

SOUTH KING FIRE

January 27, 2026
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the Regular Meeting to order at 1700 hours with Commissioners Vadino, Burrus 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 GATES RECOGNITION

Executive Director Ganem presented a plaque to Former Commissioner Gates thanking him for everything that he has done for Federal Way Fire Department, South King Fire and the communities that we serve for the past 24 years as a Commissioner. Executive Director Ganem noted that it has been a privilege to work with you the past 24 years. During this time, you have served and guided us through many changes and challenges and you are leaving South King Fire better than you found it. Executive Director Ganem added that he has so many positive memories, and a few not so positive. Especially the times you pointed out our mistakes on record, but that's okay! You were just doing your job. That's how we grow and learn together. A leader is defined as an experienced and trusted advisor, someone who is willing to share their knowledge and experience to help others. Someone who is reliable and provides wise counsel and guidance. Someone who is hard to find, difficult to part with and impossible to forget. Commissioner Gates, you fall into these categories. You are a leader and we will miss all these things about you. Executive Director Ganem read the plaque into record. Commissioner Gates then said a few words.

SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONER MONROE – POSITION 1

Finance Specialist Matt Rinehardt performed the Oath of Office for Commissioner Elect Martese Monroe for Position 1. Commissioner Monroe stated that she is really excited to be here and start this new opportunity. She then introduced her family that was in attendance for the swearing in.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve the December 23, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 5, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Burrus moved to approve both. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Fuller welcomed Chief Woodey and added that he has taken him to several meetings at the Chamber of Commerce, Volunteer Reception of King County Council Member Pete Von Reichbauer and the Good Eggs which is hosted by King County Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer. Commissioner Fuller was impressed with Chief Woodey's enthusiasm and the number of people that he already knows in the Federal Way Community. Unfortunately, we are missing the Recruit Graduation tonight as it is held at the same time as this meeting. Commissioner Fuller was impressed with the Fire Prevention Report and all of the violations and inspections that they are performing. They are seeking and finding multiple violations, and they are keeping our communities safer.

Commissioner Burrus welcomed Chief Woodey and Commissioner Monroe, it's no secret that this department has had a lot of challenges in the last few years, but he honestly believes that we have turned the corner.

Commissioner Vadino noted that everything that she could say has already been said and she welcomed Chief Woodey and Commissioner Monroe.

Commissioner Monroe's comment was not audible.

Commissioner Baruso welcomed Chief Woodey and Commissioner Monroe. He agreed with Commissioner Burrus that the department is turning the corner.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR FOR 2026

Commissioner Baruso requested nominations for the Board Chair position for 2026. Commissioner Burrus proposed that we keep everything as is. Commissioner Baruso asked are you making a motion to keep everyone in their current position. Commissioner Baruso requested clarification, is that for the Board Chair and Vice Chair positions? Commissioner Burrus noted yes for both positions. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed. Commissioner Baruso thanked the Board for having confidence in him. Commissioner Vadino thanked the Board for having confidence in her and 2026 is going to be a great year, we have some fun projects going on.

PUBLIC COMEMNTS

There were no Public Comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Vadino reported that the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee met. The report is in your packet.

BENEFIT CHARGE REVIEW BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 52.18.070

Commissioner Baruso read into record – In accordance with RCW 52.18.070, the Board of Fire Commissioners hereby convenes a Benefit-Charge Review Board to serve for at least a two-week period. This board, comprising of Executive Director Ganem, Fire Marshal Nichols and Finance Manager Barrett will review written petitions from District property owners who believe their benefit charges should be reduced. The Review Board will make recommendations to the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding adjustments, if any, to ensure charges are true, fair and just. The deadline for submitting petitions is January 31, 2026, at 4:30 pm. The Board will reconvene on February 17, 2026, at 5:00 pm to discuss the Review Board's findings and recommendations. Petition forms may be located on our website: southkingfire.com/325/2025-FBC-Petition. Petitions should be submitted to the Finance Department at fbc@southkingfire.org

MOU – SPECIAL CERTIFICATION AND INCENTIVE PAY – ASE/EVT CERT/TEST

Executive Director Ganem noted that this MOU was discussed with the Board several times last year; it was a topic at two (2) different JLM Meetings. We discovered the need to include language in the CBA that covers Mechanics when their certifications lapse. There can be scheduling challenges as the re-certifications are only available during specific timeframes and it can be difficult to get into the classes needed for recertification. This MOU will provide our mechanics with a little bit of grace period. This was ratified/approved by Local 2022 in December and we are bringing it before the Board

requesting approval. Commissioner Fuller made a Motion to approve the MOU. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Vadino. Motion passed.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

