THURSTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS 1 & 11

WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

10828 Littlerock Rd SW
Olympia WA 98512
360.352.1614

July 13, 2026 – Governing Board Business Meeting at 18720 Sargent Rd SW, Rochester, WA St. 1-1

Call to Order/Attendance: Commissioner Scott called the meeting to order at 17:30.
Commissioners: Ricks, Culleton, Merryman, White, Reed (zoom)
Chief: N. Drake
Battalion Chief: R. Stone
Captain:
Lieutenants: C. Lyon
Firefighters: R. Santee, R. Lohse, J. Hoskinson, W. Crabb
Volunteer: C. Blackburn, C. Delgado, K. Carlson, E. Sanchez
Admin: Admin Assistant/Secretary L. Patraca, Recruit & Retention Coord. A. Reynoldson
Union Representative: A. Trautman
Guests: Cassady and Miriah Bailey, Hatchet Man Tree Service
Guests Zoom: Linda Shea, M. Morales, J. Spiegelberg, E. Smith

Additions/Deletions to the Agenda: Commissioner Scott requested an Executive Session to be held at the end of the meeting.

Public Comments/Presentations: BC Stone presented a plaque to Cassady Bailey of the Hatchet Man Tree Service. This was presented after a serious situation took place in May where the Hatchet Man came in and assisted with a tree removal that was in a dangerous position.

Labor Management: A. Trautman reported there have been four negotiation meetings held with the District, things are moving forward; two more meetings have been scheduled. Trautman also noted Swede Day was a huge success.

New Business:
1. Expenditure Approval –Commissioner Ricks moved to approve the total expenditure amount of $723,426.97. Commissioner Merryman seconded the motion. Roll taken, motion carried 6-0.
2. Meeting Minutes – Commissioner Culleton moved to approve the June 8, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Ricks seconded the motion. Roll taken, motion carried 6-0.
3. M & O Levy – Chief Drake stated the M & O Levy is on the upcoming August 4th ballot. There have been two recent town halls held, one in Rochester and one in Scott Lake. There will be upcoming social media releases as well in regard to the levy.
4. Social Media Policy Inquiry – Commissioner Scott inquired about the social media policy and if there is reference to district/commissioner regulations on the stance of using public agency facilities or media for election activities. As per the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC), materials represented by the agency cannot be used. Chief Drake will look into the policy and determine if modifications need to be made.
5. ALS Contract Representation – Commissioner Merryman requested that when the time comes, he would like to be the districts representative at the ALS contract negotiations.

Unfinished Business (action items): None

Unfinished Business (non-action items): None

1. BESS – Chief Drake stated Convergent Energy & Power Battery Energy Storage (BESS) officially withdrew their permit application as of June 26, 2026 and the project is now closed.

Communications:

1. May 2026 TAP report provided in the Board Packet.
2. Budget Report to date was provided in the Board Packet.
3. Medic One Grant -. Chief Drake reported that the district has been approved for a Responder Safety Enhancement grant by Medic One. The grant will allow the district to purchase new ballistic plates and carriers. The grant covers 50% of the cost with the districts BLS funds covering the remaining cost.
4. Strategic Plan – Chief Drake presented an updated strategic plan noting that several of the strategic objectives are currently being worked on and will continue to be ongoing. Commissioner Scott requested a full presentation at the September meeting.

Department Reports:

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

Recruit & Retention Coordinator Update: Refer to printed report.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Ricks reported on Medic One.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXECUTIVE SESSION IS PURSUANT TO RCW 42.30.110 (C) TO CONSIDER THE MINIMUM PRICE AT WHICH REAL ESTATE WILL BE OFFERED FOR SALE OR LEASE WHEN PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE REGARDING SUCH CONSIDERATION WOULD CAUSE A LIKELIHOOD OF DECREASED PRICE. HOWEVER, FINAL ACTION SELLING OR LEASING PUBLIC PROPERTY SHALL BE TAKEN IN A MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE DURATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION IS SET AT 10 MINUTES BUT THIS MAY BE EXTENDED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER. ACTION MAY OR MAY NOT BE TAKEN AFTER THE BOARD RECONVENES INTO REGULAR SESSION, AND NO ACTION SHALL BE TAKEN IN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Executive Session Began: 1820
Executive Session Ended: 1830
No actions taken.

Good of the Order: Chief Drake will be out of the office for the next two weeks. BC Stone is aware and will be in charge during his absence.

Adjournment: The board adjourned the meeting at 1835 hours.

Submitted for Board approval by:

Shannon Hemminger, Secretary

Tom Culleton, Board Member

Robert Scott, Board Member

John Ricks, Board Member

Jeff Merryman, Board Member

Mike Reed, Board Member

Chris White, Board Member