SOUTH KING FIRE
January 6, 2025
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Special Meeting to order at 1500 hours with Commissioners Gates, Vadino and Fuller in attendance. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Fuller.

To listen to the full meeting, please visit our website.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Fuller had no comments.

Commissioner Baruso had no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1502 hours Commissioner Baruso reported that the Board convene into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i). 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. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session.

Joining the Board in Executive Session will be Legal Counsel.

At this time, we will recess for 2 minutes to get everyone transferred into Executive Session. We anticipate Executive Session lasting for 60 minutes. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session. At the end of Executive Session, we will take a 2 minute recess to get everyone transferred back over to the Special Meeting.

At 1509 hours Commissioner Burrus arrived.

At 1540 hours Executive Director Ganem and Executive Secretary Perry joined Executive Session.

At 1600 hours Executive Director Ganem left Executive Session.

At 1604 hours Executive Session was extended 30 minutes.

At 1609 hours Chief Van Valkenburg joined Executive Session.
At 1634 hours Executive Session was extended 30 minutes.

At 1632 hours Chief Van Valkenburg left Executive Session.

At 1634 hours Executive Session ended, and we began the transition back to the Special Meeting.

At 1636 hours the Special Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Baruso announced that we are out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Burrus moved that the Board extends the paid administrative leave period of Fire Chief Dave Van Valkenburg to 9:00 am, January 9, 2025, until otherwise directed by the Board. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Motion carried unanimously

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1638 hours Commissioner Baruso reported that the Board will convene into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i). 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. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session.

Joining the Board in Executive Session will be Legal Counsel.

At this time, we will recess for 2 minutes to get everyone transferred into Executive Session. We anticipate Executive Session lasting for 30 minutes. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session. At the end of Executive Session, we will take a 2 minute recess to get everyone transferred back over to the Special Meeting.

At 1650 hours Executive Director Ganem and Executive Secretary Perry joined Executive Session

At 1710 hours Executive Session was extended 15 minutes.

At 1725 hours Executive Session was extended 5 minutes.

At 1730 hours Executive Session was extended 5 minutes.

At 1735 hours Executive Session ended and we began the transition back to the Special Meeting.

At 1737 hours the Special Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Baruso reported that we are out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Vadino moved that Deputy Chief Lisa Defenbaugh return to work at 7:00 am on January 9, 2025. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved to extend Kevin Crossen as Acting Fire Chief specifically overseeing fire operations of South King Fire working under the direction of Executive Director Joe Ganem to conclude on January 9, 2025 at 9:00 am subject to further notice. Executive Director Ganem will retain sole

authority to execute contracts on behalf of South King Fire and administer discipline within the organization. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1738 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY