes soon.

Washington Fire Chiefs Conference—Chief Sinclair attended the Washington Fire Chiefs conference in May. There was a focus on technology, stored energy devices, wildland fire, peer support, and the Office of Independent Investigations.

Fire Season 2023—According to the National Weather Service we can expect a hotter than normal summer with less precipitation. Our vegetation is curing out quickly. So far this year we have had 5 state mobe fires.

Two New Trucks—have been ordered GMC 3500 single axle, fleet pricing at \$55,000. These are in the capital budget.

Tribune: In speaking with the new reporter at the Tribune, he plans to run a series of articles profiling each of the fire districts/departments in Kittitas County. He was amazed at the number of different fire agencies.

My schedule—Chief Sinclair will be on vacation Thursday through Sunday in Oregon.



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Chief Sinclair asked the Boards permission to respond to some of the Public comments they agreed.

- The comments about 30 miles is the actual distance from headquarters, the districts are very close in boundaries.
- The Board agrees with the need to consolidate with other upper county districts and has tried to do so with all districts and all have said no interest.
- When asked what the hurry is, KVFR supplied the Chief contract with the intentions that a consolidation of some sort would happen. This has been in the works for over 4 years.
- As far as consulting with the Union, this first step is only for administration and the Union will not be impacted at this time. When they will be impacted they will be consulted.
- The rumor about KCFD7 writing a blank check to KVFR is just untrue and false. The money raised in the communities is still used for facilities, salaries, fuel and other necessities that are required to run the district.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT: Nothing.

DEPUTY CHIEF REPORT:

Public Education/Interaction:

- a. State send offs with Schools
- b. Field Day with Schools

Training:

- a. Evip is close to done
- b. Red Cards are done and will be issued
- c. WSP Ventilation Prop is at Station 73 and will be used for training.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Consolidation with KVFR-** Discussion has been had during whole meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Hiring List** – Significante portion of the list is gone. Like to sunset the list and start another. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick motioned to sunset the list, Commissioner Chair Dickinson seconded the motion the board voted 2-0.
- b. **Resolution 2023-9 KVFR & KCFD7 Consolidation Effort** - Chief Sinclair presented Resolution 23-11 and stated that this is not a merger document; this is an aspirational document that says KVFR & FD7 will work toward a contract. Currently KVFR & FD7 have a contract for Fire Chief services only. This resolution states that we intend to work toward a contract for administrative services. The intent of this document is to have a phased contract, and this will give Chief Sinclair the ability move forward towards building a contract. Commissioner Chair Dickinson stated that he has made an effort to move forward with upper county districts and had no success. This isn't rushed since it has



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been worked on for many years. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick stated he has received some comments from the public, one being that Facebook is the voice of the public. He also stated that we have spent too much time in years not acting on this, this isn't rushed, it has been talked about consistently for the last few years. It is time to act on it. Commissioner Vice Chair Cernick motioned to approve Resolution 2023-9, Commissioner Chair Dickinson seconded the motion. The Board voted 2-0 to approve and sign the resolution.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: District Secretary Micallef gave a construction update for the living quarters at 72.

Executive Session: Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (g) to review the performance of a public employee

The Board recessed the regular meeting at 19:42 to go into executive session. Allowing 5 minutes for the room to clear, will start at 19:47 and will last for 10 minutes to 19:57. At 19:57 the Board came out of executive session and resumed the regular meeting. No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned at 18:59.

APPROVED

Kittitas County Fire District No. 7,
Kittitas County Washington

By: _____
Bill Dickinson, Commissioner Chair

By:  _____
Robert Cernick, Commissioner Vice Chair

By:  _____
Justin Zipperer, Commissioner

ATTEST:
 _____
Eryn A Micallef, District Secretary