



Regular Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held on September 8, 2026, at the district's administrative office at 3801 East Farwell Road, Mead, Washington and via Zoom.

Chairman Brian Mather called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Members present were Chairman Brian Mather, Commissioner Greg Anderson, Commissioner Jim Bennett, District Secretary Allison Sargent, Fire Chief Matthew Vinci, Assistant Chief Nathan Jeffries, Assistant Chief Doug Bleeker, Assistant Chief Dan Cecil, and Division Chief Doug Strong.

Guests in Attendance: Dan Walsh, and Whit Spencer.

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Anderson moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS IS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Public Comments

No comments were received.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Anderson moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Anderson moved TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS LISTED ON THE VOUCHER APPROVAL DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 2026, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #116575 THROUGH #116623 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$181,339.60, ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,938.03, PLUS THE AUGUST 31, 2026, PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,192,022.14. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Chief Reports

Chief Strong gave an update on the new BC920 vehicle that went into service last week. The district recently rented a trailer for the Dozer which has been a much better fit for transporting. The district supports purchasing this trailer permanently and selling the old hauler "as is" under a surplus resolution. The purchase of a new hauler and to surplus the old hauler will both be presented at the next regular meeting for approval. All career stations have been installed with AT&T cell phone boosters.



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Chief Vinci gave incident details on the apartment fire that took place on Sunday, September 6th. This may have been the largest structure fire in the history of District 9. Having the Battalion Chief respond and establish command quickly was a significant advantage. Commissioner Anderson recognized Battalion Chief Turner on doing an exceptional job taking command of the incident.

Chief Vinci recently met with the FEMA team and their administrator Cam Hamilton to discuss the Spokane Complex Fires. Chief Vinci will collaborate with Chief Williams on lessons learned and identify where resources and funding can be directed for initial attack operations.

Chief Vinci and Chief Jeffries met last week with the USDA-FSA administrator to review fires across Eastern Washington and identify areas of support. Potential support options were discussed such as small business loans, and farm fencing funding. The department plans to request four new brush trucks through the congressional directed spending project where Senator Murray serves as the Vice Chair.

Educational literature is being distributed to all stations and will be added on the engines and ambulances for the upcoming Lid Lift and Bond. All shifts have participated in meetings to provide personnel with information, talking points, and answers to potential questions from the public.

Demo Day is just less than a month away and meetings are currently taking place once a week to discuss planning leading up to the event. The district's new Hands-Only CPR program will be launched during the event. There will also be a Commissioners and Local 2916 tent featuring educational items for the upcoming Lid Lift and Bond and information on the history of District 9.

Chief Jeffries discussed the FY2027 budget prep which will be presented in October. There will be two separate budget scenarios: one with the levy lid lift and one without.

The apparatus committee continues to meet, and the team aims to be prepared to purchase vehicles in November as soon as funding is secured. They will make site visits to evaluate different styles and manufacturers of brush trucks. A first draft of specifications has been received and is under review.

The district received a grant from Building Homes for Heroes for the O2X program. This is the second time the district has received this grant, which helps lower the annual cost.

In the month of August there were 325 transports. Which is slightly lower than July, possibly due to the evacuations. Feedback from local hospitals has been very positive towards our staff.



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Old Business

- a) None

New Business

- a) Commissioner Anderson moved TO APPROVE SOP 307 ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY CHIEF FOR SIGNATURES BY THE FIRE CHIEF AND BOARD CHAIR. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett and unanimously approved.

Executive Session

All members were removed from the meeting except for Chief Vinci, and Assistant Chief Jeffries.

Chairman Mather announced at 7:23 p.m. that the Board was going into a 15-minute executive session to review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased costs per RCW 42.30.110(1)(d).

At 7:38 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for an additional 15 minutes.

Chairman Mather called the meeting back to order at 7:53 p.m.

Chairman Mather announced at 7:53 p.m. that the Board was going into a 15-minute Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

Chairman Mather called the meeting back to order at 8:07 p.m.

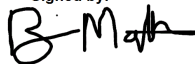
With no further business, Chairman Mather adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:

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Allison M. Sargent
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Signed by:

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Chairman Brian A. Mather