A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF EAST PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE

April 15, 2025

A special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of East Pierce Fire & Rescue held on April 15, 2025, in-person at Headquarters (8601 Main St E, Bonney Lake) and via conference/video call through Zoom. Notice and link to join meeting was posted for public access. Chair Jon Napier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Present by roll call were Commissioners Cynthia Wernet, Pat McElligott, Kevin Garling, Edward Egan, Randy Kroum, Justin Evans, Fire Chief Parkinson, Deputy Chief Stabenfeldt, Deputy Chief Gilbert, and District Secretary Corina Byerley.

Audience: Finance Manager Michelle Hollon, Assistant Chief Will Poe, Assistant Chief Jeff Moore, Assistant Chief Bill Sandlian, and Assistant Chief Mike Westland.

The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the 2024 review, financial forecast and levy timeline, staffing forecast, strategic plan update, 2024 injury-leave summary, and legislative update.

Chief Parkinson introduced Command Staff to the Board with a brief description of areas of responsibilities.

2024 Stat and Metric Review: Deputy Chief Gilbert gave an overview of response volume and trends in 2024. Standard of Cover data was skewed in 2024 due to contracted program access that terminated prior to the end of the year. New data analyst at SS911 will improve data for 2025 to create more reliable reports.

Financial Forecast & Levy Timeline: Chief Parkinson gave a presentation regarding the financial outlook of the District including five-year forecasting of revenue and expenses. Variables to revenue projections include assessed valuation, Washington legislative changes, and changes in GEMT reimbursement. Variables to projected expenses include changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreement post 2027, fluctuations in the CPI affecting COLA (minor impact due to fixed COLA's), and new positions. Phase 2 facilities expense forecast was reviewed. Discussed timeline for levy lid lifts/renewals, the retirement forecast, and projected budget requests. Information only, no action taken.

Strategic Plan: Deputy Chief Stabenfeldt provided information on the Strategic Plan update for 2025. Discussion included first quarter progress and goals for remainder of the year. The District has Board representation at South Sound 911 and Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association to influence local standards and voice the needs of the District. Information only, no action taken.

Break: At 6:25 p.m. a five-minute break was taken.

2024 Injury-Leave Summary: Chief Parkinson gave a presentation recapping time loss trends due to employee injuries and family leave. Time loss decreased significantly in 2024. The L&I Firefighter Injury & Illness Reduction (FIIRE) program has aided in a 10% reduction in L&I rates and provides access grants for injury reduction. Information only, no action taken.

Legislative Update: Chief Parkinson gave a presentation discussing legislation regarding property taxes, WSRB, theft, and LEOFF retirement plan highlight the effects of each on the District. Information only, no action taken.

There being no further business to come before the Board. Commission McElligott moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garling. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Corina Byerley, District Secretary

Chair Jon Napier