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Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held on October 13, 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, Fire Chief Matthew Vinci, District Secretary / Assistant Chief Nathan Jeffries, Assistant Chief Dan Cecil, Assistant Chief Doug Bleeker, and Division Chief Doug Strong.

Guests in Attendance: Randy Meck, Whitman Spencer, Shane Wyatt, Michael Miller, Jeff Higens, Dan Walsh, and Matt Von Steuben.

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda
Chief Vinci requested an addition to the agenda under new business as item 7f: Cooperative Purchasing Contract for Vehicle Exhaust Removal Systems.

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

Public Comments
No public comments were received.

Approval of the Consent Agenda
Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS LISTED ON THE VOUCHER APPROVAL DATED OCTOBER 13, 2026, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #116676 THROUGH #116722 IN THE AMOUNT OF $71,679.09, ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF $16,923.18, PLUS THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2026 PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF $1,083,054.76. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Fire Chief Report
Chief Bleeker reported on investigations, including an apartment fire at 10719 North Newport Hwy. that is still in progress and a wildfire at Valley Spring and Custer in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources. Public education activities were held at Highland Middle School and Brentwood Elementary. Two pre-fire plans were completed and distributed to line personnel.

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Chief Vinci reported on levy and bond education. Presentation materials were posted to the website, including refined scorecards developed by TCA Architecture from the Facilities Assessment Process. Outreach included media opportunities, radio interviews, phone calls, and Demo Day. Chief Vinci gave presentations to the Foothills Rural Association and several homeowners associations.

The apparatus committee met with a Pierce representative to finalize the specifications for engines. The goal is to have contracts ready for Board consideration if the lid lift passes.

Additional meetings are planned for brush truck specifications. Chief Vinci continues to collaborate with Senator Murray's office for supplemental funding sources.

Support Services personnel attended a class taught by Pierce at Kootenai County Fire and Rescue. Chief Strong is collaborating with regional partners to host a class locally specific to maintenance and repairs on aerial apparatus.

The latest class offering of the District 9 Fire Officer Development Program was held October 6 and 7 at Whitworth University. Paul Doughty, an attorney, Fire Chief, and former Union President presented.

Chief Vinci provided an update on the City of Spokane's transition to their own Dispatch center. The City has requested a delay to the planned January 1 fire dispatch transition to allow for a computer interface between the two separate CAD systems. The District's goal is to maintain service and automatic aid without interruption. Costs and allocation of one-tenth of the sales tax remain to be determined; the excise tax is not affected from this delay.

The District received recognition from the Shriners for its response to the Spokane Complex. In addition, the District was invited to participate in National First Responder Day with Spokane County Fire District 10 and 4, City of Spokane Fire, and the Spokane County Sheriff's Department. The event will take place on October 28 in New York City.

Chief Vinci provided an update on scheduling an after-action review of the Spokane Complex.

Chief Vinci and Assistant Chief Jeffries attended the first meeting of the regional wildfire committee organized by the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association; Chief Rohrbach is chair.

Chief Jeffries provided an update on reimbursement billing and collections from the Upriver, Little Baldy, and Spokane Complex Fires. Approximately $400,000 remains outstanding and will not be received until first quarter of 2027.

Chief Vinci provided an update on transport. Median wall times at the hospitals are 24 minutes. The District's third party billing company has billed over $2,000,000 with over $280,000 collected. The size of daily deposits continues to increase as commercial insurance carriers catch up on payments to the District. The first GEMT check is not expected until late 2027.

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It was noted that the District will make a budgeted and expected transfer to the general fund from reserve before November 1.

Old Business
None.

New Business

a) Commissioner Bennett moved TO RESCHEDULE THE OCTOBER 27, 2026, REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO NOVEMBER 3, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

b) The District was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for vehicle exhaust removal. The District had met with the architect to coordinate installation of exhaust removal at Stations 91, 92, 93, and 99. The fan at Station 99 was upsized so it could be used at a new Station 99 if the Bond passes. The District's required contribution toward the project is $19,583. The Chief recommended acceptance of the grant.

   Commissioner Bennett moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO ACCEPT THE AFG AWARD FOR $195,835. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

c) The District was among a small number of fire departments nationwide to receive both AFG and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER). The SAFER award will support six new positions.

   Commissioner Bennett moved TO AUTHORIZE THE FIRE CHIEF TO ACCEPT THE SAFER GRANT AWARD FOR $1,710,218. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

d) Per RCW 84.55.120 a public hearing must be set to discuss the District's 2027 revenue sources. Commissioner Bennett moved TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 9's 2027 REVENUE AND EXPENSE PLAN FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026, AT 6:15 P.M. AND DIRECT THE DISTRICT SECRETARY TO GIVE NOTICE OF SAID HEARING. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

e) Chief Vinci provided the Board a memorandum and drafts of two budgets for Fiscal Year 2027. The first budget was if the lid lift were approved. The second budget was if the lid lift were not approved.

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f) Legal counsel prepared an agreement for cooperative purchasing through Sourcewell for the installation of vehicle exhaust removal systems at Stations 91, 92, 93, and 99.

Commissioner Bennett moved TO ADOPT THE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT BETWEEN SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 9 AND THE NATIONAL JOINT PURCHASING ALLIANCE, SOURCEWELL CONTRACT NO. 120925-PLMT. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Executive Session
At 8:37 p.m., the Board entered executive session to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), not to exceed 15 minutes.

The Board, Chief Vinci, and Assistant Chief Jeffries remained, all others were excused.

At 8:52 p.m., Chairman Mather extended the executive session by 15 minutes.

At 9:00 p.m., Chairman Mather called the meeting back to order and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan P. Jeffries
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Signed by:
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Chairman Brian A. Mather