



**Board of Commissioners
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
February 20, 2024**

PRESENT

Chair Micah Rowland
Vice Chair Michael Fearnough
Commissioner Jim Kenny
Commissioner David Chan
Commissioner Mark Laurence
Commissioner Chris Teofilak
Commissioner Ed Widdis
Brier Liaison Paula Swisher
Mountlake Terrace Liaison Jesse Hoffman (Unable to attend)

STAFF

Fire Chief Thad Hovis
Assistant Chief Bob Eastman
Assistant Chief Jason Isotalo
Deputy Chief James Curtis
Chief Financial Officer Chris Bothwell
Human Resources Director David Cullen
Executive Assistant Melissa Blankenship

GUESTS

_Local 1828 President Pat Moore

7:00 PM

In person at Headquarters and Zoom Virtual Meeting ID 861 5293 4763

MEETING WAS AUDIO/VIDEO RECORDED

1. CALL TO ORDER (7:00 p.m.)

Chair Rowland called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (7:01 p.m.)

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (7:02 p.m.)

Motion

Ed Widdis

Motion to approve agenda as presented.

Second:

Michael Fearnough

Motion passed 7-0;

4. CONSENT AGENDA (7:04 p.m.)

Motion

Chris Teofilak

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.

Second:

Mark Laurence

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

- a. Claims Voucher totaling \$1,501,602.08

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (7:05 p.m.)

Motion

Mark Laurence

Motion to approve minutes as presented.

Second:

David Chan

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

- a. February 6, 2024 Regular Meeting
- b. February 13, 2024 Work Session

6. PUBLIC COMMENT Notice: All public comment are public records and may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter 42.56. (7:07 p.m.)

None.

7. FIRE CHIEF REPORT (7:16 p.m.)

Fire Chief Thad Hovis provided an update on the following:

- Station 22 Neighborhood Open house.
- Station 11 Scout Day.
- Support 7 Save the Date Reception and Auction April 13.
- New Hire Jordan Mohrenne Community Health Social Worker to support our Community Resource Programs.
- Basement Project at Headquarters has been completed we received a certificate of occupancy.
- New Stock Pierce Pumper had arrived and would be included into the fleet in about 30 days at Station 23.

8. UNION REPORT (7:21 p.m.)

Local 1828 President Pat Moore provided an update on the following:

- Members were attending meetings in Olympia with legislators.
- Union had conversations with Everett City Council members.

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES (7:26 p.m.)

a. Capital Facilities

None.

b. Finance and Human Resources - Commissioner David Chan

Chair David Chan reported that the committee discussed the vacation policy and Director Cullen would incorporate their recommendations in his presentation this evening to amend the vacation policy.

c. Intergovernmental - Commissioner Ed Widdis

Chair Ed Widdis reported that the next meeting was scheduled for March 7 but he had asked to re-schedule due to a conflict and that request was pending.

d. SNO911 - Commissioner Michael Fearnough

Sno911 Representative Fearnough stated that Sno911 met on February 15 at South County Fire Headquarters and discussed the following:

- 2023 year end budget actions.
- Surplus Radio equipment.
- Provided insurance coverage updates.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (7:31 p.m.)

a. 2024 Board Priorities - for Action - Chair Micah Rowland (PAGES 52-53)

Chair Rowland reminded the Board of the previously discussed Priorities for 2024 and requested further discussion from the Board.

Motion

Chris Teofilak

Motion to adopt the Board Priorities as amended.

Second:

Ed Widdis

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

Commissioner Kenny requested adding the retiree health insurance program.

Motion

Jim Kenny

Motion to amend the motion to adopt the priorities adding retiree health insurance program.

Second:

Mark Laurence

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

- b. Purchase of a Pierce Enforcer Heavy-Duty Rescue Truck - for Action - Deputy Chief James Curtis (PAGES 54-61)

Deputy Chief James Curtis requested Board approval to purchase a Heavy-Duty Rescue Truck. The purchase was included in the apparatus replacement schedule for 2025. Payments for the purchase were, however, not expected to be made until the 2027 budget cycle. Per SCF policy, Board approval was required for this item due to the value of the contract.

