



Regular Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2026

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Spokane County Fire District 9 was held on August 25, 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, and Division Chief Doug Strong.

Guests in Attendance: Dan Walsh, Jeff Higans, Randy Meck, and Mike Miller.

All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda

Chief Vinci added two executive sessions to the agenda, 15 minutes for RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) and 15 minutes for RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

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

Public Comments

No comments were received.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 28, AS PRESENTED. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 7 AND AUGUST 19, 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 AUGUST 11, 2026, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #116494 THROUGH #116522 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,947.60, ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$33,640.57, PLUS THE JULY 31, 2026, PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,007,739.75. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.



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Commissioner Bennett moved TO APPROVE THE BILLS AS LISTED ON THE VOUCHER APPROVAL DATED AUGUST 25, 2026, BEGINNING WITH WARRANT #116527 THROUGH #116565 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,185.47, ALSO TO CERTIFY THE DIRECT PAY TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$64,581.24, PLUS THE AUGUST 14, 2026, PAYROLL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$798,615.83. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Chief Reports

Chief Bleeker discussed the Prevention Department letting the Board know they completed 58 fire inspections in the month of July. He also discussed new construction, fire investigations, and pre fire plans.

Captain Higen discussed the current mitigation project he is working on with Fire District 4, the Gleneden Hazardous Fuel Treatment Project. District 9 was approached to coordinate on a joint grant opportunity. The goal is to reduce fuel loads to lower potential fire behavior, improving protection for nearby homes. If this grant is awarded, the project will begin in late fall or early spring.

Chief Vinci let the Board know the highway dedication ceremony for Lieutenant Traber is scheduled for tomorrow, August 26th. A promotional ceremony for 13 promotions is scheduled for Friday, August 28th, starting at 9:00 a.m. at Whitworth University. With the retirement of Assistant Chief Bleeker approaching, the district completed the job description and operation responsibilities to post the job opening. The district is hiring a third-party recruiting firm to handle the marketing, application collections, and initial screenings. Interviews will take place with internal personnel. The job will be posted starting September 1st and stay open for up to 60 days. The PR committee recently met to discuss the education campaign for our upcoming lid lift and bond. The apparatus Committee met today to discuss specifications for new engines and brush trucks while also being presented with three virtual presentations from outside vendors.

The district has transitioned into the active fire recovery and rebuilding phase. The district website has been updated to deliver information and resources to residents. An After-Action Review is being discussed.

There has been a total of 348 transports with District 9 since July 1st, 2026.

Old Business

- a) None

New Business

- a) Commissioner Bennett provided an update on the Federal Firewise Program. He also recently met with a US Forest Service & California Liaison to discuss federal funding that is available.



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- b) Commissioner Bennett moved TO AUTHORIZE THE ATTENDANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND FIRE CHIEFS AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION IN SPOKANE FROM OCTOBER 21-24, 2026, AND TO PAY ASSOCIATED EXPENSES. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously approved.

Executive Session

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

Chairman Mather announced at 7:35 p.m. that the Board was going into a 15-minute executive session to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

At 7:50 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for an additional 30 minutes.

Chairman Mather called the meeting back to order at 8:14 p.m.

Chairman Mather announced at 8:14 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 8:23 p.m.

With no further business, Chairman Mather adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed by:

Allison Sargent

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Allison M. Sargent
District Secretary

APPROVED:

Signed by:

B. Mather

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Chairman Brian A. Mather