

**NORTH KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Date: 08/10/2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Station 81 and Online via TEAMS

Meeting called to order by Chair Tate at 7:00 p.m. Present: Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Gregory, Commissioner Huntington, Chief LaGrandeur, AC Buchanan, AC Abrigo, DF Luther, DAS Patti, BC Murray, FF Bergstrom, and Vol. Curley.
<u>Topic</u>
Meeting Agenda: The Board reviewed the meeting agenda. The agenda was amended to add 'Payroll', Chief's Report, and to remove 'Quarterly Financial Report', and 'Old Business'. The agenda was approved as amended.
Employee Recognition: Chief LaGrandeur recognized Fleet Supervisor Aaron Sutherland and Mechanic Kevin Matthes for their outstanding performance in conducting pump testing for both North Kitsap Fire & Rescue and East Jefferson Fire Rescue (EJFR). Their exceptional work resulted in both departments successfully passing their pump testing for the second consecutive year. In recognition of their outstanding performance, Steve Towers presented Aaron and Kevin with a plaque commemorating their achievement.
Meeting Minutes: A review of the meeting minutes of July 27, 2026, Regular Board Meeting was conducted and approved as presented.
Payroll: The August Payroll of \$624,170.19 was presented to the board. The payroll was approved as presented.
Blanket Voucher Approval (BVA): The following batches were presented for approval: BVA Batch #8.1 for \$300,310.74, BVA Batch #8.2 for \$70,998.64, and BVA Batch #8.3 for \$271,854.93. Commissioner Pearson provided an overview of the expenses
Public Comment: Chair Tate called for public participation. There was none.
<u>New Business:</u> 2027 Ambulance Transport Rates: Chief LaGrandeur reviewed the proposed rate changes provided by Systems Design and recommended that the district proceed with the proposed increases. The Board requested information on the percentage increases implemented over the past three years and asked that this topic be revisited once that information has been provided. Citizen Concern Regarding PSCAA Regulations: Chief LaGrandeur shared the letter received with the Board and noted that a response has been requested. Commissioner Gregory requested that CSS White also be included in the communications and discussions related to the response.
<u>Chiefs Reports:</u>

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*Motion Moved / Seconded / Carried (See attached Motion Sheet)

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Chief LaGrandeur: The Mission, Vision, and Values project officially began, with the first meeting with Dr. Hicks held on July 29. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday. The first phase of the project involves meeting with employee groups to gather feedback and gain a better understanding of the organization from their perspective. Dr. Hicks provided very positive feedback and was impressed by the level of engagement and participation from personnel. A new Emergency Department Director has started at St. Michael Medical Center, and there has been a proposal to implement a nurse to assist with ambulance patients during peak hours. With the proposed changes and improvements to their processes, the effort appears promising and may help reduce waiting times. Regarding the radio project, there have been numerous issues with mobile radios in units throughout the county, affecting both law enforcement and fire agencies. SAB sent a letter to Harris outlining concerns with the radios, including operational issues and firefighter safety concerns. Harris has received the letter and has been sending team members from across the country to assist with troubleshooting and resolving the issues. The problems appear to vary from vehicle to vehicle. A new Executive Director has been hired at Kitsap 911 and is scheduled to begin on September 28.

Chief Buchanan: In July, the department responded to a total of 322 incidents. The total for 2026 so far is 2,163 which is up 0.19% from this time in 2025. Of these calls, 70% were EMS-related and 30% were non-EMS. We had a structure fire in our district for the month of July. Crews completed 127 patient transports in July. Personnel earned a total of 1,463.50 hours of overtime and comp time during the month of which 940 hours are reimbursable from wildland deployments. The month of July and into August was a busy month for brush fires across the state. We had nine of our members respond to eight different fires across the state as well as in Oregon.

Chief Abrigo: Station 81, 85, and 89 have passed their inspections with both the Fire Marshal and L&I. KPUD approved the fiber optic projects and stations 81, 85, and 89 are now all permitted. The St. 85 generator project is still in progress. The switch has arrived and we are hoping that the generator will arrive in the next month or two. We are hoping to have this project done by the end of the year. The parking lot re-seal and painting at stations 85 and 89 have been completed.

Public Comment: Chair Tate called for public participation. There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Tate announced that the Board will meet in an executive session pursuant to **RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)** to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. The executive session will be for 20 minutes and Chief LaGrandeur will join the session. Commissioner Tate stated that the Board will not be taking action following the adjournment.

Called to Order: 7:35 pm by Commissioner Tate

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Present: Commissioner Tate, Commissioner Stewart, Commissioner Pearson, Commissioner Huntington, Commissioner Gregory, and Chief LaGrandeur.

Adjourned: 7:55 p.m. by Commissioner Tate

Commissioner Tate resumed the regular meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Executive Session Action: No action taken.

Good of the Order:

Commissioner Pearson gave compliments to CSS White for her work on The Pulse as it was very well done.

Commissioner Gregory asked to be excused from the next meeting but that the Executive Session can move forward without her.

DF Luther asked for confirmation for those who will be attending the WFCA annual conference. Commissioner Huntington, Commissioner Tate, and Commissioner Gregory will be attending with Chief LaGrandeur.

There being no further business to conduct, **the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Signed by:

Chelsea Tate

Commissioner
-345FE0D1CC06414...

Signed by:

Wilson Stewart

Commissioner
-724ABD9FD83D480...

DocuSigned by:

Patrick Pearson

Commissioner
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John Huntington

Commissioner
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[Signature]

Commissioner
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Summer Luther

Attest
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**BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
ACTION ITEMS**

Topic	Motion	
Acceptance of the Agenda	Motion by Commissioner: Stewart	Motion to approve the agenda as amended.
	2 ND by Commissioner: Gregory	
	Carried/Vote	Y ☒ N ☐ *Vote:
Approval of the Minutes for 07/27/2026	Motion by Commissioner: Pearson	Motion to approve the minutes as presented.
	2 ND by Commissioner: Huntington	
	Carried/Vote	Y ☒ N ☐ *Vote:
Payroll: August payroll in the amount of \$624,170.19	Motion by Commissioner: Stewart	Motion to approve the payroll as presented.
	2 ND by Commissioner: Gregory	
	Carried/Vote	Y ☒ N ☐ *Vote:
Voucher Approval: BVA Batch 8.1 for \$300,310.74 BVA Batch 8.2 for \$70,998.64 BVA Batch 8.3 for \$271,854.93	Motion by Commissioner: Pearson	Motion to approve the BVAs as presented.
	2 ND by Commissioner: Stewart	
	Carried/Vote	Y ☒ N ☐ *Vote:
Adjourn Meeting	Motion by Commissioner: Huntington	Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.
	2 ND by Commissioner: Gregory	

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*Motion Moved / Seconded / Carried (See attached Motion Sheet)

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	Carried/Vote	Y ☒ N ☐	*Vote:
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