SOUTH KING FIRE
June 24, 2025
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the regular meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Vadino, Burrus, Gates and Fuller in attendance. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Chief Crossen.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Baruso asked for a Motion and second to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 27, 2025. Commissioner Burrus moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2025. Commissioner Gates asked the Board if they read the minutes? Not every Commissioner had read them. He then asked the Board what was wrong with the minutes as presented; what is missing? He then added – Let me help you, what is missing from the first paragraph? There was no response from the Board. Commissioner Gates pointed out that the Chairman is supposed to indicate the attendance of the Commissioners. Commissioner Gates then proceeded to inform the Board that his name was not listed as being in attendance or excused from the last meeting. He pointed out that Commissioner Vadino got it right at the June 12th meeting when she said Commissioner Baruso is excused. Commissioner Gates indicated that the Board needs to do a better job running these meetings. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vadino. Motion carried, Commissioner Gates recused himself.

Commissioner Baruso asked for a Motion and a second to approve the Special Meeting Minutes from the June 12, 2025, Special Meeting. Commissioner Fuller made a Motion to approve the June 12 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Burrus had no comments.

Commissioner Fuller reported that Green Gables Elementary Schools appreciates L364 doing another great egg drop this year.

Commissioner Baruso noted that he enjoyed the recognition, it was really hot, congratulations to everyone that received an award.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Vadino reported that the Finance, Budget and Audit committee met, and the notes are in your packet.

PROCUREMENT POLICY ADOPTION

Executive Director Ganem reported we have provided a copy of the updated Procurement Policy. We have a number of projects that we are going out to bid on: The Olympic Building, bathroom remodels, followed by station 62 renovations. The Finance Division, Director Lee and Legal Counsel reviewed our Procurement Policy and suggested we make some adjustments to the policy to provide some flexibility to the District. Commissioner Burrus made a Motion to accept the updated policy. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motin passed.

RESOLUTION 667 – LTGO BONDS

Executive Director Ganem added that with the sale of the 320th Property falling through we are in the process of switching to Plan B.

Plan B includes the issuance of Limited Term Obligation Bonds (LTGO), basically issuing debt to meet some of our capital project needs. The amount in the resolution is a combination of what we expect will fund these projects and it also includes the refinance of the 2015 Bonds that we talked about a couple months ago. We estimate that refinancing the bonds will save our taxpayers approximately $1.6M over the remaining 10-years that are left on the 20-year bond.

With the sale of the 320th property falling through, we felt it was necessary not to wait any longer for these projects. We expect that the bonds will be issued in September. We must be careful that we don't finance too much, as it will come out of our annual operating budget. A bonded amount will be a reduced amount from what was expected from the sale of the property; which means we are going to have to scale back our projects. But this amount includes prioritizing the retrofits at Station 62 and the tenant improvements at the Olympic Building.

Executive Director Ganem added that he will be sending out an email to the organization on the details of Plan B. We will begin the creation of the workgroups designed to tackle the retrofits at Station 62, working with Director Lee and facilities on what those impacts look like. This will include looking at portable facilities to house our firefighters temporarily while we remodel the station. The Administrative Staff will need to vacate Station 62 so that we can free up space for our Firefighters. Director Lee will get the green light to begin moving forward with the tenant improvements to the Olympic building which have been put on hold. As previously mentioned, our original bond was issued in 2015. We are a decade past when we should have renovated Station 62, so we cannot keep kicking the can down the road. We need to get started! Plus, we are currently upstaffing to 12 units and are planning for a 13th and 14th unit to be staffed in the future.

Executive Director Ganem read Resolution 667 into record. Commissioner Burrus moved approval of Resolution 667. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 668 – DECLARING THE MAINTENANCE OF A PUBLIC RECORDS INDEX TO BE UNDULY BURDENSOME

Executive Director Ganem reported that a few weeks ago, Legal Counsel provided a seminar to public agencies in focusing on our responsibilities defined by RCW. One of those areas that we need to be

attentive to is declaring the maintenance of public records index to be unduly burdensome. In addition to not having a resolution like this in place, we are also working with facilities to make sure all of our facilities have proper signage, designating private areas where live-video should not be allowed. Our firefighters live in these stations, and we don't want somebody walking into a living area at the station, a bunk room, or the beanery capturing video and sound images of things that aren't for public purpose. So, we need to put some protection in place for our staff, and this is the first step.

Executive Director Ganem read Resolution 668 into record. Commissioner Gates moved to accept Resolution 668. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

Executive Director Ganem reported that today Chief Crossen attended his last Administrative Staff Meeting. And also today, he is attending his last Commissioner meeting. We want to recognize Chief Crossen's 33 years of service to the community and South King Fire. Are there any parting words Chief? Chief Crossen noted that it has been a great time, and he has enjoyed it, and he would do it all over again. He's looking forward to the next chapter. The organization has changed a lot in those 33 years. When he started there were two person crews in yellow trucks.

Executive Director Ganem added that our new 13 Recruits start on August 1st and transition to the Academy on August 11th; they won't hit the streets until January. This group of new hires will help us achieve our staffing goal of 37 per shift.

Also, Chief Andersen has done a great job working with Sound Transit as they begin to test the rail system for the Federal Way link. They were pushing back a little bit on some equipment that we only need to respond to calls on the transit rail. We had a meeting last week and they have agreed to pay for the equipment is about $50,000 and another $26,000 give or take for staff training time. So, kudos to Chief Andersen!

There was some discussion about the new Spartan apparatus - when we expect to receive them, the quality of the workmanship, and equipping the engines with new equipment. Executive Director Ganem added that since we are doing very well budget wise this year, he would like us to outfit the new engines with new equipment. He will run this by the Budget, Finance and Audit committee.

JUNE BUDGET

Executive Director Ganem noted that we should be at 50% of our budget expensed and we are currently at 44.80%; so, we are currently 5.20% under budget. We continue to have a number of unfilled positions and we have not executed several of our bigger projects like strategic planning and retreats yet.

Finance Supervisor Barrett read into the record the list of expenditures for the month of June.

Mid-Month Utility Warrants (#120617-150632) totaling	$67,051.76
Accounts Payable Warrants (#120633-120716) totaling	$1,474,665.25
Payroll Direct Deposit Document for 214 indiv. DD007245-007459 totaling	$1,659,095.78
Payroll Electronic Federal Tax Payment totaling	$368,888.09
Medical Claims as of June 17, 2025	$3289,335.01

TOTAL approval $3,859,035.89

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve tonight's vouchers. Commissioner Vadino moved approval of the vouchers. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1743 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 discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency. The governing body or member acting in an official capacity is or is likely to have a party with public knowledge regarding discussions likely result in an adverse legal or financial consequence.

Joining the Board in Executive Session will be Executive Director Ganem, Executive Secretary Perry and legal counsel. Executive Session will end at 1828 hours unless extended.

At 1828 hours Executive Session was extended until 1858 hours.

At 1858 hours Executive Session was extended until 1928 hours.

At 1928 hours Executive Session was extended until 1938 hours.

At 1938 hours Executive Session was extended until 1948 hours.

At 1948 hours Executive Session was extended until 2000 hours.

At 2000 hours Executive Session was extended until 2010 hours.

At 2010 hours Executive Session was extended until 2020 hours.

At 2020 hours Executive Session was extended until 2025 hours.

At 2025 hours Commissioner Baruso reported that we are out of Executive Session and have resumed the Regular Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2026 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER