



THURSTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS 1 & 11  
**WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE  
AUTHORITY**



10828 Littlerock Rd SW  
Olympia WA 98512  
360.352.1614

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January 13, 2025 – Governing Board Business Meeting at 18720 Sargent Rd SW, Rochester St. 1-1

**Call to Order/Attendance:** Commissioner Culleton called the meeting to order at 17:30.

**Commissioners:** Scott, Ricks, Merryman, Reed.

**Chief:** N. Drake

**Battalion Chief:** R. Stone, E. Smith, B. Christenson

**Captain:**

**Lieutenants:** I. Garza, B. Kaleiwahea (Zoom)

**Firefighters:** S. Ruiz, D. Miller (Zoom), J. Hoskison (Zoom),

**Volunteer:** Ainsworth

**Admin:** Admin Svcs Director/Secretary S. Hemminger, Admin Asst. L. Patraca, Recruit & Retention Coord. A. Reynoldson,

**Union Representative:** A. Trautman

**Guests:** Chris White (Zoom), Tyler Mason, Kathy Hangartner, Ben Elkins, Tim Benner, Calvin & Marybeth Dahl.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:** Old Hwy 99 and Beaver Creek Properties

**Public Comments/Presentations:** None

**Labor Management:** A. Trautman, 1 FF/EMT vacancy to be filled next month and 1 FF/EMT still out with injury.

**New Business:**

1. Recognized Commissioner Dahl's retirement, 26 years with WTRFA.
2. Expenditure Approval – Commissioner Scott moved to approve the total expenditure amount of \$633,224.80. Commissioner Merryman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
3. Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Scott moved to approve the December 9, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Ricks seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
4. Brady Tort Claim – Chief Drake presented legal counsel and insurance risk management's recommendation of denial based on no merit. Commissioner Scott moved to deny the Brady Tort Claim. Commissioner Ricks seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.
5. Facility Maintenance Vehicle – Commissioner Merryman had requested repair quotes for the facility maintenance vehicle, one with a standard bumper and one with a lift-gate. Chief Drake presented an estimate for body damage repair and a new rear bumper totaling \$8,000, and a separate estimate for just a lift-gate at \$5500.00. Discussion was had and Commissioner Merryman made a motion to obtain more quotes for the lift-gate installation and an update on the carryover from 2024 to 2025 fleet budget for the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Ricks holding a nay vote.

6. Conflict of Interest – Admin Services Director serving as Board Secretary – Commissioner Merryman has requested a legal opinion on the Admin Services Director serving as the Board Secretary. Chief Drake will reach out to legal counsel.
7. Property Damage Accountability Policy – Commissioner Merryman concerned with recent incidents involving apparatus and holding staff accountable. Commissioner Merryman feels there is an “oh well” culture when accidents happen. Commissioner Scott is concerned about gross negligence and bad actors. Chief Drake addressed the Commissioner’s concerns with reassurance that the RFA has policies in place, and he is holding those accountable when policy is not followed.

**Unfinished Business (action items):** Beaver Creek Property – revisit legal counsels recommended process in selling this property without the use of a realtor. Old Hwy 99 Property – request to reach out to realtor regarding sales commission and if he is available to attend the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Board Meeting to answer questions and go over the process.

**Unfinished Business (non-action items):** None

**Communications:** Chief Drake shared a letter he wrote to Thurston County Planning and Development regarding a proposed lithium-ion battery storage facility located at the corner of 183<sup>rd</sup> and Sargent Rd. The letter stated the RFA’s safety concerns for the citizens, fire risk, emergency response readiness and the impact on fire suppression infrastructure.

**Chief/Training/EMS/Shift Reports:** Refer to printed reports.

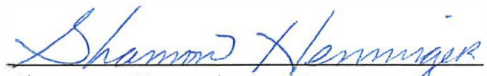
**Recruit & Retention Coordinator Update:** Refer to printed report.


**Commissioner Reports:** Commissioner Ricks passed out Medic One’s new bylaw changes. Commissioner Ricks shared that Thurston County Commissioner Gary Edwards has retired from the board and Sheriff Sanders presented the Sheriff’s Dept. budget during the meeting.

**Good of the Order:** Chief Drake reported on the progress of the new ESO report and how future reports will look different. He also reported that the Association made roughly \$3,000 during the Santa Breakfast and were able to support 15 families this year.

**Adjournment:** The board adjourned the meeting at 1908 hours.

Submitted for Board approval by:


  
Shannon Hemminger, Secretary

  
Tom Culleton, Board Member

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Robert Scott, Board Member

  
John Ricks, Board Member

  
Jeff Merryman, Board Member

  
Mike Reed, Board Member

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Board Member