SOUTH KING FIRE
December 4, 2024
Station 68 and Virtual

Commissioner Baruso called the regular meeting to order at 1701 hours with Commissioners Gates, Vadino, Gates, Fuller and Burrus in attendance. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Executive Secretary Perry.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

Commissioner Vadino had no comments.

Commissioner Burrus had no comments.

Commissioner Fuller had no comments.

Commissioner Baruso had no comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1703 hours the Board convened 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 to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session.

Joining the Board in Executive Session will be Executive Director Ganem, Executive Secretary Perry and Legal Counsel.

At this time we will recess for 2 minutes to get everyone transferred into Executive Session. We anticipate Executive Session lasting for 60 minutes. Action may or may not be taken after Executive Session. At the end of Executive Session we will take a 2 minutes recess to get everyone transferred back over to the Regular Meeting.

At 1805 hours Executive Session was extended 45 minutes.

At 1850 hours Executive Session was extended 10 minutes.

At 1900 hours the Executive Session ended and the transition back to the Special Meeting.

At 1902 hours the Special Meeting reconvened. Commissioner Baruso announced that we are out of Executive Session.

Commissioner Vadino moved that Fire Chief Dave Van Valkenburg be placed on administrative leave with pay, effectively immediately, to conclude at 9:00 am, December 20th, subject to further notice. This administrative leave period is pending investigation into misconduct that is separate and distinct from the performance evaluation of the Fire Chief presently being conducted by Emergency Services Consulting International. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrus. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates moved that the Board appoint Kevin Crossen as Acting Fire Chief of South King Fire, working under the direction of Executive Director Ganem with said appointment to conclude at 9:00 am, December 20th, subject to further notice. Executive Director Joe Ganem will retain sole authority to execute contracts on behalf of South King Fire and administer discipline within the organization. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fuller. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1904 hours.

COMMISSIONER (CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER (VICE CHAIR)

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

BOARD SECRETARY