Motion

Jim Kenny

Motion to approve the purchase of (1) one Pierce Enforcer Heavy Duty Rescue Truck for \$1,445,491.

Second:

Chris Teofilak

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

- c. Amendment to SCF Policy Article 400.180.02 Vacation - for Action - Human Resources Director David Cullen (PAGES 62-68)

Human Resources David Cullen shared the vacation policy incongruence and stated that staff was requesting the following:

Amend SCF Policy Article 400.180.02 – Vacation by:

1. Amending the Maximum Hours of Carryover from a ratio of 1.5 times the annual accrual, to a ratio of 2.0 times the annual accrual to conform to the agreements with 1828 and 1828-S, and
2. Adding the proposed language: *“The Fire Chief or designee may approve carryover in excess of the annual maximum to either be cashed out on an hour for hour basis or taken within 3 months of the following year. Up to an additional 3 months may be approved in extenuating circumstances.”*

Motion

Jim Kenny

Motion to amend the SCF Vacation Policy Article 400.180.02 - Vacation by: 1. Amending the Maximum Hours of Carryover from a ratio of 1.5 times the annual accrual, to a ratio of 2.0 times the

annual accrual to conform to the agreements with 1828 and 1828-S, and 2. Adding the proposed language: "The Fire Chief or designee may approve carryover in excess of the annual maximum to either be cashed out on an hour for hour basis or taken within 3 months of the following year. Up to an additional 3 months may be approved in extenuating circumstances."

Second:

Mark Laurence

Motion passed unanimously 7-0;

11. NEW BUSINESS (8:15 p.m.)

- a. Meeting Disruption Guidelines for Discussion - Chair Micah Rowland/Chief Thad Hovis (PAGES 69-72)

Chair Rowland stated that the Board did not have any rules of engagement concerning meeting disruptions and wanted to bring the item back for discussion to generate a policy around what to do in those circumstances.

The Board discussed the room seating arrangement, bringing in a uniformed officer during the meetings, an emergency plan and security training.

Chair Rowland stated he would contact legal council to ask if we could further discuss this topic in executive session.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (8:45 p.m.)

Chair Rowland shared that first responders in Burnsville, Minnesota were shot and an EMT was killed in a domestic violence incident. Chair Rowland stated that the first responders were wearing bulletproof vests.

Assistant Chief Eastman shared that South County Fire had a strong relationship with the Burnsville department and to please keep them in your thoughts.

Commissioner Widdis stated that the Senate Bill to increase the Commissioner units of service passed out of executive session and would be sent to rules tomorrow.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (8:50 p.m.)

Chair Rowland called an executive session at 8:52 p.m. to Review the Performance of a Public Employee Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) for 20 minutes with no action expected at the conclusion.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes.

The executive session was extended by 20 minutes.

The executive session was extended by 12 minutes.

The executive session was extended for 20 minutes.
The executive session was extended for 2 minutes.
The executive session was extended for 5 minutes.
The executive session was extended for 10 minutes.

Motion

Micah Rowland

Motion to suspend the Board's 10:00 p.m.
curfew requirement.

Second:

Chris Teofilak

Motion passed 4-0;

- a. Review the Performance of a Public Employee Pursuant to RCW
42.30.110(1)(g)

14. ADJOURNMENT (10:00 p.m.)

The regular meeting was called back to order at 10:27 p.m. and without objection, Chair Rowland adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

15. AGENDA DISCLAIMER - Members of the public are advised that times listed on the agenda are approximate and that items on the agenda may be addressed sooner or later than the time specified.

Approved by:



Micah Rowland (Mar 6, 2024 19:30 PST)

Micah Rowland
Board Chair

Presented by:

Melissa Blankenship

Melissa Blankenship
Executive Assistant to the Board of
Commissioners

South County Fire strives to provide accessible opportunities for all members of the public. Please notify the Board Executive Assistant at 425-551-1251 or mblankenship@southsnofire.org at least 48 hours prior to any South County Fire meeting if any accommodations are needed.