SOUTH KING FIRE
January 25, 2024
Station 68 and Virtual

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Vadino.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gates asked for a Motion and second to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 21, 2023. Commissioner Gates asked that Commissioners Baruso and Burrus abstain since they were not Commissioners at that time, they officially took office on January 1, 2024.

Commissioner Vadino moved approval of the minutes from the Regular Meeting on December 21, 2023. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gates. Motion carried

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Vadino welcomed our new Commissioners, we're glad to have you.

Commissioner Burrus noted that he didn't have any comments other than, he is happy to be here.

Commissioner Baruso noted the he looks forward to working with everyone in 2024. He has always been involved in public service so one thing I want to say is I've talked about helping and serving the community. So that's why I want to remind everyone, especially with a new community coming in. You all know that light rail is coming in and we have to grow along with that. Our population will change and bring some other changes to our community. We have to make sure that South King is the paradigm of all fire departments in the region.

Commissioner Gates wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed our new Commissioners.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR FOR 2024

Commissioner Gates outlined the process, he will ask three (3) times for nominations. The nominations do not need a second after the nomination has been made. He will ask the nominee or nominees if they would like to take a minute and explain why they think they should be the Chair. After that he will ask the Board Secretary for a roll-call vote, if there is no majority, we will ask for a revote one or two more times. If there is still no majority after three votes Commissioner Gates will remain the Chair for today's meeting and until our next meeting at the end of February or if it's better we could hold a Special Meeting in the next week or so. If there is no Chair chosen tonight, then there will be no vote for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Gates, this is the first call for nominations for Board Chair. Commissioner Vadino nominated Commissioner Baruso. Commissioner Gates, this is the second call for nominations for

Board Chair. Commissioner Gates, this is the third call for nominations for Board Chair, there were no other nominations.

Commissioner Baruso thanked Commissioner Vadino for nominating him. He added that he would be more about guiding, collaboration, cooperation with the present commission where we need to go from here. I know that, like I said, we all know that in the fire service change and cultures are different and there are difficult questions. Sometimes our jobs as leaders are to mentor the other people to come and take our place. (Some of Commissioner Baruso's comments were inaudible)

Board Secretary did a roll-call vote;

Commissioner Vadino voted for Commissioner Baruso
Commissioner Burrus voted for Commissioner Baruso
Commissioner Gates voted for Commissioner Baruso
Commissioner Baruso voted for Commissioner Baruso

Commissioner Baruso was voted Board Chair 4-0

ELECTION OF BOARD VICE CHAIR FOR 2024

Commissioner Baruso noted as we did for the nominations for Chair, he will be asking three times for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Burrus nominated Commissioner Gates. Commissioner Gates noted that he will not accept the nomination for Vice Chair. He added that he believes that he would have been the best person to be Chair again with his experience etc. and that the important thing that the Board needs to look at is succession planning. Commissioner Burrus asked if it was permissible to encourage him to be Vice Chair. Commissioner Gates added no, it does nothing for mentoring and for succession planning. Commissioner Gates nominated Commissioner Vadino. Commissioner Baruso, this is the second call for nominations for Vice Chair. Commissioner Baruso noted that this is the third and final call for nominations for Vice Chair. Board Secretary did a roll-call vote;

Commissioner Vadino voted for Commissioner Vadino
Commissioner Burrus voted for Commissioner Vadino
Commissioner Gates voted for Commissioner Vadino
Commissioner Baruso voted for Commissioner Vadino

Commissioner Vadino was voted Vice Chair 4-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joel Barrett made a public comment.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Baruso noted there were no Committee Reports.

RESOLUTION 642 – SURPLUS APPARATUS

Chief Van Valkenburg read Resolution 642 into record. Commissioner Gates made a Motion to approve Resolution 642. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion carried unanimously.

PAPE EASEMENT – 320th PROPERTY

Chief Van Valkenburg reported that this is information for the Board. As we are in the process of selling the 320th Property and we have entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement which was signed in December. The earnest money has been deposited and the potential buyer is doing their due diligence. We were asked by Pape to grant an easement across the property however since we have entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement, we have told Pape that we can't grant them an easement at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM REPORT

Chief Van Valkenburg noted that all the Commissioners should have received their Staff Reports. He asked if the Commissioners had any questions of staff, in regard to their reports.

JANUARY BUDGET

Executive Director Ganem noted that he provided information in his Staff Report as to how we closed out for the year. We are currently .42% under budget. We have a meeting scheduled on February 12th with our Administrative Team to go over everything financial. We have a lot of things financial to talk about this year including our budget, revenue, the Maintenance and Operations Levy expiration, and the Fire Benefit Charge. Executive Director Ganem added that last year we had 185 employees, and this report reflects an increase in our staffing as it accounts for 200 employees (a milestone).

Finance Specialist Summer Shirey read into the record the list of expenditures for the month of January.

Mid-Month Utility Warrants (#118728-11842) totaling	$137,933.08
Accounts Payable Warrants (#118743-118836) totaling	$1,380,970.22
Payroll Direct Deposit Document for 200 indiv. DD003445-00644 totaling	$1,575,426.51
Payroll Electronic Federal Tax Payment totaling	$333,796.28
Medical Claims as of January 23, 2024	$353,926.02
TOTAL approval	$3,782,052.11

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

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

Commissioner Baruso had a question for Chief Van Valkenburg. Since you attended Legislative Day in Olympia, is there anything that you would like to speak about? Chief Van Valkenburg added that Tuesday was the WFC and WFCA Legislative Day at the State Capitol in Olympia. He and our Legislative Advocate Anthony Hemstad were able to touch base with a couple of our elected officials. They were also able to provide support at a couple of hearings, primarily the TIF housing or the TIF bill. This bill would make it a requirement that the junior taxing districts (of which we are one), would have a voice in the creation of a TIF by a City. We could have a vote on the creation. We would also be able to approve the TIF or not. This bill had another hearing on Wednesday. As of right now, this bill is still moving forward as we have not heard anything different. This is a very important bill to us as it gives us a voice during the creation of a TIF and we know that the Federal Way Tax Increment Finance (TIF) area will have a negative impact on our budget. The other house bill could have a direct impact on our levy. There is interpretation that our levy may be in jeopardy because of a supplanting clause that's in the legislation. This bill has been heard at the committee

level and is being advanced to the next level. This is a short 60-day session in Olympia. Chief Van Valkenburg added that he was pleased that he had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Orwall and sit in on a hearing on Mobile Integrated Health and the Community Crisis Teams and lend our support for legislation that would extend immunity and clarify insurance requirements for Community Response Teams. This is important to us as we continue to build our program and get ready to launch a program knowing that we have some protections under state law. This is going to be important as that program moves forward. Commissioner Baruso requested that the other Commissioners keep track of these types of things, there are some important fire bills being dropped. There are also a couple of fire things in the supplemental budget.

The meeting adjourned at 1726 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY

SOUTH KING FIRE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER