**SOUTH KING FIRE**
December 23, 2025
Station 68 and Virtual

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Gates.

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

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the November 25, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and December 1, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Fuller moved approval of the November 25th Regular Meeting Minutes and the December 1st Special Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Motion passed.

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the December 2, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Vadino made a Motion to approve the December 2, 2025, minutes. Motin was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed with Commissioners Gates and Baruso abstained.

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the December 3, 2025, and the December 16, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Burrus made a Motin to approve the December 3rd and 16th Special Meeting Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller reported that the community appreciated the Toy Drive and its success.

Commissioner Burrus had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino recognized that it is Commissioner Gates' last meeting after 24 years, you have done a lot for the Commissioners, thank you.

Commissioner Baruso thanked Commissioner Gates for his time service the community and all that he has done here at South King Fire. Please share with us what you plan on doing with your free time.

Commissioner Gates replied that his wife keeps asking him the same question. He will probably walk the dog twice a day instead of just once a day. Something will come up.

## COMMISSIONER GATES RECOGNITION

At 1704 hours Commissioner Baruso announced that we are going to recess the meeting until 1715 hours to have some cake.

At 1715 hours the Regular Meeting reconvened.

Commissioner Gates reflected on the past 24 years as a Commissioner. He added it's amazing to see what we have done in the past 24 years:

- He was elected as a Commissioner right after the September 11th (9/11) tragedy, in fact he was out campaigning the morning of 9/11.
- We merged with Des Moines Fire Department in 2006.
- We went back to Emmitsburg twice for Emergency Management training.
- We went through the recession of 2010. This hurt us dearly as we lost almost 30 people from all across the organization. Whether it was staff in Pub Ed, Operations or Front Office; we lost a third of our budget in revenues and it took us a long time to recover.
- We created a self-insurance medical plan. Many people in the community didn't think it would work however, it has worked great for 14 years or so now.
- Then there was the COVID Vaccines.
- Commissioner Gates also talked about how his elections have been different. Jerry Galland was running against Commissioner Gates and Local 2024 stepped up to financially support him. They also assisted by putting out signs and standing on the street corners with signs.
- Commissioner Gates thanked Lauri Perry, you know she is the brains of the operations after serving as Board Chair for 14 years. Lauri was so good about reminding me - hey don't forget about this or you gotta do this, or you gotta get this done. She really knows her stuff. My many thanks to Lauri for her help. If it's okay I'm going to keep your phone number in my contacts so we can talk about the Seahawks.
- Commissioner Gates also thanked Executive Director Joe Ganem. He has been invaluable, especially the last two (2) years and telling us what we needed to get done. We didn't have a Chief, so Joe was telling us what we needed to do financially, and with the Auditors. Thanks for your leadership, Joe.
- Commissioner Gates also thanked Eric Quinn, our legal counsel. Over the years it's been invaluable and a relief to have Eric at the meetings.
- In closing, Commissioner Gates wished everyone a long, safe and rewarding career at South King Fire as you go about performing your mission. He added that it has been an honor serving with you.

**PUBLIC COMEMNTS**

City of Federal Way Councilmember Susan Honda thanked Commissioner Gates for all of his years of service. We appreciate it and you have done a lot for our community and we are a better community because of you.

City of Federal Way Councilmember Jack Walsh thanked Commissioner Gates for his years of services. There's very few people in the community that serve 24 years in such a capacity, so thank you very much. It's hard to imagine that when you said you were campaigning in 2001 the same time as 9/11. Even though there is only two (2) of us from the City Council here tonight we are speaking for the whole Council.

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Baruso reported that there were no committee meetings that he was aware of.

## RESOLUTION 671 – UPDATED AUTHORIZING PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION FOR 2026

Assistant Chief Michaels reported that King County contacted us (after submission of approved resolutions) and recommended using general language as opposed to exact amounts (annual property tax resolutions). So we request that the Board approves the updated Resolution 671, based on this new information from King County. Assistant Chief Michaels read Updated Resolution 671 into record. Commissioner Vadino made a Motion; I move to accept the changes to Resolution 671 – Real Property Tax as recommended by King County Department of Assessments. This change removes specific amounts which are in addition to real property tax collection. Removing specific amounts will allow the county to legally provide the maximum amounts to us once all assessments are finalized. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed.

## RESOLUTION 674 ADOPTING 2026 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

Assistant Chief Michaels read Resolution 674 into record. Commissioner Burrus moved adoption of Resolution 674. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

Assistant Chief Michaels reported that due to the holidays and busy schedule the Administration/Staff Report has not been sent out yet, but it will be sent out within the next day or so.

## DECEMBER BUDGET

Business Operations Specialist Summer Shirey read the list of expenditures for the month of December into record.

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|---|---|
| Mid-Month Utility Warrants (#121263-121282) totaling | $158,688.64 |
| Accounts Payable Warrants (#121283-121371) totaling | $1,555,232.16 |
| Payroll Direct Deposit Document - DD008579-008800 totaling | $1,755,534.31 |
| Payroll Electronic Federal Tax Payment totaling | $405,946.17 |
| Medical Claims as of December 16, 2025 | $361,687.93 |
| TOTAL approval | $4,237,089.21 |

## APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1731 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 HR Supervisor Sherese Gamble, Executive Assistant Lauri Perry and legal counsel. Executive Session will end at 1800 hours unless extended.

At 1800 hours Executive Session was extended until 1820 hours.

At 1820 hours Executive Session was extended until 1835 hours.

At 1835 hours Executive Session was extended until 1850 hours.

At 1850 hours Executive Session was extended until 1900 hours.

At 1900 hours Executive Session was extended until 1905 hours.

At 1905 hours Executive Session was extended until 1910 hours.

At 1910 hours Commissioner Baruso reported that we are out of Executive Session and have resumed the Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Gates made a Motion, I move that the Board sign the employment agreement with Ryan Woodey as Fire Chief and forward said agreement to Ryan Woodey for consideration and potential signature with the agreement only becoming effective upon verified results of a background check and psychological evaluation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1912 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER