

Chief  
James R. Bixler

Assistant Chief  
Jay Wiggins



Commissioners:

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## MINUTES OF JULY 3, 2023 REGULAR BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The regular meeting of the Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 27 Board of Fire Commissioners was held at 12207 Lake Josephine Blvd., Anderson Island, Washington. Board Chair Colleen M. Adler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner David Albertson, Commissioner Gordon S. Babo, Chief James R. Bixler, Assistant Chief (A/C) Jay Wiggins, and Administrative Assistant (A/A) Elizabeth Vickstein attended. Also in attendance: Capt. Arron Reynolds, Capt. Jeff Hayes, and FF Aidan Bibby.

### READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 20, 2023 Regular Board Meeting were presented; corrections identified by Commissioner Adler have been completed. Commissioner Albertson made a motion to accept the amended minutes. Commissioner Babo seconded. Motion passed.

### REPORTS OF OFFICERS & BOARDS

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

No correspondence.

#### REVIEW OF RESOLUTION

Resolution #2023-30 Payroll & Expense vouchers #27230337 – #27230358 in the amount of \$24,148.20 was available for review and discussion. After review and discussion, Commissioner Babo made a motion to approve. Commissioner Albertson seconded. Motion passed.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT

4<sup>th</sup> of July: Chief Bixler shared that the holiday weekend has been uneventful thus far. The District will establish a presence at Villa Beach Road on the evening of July 4 to maintain safety during community fireworks displays.

High-Angle Rescue: Chief reported that a post-incident administrative meeting was held to review a high-angle rescue that occurred on June 26. A concise and factual narrative was established to be shared across all social media and on the District website. Commendation letters will be written for the agencies and citizens involved. The District will be putting together an Outstanding Citizen Award for the community member who took a lead role in the rescue. The award will be presented in the near future, with additional recognition to be given at the annual end-of-year firefighter awards banquet.

Levy Lid Lift: Informational mailers regarding the Levy Lid Lift will be going out shortly to all Anderson Island households with registered voters.

Trail Rescue Wheel: Chief Bixler presented new rescue equipment to the Board. The “Big Wheel” trail rescue wheel was funded jointly through the Anderson Island Firefighters Association and the Anderson Island Parks District to assist in all-terrain rescue. The new equipment was available for the community to view at this year’s Anderson Island Salmon and Rib Bake.

**TRAINING OFFICER REPORT**

A/C Wiggins reported that personnel will be training on use of the “Big Wheel” before placing it in service. Practical and written tests for the EMT class have been completed. NREMT (National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians) tests are being scheduled by the students. A/C Wiggins is hopeful to have six active EMTs at the end of testing. Norma Pancake, EMS Director for Pierce County and EMT class instructor provided 4 new AED models that were supplied through COVID funds. New pads need to be purchased but those new AEDs are now in service. They will be placed on the District’s fire and EMS apparatus.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Capital Building Project: No update.

Insurance Review: Chief Bixler reported that we received the quote from Nicholson & Associates Insurance. Our current budget line item sits at \$34,000.000 for liability insurance. Nicholson’s quote was \$41,098.00. As previously discussed, Enduris Insurance costs will rise an additional 10% but remain comparable. The Chief related that he is largely satisfied with the service provided by Enduris during our contract. His recommendation is to stay with Enduris, though he is appreciative of the fact that due diligence was exercised in the decision. The commissioners were in agreement.

Radio Communications: Chief shared that he received an email from South Sound 911 confirming a new presentation date to coincide with the Board meeting on August 1. Executive Director Deborah Grady, Assistant Director Tim Hannah and Deputy Director of Operations Mark Mears plan to attend. Board Chair Adler inquired if the District would be providing a small informative session regarding the unique needs of the island. Chief Bixler agreed that a small tour for the South Sound 911 representatives would be beneficial.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Bixler introduced the possibility of changing internet service providers. He is currently investigating the use of Starlink in place of CenturyLink. It may be a higher cost, but Starlink service is provided through satellite instead of cell towers. Starlink’s satellite service is through North Sky Communications. It is Chief Bixler’s belief that during disasters, satellite service would be more reliable and therefore beneficial to the District. Currently, station phones may be affected if the power grid goes down. Board Chair Adler agreed that it is worth investigating the cost-benefit. Chief Bixler reported there is a \$2,500.00 initial outlay required to switch services. Commissioner Babo inquired if the District has cell phone boosters. A/C Wiggins confirmed that we do have that equipment available. Chief Bixler will request our IT computer support expert, George Berz speak to the Board regarding a possible change in service provider.

**Meeting Schedule**

Jul 18, 2023	3:00 PM
Aug 1, 2023	3:00 PM
Aug 15, 2023	3:00 PM
Sep 5, 2023	3:00 PM
Sep 19, 2023	3:00 PM
Oct 3, 2023	3:00 PM
Oct 17, 2023	3:00 PM
Nov 7, 2023	3:00 PM
Nov 21, 2023	3:00 PM
Dec 4, 2023	3:00 PM ~ <i>Monday</i>
Dec 19, 2023	3:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Colleen M. Adler**, Board Chair

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**David Albertson**, Commissioner

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**Gordon S. Babo**, Commissioner

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**James R. Bixler**, Secretary to the Board