Chief Woodey thanked the Board and all the members of South King Fire. He believes that we are in a good position for 2026 and beyond. There are a lot of people in this room and virtually that have assisted in putting us in this good position. Chief Woodey thanked the Board for allowing him to be here and continue this upward trend. He highlighted a few things that have transpired since his staff report. He received a personal invitation from City of Federal Way Mayor Ferrell to attend the State of the City on February 19th so he will be attending that along with Executive Director Ganem and a few others. He also met with City of Des Moines City Manager Catherine Caffrey, which was great to meet her and talk about some collaborative ideas and there was discussion about Chief Woodey attending a Des Moines City Council Meeting to introduce himself to the City Council and kind of reinvigorate the fire department in Des Moines. Chief Woodey added that he has been doing some listening sessions with the crews, they have been very well received, there is lots of good energy and he is collecting a lot of good information. AC Michaels has been taking notes during the listening sessions and then they will see what the themes are to help with a shared vision for the organization moving forward. We have a meeting scheduled next week to meet with our Legislative Advocate – Lobbyist Anthony Hemstad.

Executive Director Ganem added that during the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee meeting we discussed the status of the Olympic Building and Resolution 673 which allows AC Suckoll to authorize change orders up to a certain threshold with a safeguard of 3% of the total price before the Board needs to provide additional approval. Executive Director Ganem added that they exceeded the threshold so they met with the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee, to get approval ahead of the Regular Commissioners meeting. We have created an internal process where the Budget Committee will get eyes on the Change Orders moving forward. The committee meetings will occur about the middle of the month so there will roughly be about two (2) weeks between the Regular Meeting and the Committee meeting. Since the threshold has been exceeded in a short amount of time. We currently have \$45,375.36 in Change Orders that we ask that the Board approves so we can move forward. This amount encompasses several different Change Orders for different amounts. Executive Director Ganem reports that we are at about \$150,000 over give or take what was approved by the Board for us to spend. Our concern is that we want to be transparent with the Board and we don't want to keep spending more than what was allocated for the project. We must be very mindful of our financial position and the other projects that are competing for the same funds. Chief Woodey added that there is always going to be some Change Orders and unforeseen costs come up. However, we have to be very mindful as a team and stay fiscally responsible with the public's money. Executive Director Ganem requested a Motion and a second to authorize the District to spend \$50,000 beyond what was discussed at the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee Meeting; this is a good check and balance for us to justify these changes and come before the Board to request approval of the additional funds.

Director Lee added that he and AC Suckoll are happy to answer any of your questions. The first floor has been framed, and they are about to begin hanging sheetrock. They are currently working on mechanical, electrical, rough in plumbing, then shortly thereafter they will begin working on the fire suppression system. There were a number of things that were not found on the original blueprints that we needed to correct, substantial completion of the project is scheduled for June 17th. Commissioner

Burrus made a motion to approve Change Orders up to \$50,000. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion passed.

JANUARY BUDGET

Executive Director Ganem noted that for the month of January we are currently .79% under budget. This year is going to be different than 2025 as we have filled most of the unfilled positions. We will need to be mindful and stay within our budgets.

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

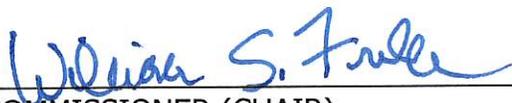
Mid-Month Utility Warrants (#121372-121392) totaling	\$62,957.76
Accounts Payable Warrants (#121393-121483) totaling	\$1,712,927.20
Payroll Direct Deposit Document - DD008801-009023 totaling	\$1,900,892.77
Payroll Electronic Federal Tax Payment totaling	\$438,652.54
Medical Claims as of January 20, 2026	<u>\$265,526.34</u>
TOTAL approval	\$4,380,956.61

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Baruso requested a Motion and a second to approve tonight's vouchers. Commissioner Vadino moved the months fee. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed.

Commissioner Baruso requested that Board Secretary Perry send out the current Commissioner Committee Assignments and he requested that the Board reviews them and sends an email letting us know which committees you would like to serve on for 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 1756 hours.

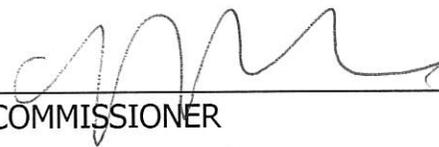


COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

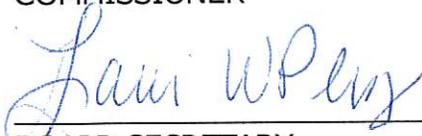
COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER


BOARD SECRETARY