SOUTH KING FIRE
January 8, 2025
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Special Meeting to order at 1600 hours with Commissioners Gates, Vadino, Burrus and Fuller in attendance. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Lee.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller had no comments.

Commissioner Burrus had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

Commissioner Baruso had no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1601 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 Executive Director Ganem, Executive Assistant Perry and 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 1633 hours Executive Session was extended 15 minutes.

At 1648 hours Executive Session was extended 15 minutes.

At 1703 hours Executive Session was extended 15 minutes.

At 1718 hours Executive Session was extended 15 minutes.

At 1733 hours Executive Session was extended 10 minutes.

At 1743 hours Executive Session ended, and we began the transition back to the Special Meeting.

At 1745 hours the Special Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Baruso announced that we are out of Executive Session and we have received a letter from Fire Chief Dave Van Valkenburg indicating his wish to retire effective February 1, 2025. Do I have a motion?

Commissioner Vadino moved that the Board accept the retirement notice of Fire Chief Dave Van Valkenburg effective February 1, 2025, with Chief Van Valkenburg remaining in a paid status through January 31, 2025. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved that the Board approve and sign the transition agreement drafted by District legal counsel to be signed by Fire Chief Dave Van Valkenburg and returned to the District by January 13, 2025. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Burrus moved to extend Kevin Crossen as Acting Fire Chief specifically overseeing Fire Operations of South King Fire working under the direction of Executive Director Ganem to conclude on January 17th, subject to further notice. Executive Director Joe 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 Fuller. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Vadino moved to direct Executive Director Ganem to issue an announcement pertaining to an Interim Fire Chief position and soliciting letters of interest. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1748 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY