SOUTH KING FIRE
March 24, 2026
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Regular Meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Burrus, Fuller and Vadino in attendance Commissioner Monroe should be joining us shortly, online. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District Chief Andersen.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the minutes from February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting, he was not in attendance so he will be abstaining. Commissioner Burrus made a Motion to approve the minutes from February 24th. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vadino. Motion was approved.

Commissioner Monroe joined the meeting virtually.

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the March 9, 2026, Special Meeting/Retreat Minutes. Commissioner Burrus made a Motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vadino. Motion was approved.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller reported that it was another great report, and he added that he would like to have presentations from the MIH/CARES team and the Community Affairs Officer and Public Educator at a future Commissioners meeting. He also had a number of questions for staff regarding the Heavy Rescue Apparatus, Equipment for Light Rail responses, Rescue Team, Swift Water Rescue, Emergency Management. Commissioner Fuller added that he toured the new Administrative Offices Building and he inquired about AEDs inspections being part of the inspections completed by our Fire and Life Safety Inspectors.

Commissioner Burrus reported that he is a month late reporting this, he forgot at the last meeting. He and Commissioner Vadino were invited to the City of Federal Way City Council meeting, the City had made February Heart Health month. Commissioner Burrus added that he felt that the Retreat went well, we focused a little bit on what we are doing right and some things that we need to improve on.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Monroe had no comments.

Commissioner Baruso thanked everyone who participated in the Retreat, it was a long day, but we got a lot accomplished. He also thanked Director Lee for walking with him through the Administrative Building and explaining what has been accomplished.

Executive Director Ganem reminded the Board to please speak directly into their mics, as they are very sensitive and if you move away from the mic as you are talking the mic and transcript doesn't correctly pick up what you are saying. For instance, we had to listen to the recording of a recent motion 10 times to hear the amount correctly. Commissioner Baruso had one question, have we responded to the citizens that attended a recent meeting on the FBC? Executive Director Ganem replied that yes, Finance Manager Barret has been in contact with them and provided an official response. We have also added this topic to our list of things to analyze the impacts to condos this year and then report back to the Board.

PUBLIC COMEMNTS

There were no Public Comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Vadino reported that the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met. A majority of the meeting was spent reviewing change orders for the Administrative Building, there is a detailed list of them in your packet. Commissioner Vadino made a Motion to approve change orders in the amount of $48,215.08. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. The total change orders to date are $297,817.66 which equates to 7.76% of the project. Commissioner Baruso commented that in reviewing all of the invoices and change orders, there is a 10% mark-up on each of the changes, which is reflected on the invoices. Motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

Chief Woodey provided the Board with the following update, the Administrative Team assisted in selecting a group of employees to work on updating our Mission, Vision and Values statement. This is going to be a process where the group is very focused both inward and outward. We hope to have this completed by June 1, 2026. We are soliciting proposals in response to our RFP for Standards of Cover and Master Plan. We have a meeting scheduled on March 31st to review the proposals and move forward with a targeted completion date in September 2026. This date is in alignment with our budget process which typically begins in October. Chief Woodey added that we will kick off contract negotiations with Local 2024, our first meeting is this Friday. We currently have four (4) dates on the calendar to meet, we are excited to meet and begin the contract negotiations process, so far it has been a collaborative process in getting these dates booked. At this time, we don't have any specific information, but we will keep the Board appraised.

Today we had an apartment fire in Federal Way, Chief Woodey and Michaels went to the fire and noted that our crews did an exceptional and professional job of getting a quick knock down on the fire. It could have turned into a significant fire and had a much greater impact on our citizens. The building had vinyl siding, and it had already self-vented out the front of the building, thankfully no one was hurt.

MARCH BUDGET

Executive Director Ganem noted that we are already a quarter through the year, time seems to be flying by. We would expect to be at 25% of the budget, however we are trending below budget at 22.64% expensed which equates to being 2.36% under budget for the year. We are starting out 2026 in a positive financial position and we continue to run below budget, however we have some large projects that haven't started yet...so we will continue to monitor the budget throughout the year and as the larger projects kick off.

Finance Manager Barrett read the list of expenditures for the month of March into record.

Mid-Month Utility Warrants (#121590-121606) totaling	$240,170.18
Accounts Payable Warrants (#121607-121700) totaling	$1,614,422.14
Payroll Direct Deposit Document - DD009251-009479 totaling	$1,833,228.43
Payroll Electronic Federal Tax Payment totaling	$406,163.91
Medical Claims as of March 17, 2026	$315,677.08
TOTAL approval	$4,409,661.74

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve tonight's vouchers. Commissioner Vadino approved the vouchers. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1733 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER