

**KITTITAS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #2**  
**Ellensburg, Washington**

**Minutes of:** Commissioners' Board Meeting, Special Session  
**Meeting date:** November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
**Meeting time:** 10:00am  
**Meeting place:** 400 E. Mountain View, Station 29

The special meeting was publicized according to the requirements of Chapter 188, Laws of 2012. Each Board member was sent a written notice via e-mail; the Daily Record was notified via an e-mail, a notice was posted on KVFR's website, and the notice of special meeting was posted in the front window at 400 E. Mountain View on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Commissioner Ross Ogan, Pat Clerf, Jerry Pettit, Neill O'Neill. Commissioner Scott Ciraulo had an excused absence.

**Others in Attendance:** Chief DJ Goldsmith, DC Moen, FSM Danae Cramer, ASM Sydney McBride and numerous firefighters/members of the public.

**1. Call to Order:** Commissioner Ogan called the meeting to Order at 1000 hours and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Approval of Agenda:**

Commissioner Clerf made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Pettit seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

**3. Second Budget Workshop- Budget Review:**

**3.1 Revenue:**

- ASM McBride reported that we will be receiving back \$154,000 back from the GEMT program before end of 2025.

**3.2 Expenditures:**

- The actual hours in the OT workbook never made any sense to FSM Cramer and she found an error in the 2025 payroll workbook for each employee it was looking up the regular rate not the OT rate, we are seeing this year because we budgeted \$522,000 for 11,600 hours when \$779,000 would be the correct figure. \$186,000 of the OT is attributed to state mobilizations.
- Chief Goldsmith would also like to point out that we had 13 people out at one time which adds a lot of costs. Something that he would like to take a look at is we have always tried to maintain 3 paramedics on duty at all times but there were days when we had 9-10-11 people on and still had OT because we were trying to keep 3 paramedics. We will need to consider dropping our medic staffing level to 2 to reduce overtime as we move into 2026. Commissioner Clerf said he would like to talk about operational things at some time but not today, we will also want to look at call volume. Commissioner Ogan commented that he doesn't believe that shaving paramedic minimums is the correct way to save costs. We can talk about that further down the road. Chief Goldsmith responded by saying we will need to have that conversation including what the board sets as guidelines for NFPA standard 1720. We need to set realistic expectations for getting ALS on scene. It would be appropriate to look at why our OT costs are high and some of it has to do with the 12 weeks that people can be on leave for. Commissioner Pettit commented that leave time off is law.

- Commissioner Pettit then asked the Chief to report on the things that he was asked to work on after the last meeting. Chief Goldsmith said that he has been reviewing the plan for the SCBA's and they were bought for every seated position, leading to spares on the volunteer apparatus that could be moved to outfit the first two out medic units and both stations. Discussion occurred about the brackets also needed and the cost to do that would be only \$1,000 per medic unit. DC Moen found bracket that range \$30-\$200 in costs. Chief Goldsmith said we are not putting NY hooks on the medic units and followed up about the statement at the last meeting for it being law to have SCBA's in medic units. Chief Goldsmith said under 296-305-04001 it is not interpreted as law to have SCBA's on medic units. Another option that Chief Goldsmith suggested was to put water cans on the medic units, he shopped around on Amazon yesterday and found you can buy some for \$732 with brackets costing an additional \$200. Commissioner Ogan asked if you ran this by the volunteer officers, Chief Goldsmith said he has a meeting with them tomorrow night and will ask. Chief Goldsmith said that in the rural setting he wants to give the best opportunity to the team for rescue. Commissioner Pettit commented that he doesn't think that a water can will make a big difference on a vehicle fire. Commissioner Ogan would like to see buyoff from the volunteers. Discussion continued about the number of packs that volunteers actually need when they respond. DC Moen felt it was rare that all packs on a volunteer engine were used. Commissioner Pettit said he has seen it. Commissioner Pettit then commented that you have some direction from us to go the volunteers and everyone has to buck up to help with the budget. Commissioner Ogan would like to see a proposal baring you get buyoff from the volunteers for analytics through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Chief Goldsmith called this a trial period and DC Moen felt that wasn't enough time for a trial period. Commissioner Pettit and O'Neill still wanted a baseline by then.
- Discussion occurred about the PPE for the exterior only volunteers and grant opportunities. The intent is to go for an AFG grant. They don't need a full set of bunker gear but did like the ideal of having the product look uniform to the other PPE sets. The board asked for staff to continue to do an analysis of active volunteers. ASM commented that she met with the training division last week. Commissioner Ogan and O'Neill asked questions surrounding when we last put the volunteers in new gear. Captain DeHerrera responded 2007, helmets are also needed. It was discussed that the original budget request was for \$90,000 and DeHerrera would like to look into some different helmets and has worked under the direction of DC Elliott to keep career staff in gear under 10 years of age. Commissioner Ogan asked about different helmets for interior and exterior and the number of sets for bunker gear in the grant. Captain DeHerrera said he would look into it and he would like to see 4 replacement sets.
- Chief Goldsmith is working with Winco to see if he can get some donations for funding and other grant opportunities.

### **3.3 Purchase Requests- Items included in budget**

- The board discussed a budget request for hose and nozzles. They decided they cannot afford another set right now due to budgetary constraints and we can still operate with what we have, you just have to pump differently. Chief Goldsmith said he cannot disagree with the budget position.
- The Plymovent was discussed how we have some parts but we also have a grant that would bring the costs down to \$40,000.
- Wildland shelters will need to be purchased in 2026.

- Commissioner Pettit asked about the AC Recovery machine purchase. Commissioner Ogan commented that it's the way to pump out the AC machine so you don't lose expensive freon.
- Currently the Facilities Maintenance Technician and Mechanic are using personal tools. The board discussed that they need to purchase the tools so that doesn't have to happen anymore.

**3.4 Long-Term Savings Analysis:** Commissioner Pettit asked how the adjustments changed the bottom line, Dane said it went from \$1.4 million to \$1.2 million expenditures outpacing revenue.

**3.5 Reserve Analysis:** The board did not want to change anything with this fund.

**3.6 Budget Position:** Chief Goldsmith commented that he has spend a couple of hours looking at the budget and the position is actually scary, what also scares him is his operation costs and trying to balance operational readiness. What we have as a budget is a real conversation, he has looked at this budget and is trying to cut every cent but it is going to bleed. He was open with the officers that next year is going to be tight. We are looking at numbers and trying to capitalize what revenues we can. Commissioner Pettit commented that he would suggest that you try to do everything you can to minimize overtime, we have to figure out how to adjust hours and do this better. Don't spend anything unless you absolutely have to. Chief Goldsmith commented that as he briefed the board, he has cancelled drill for folks on OT for the rest of the year and all non emergency OT will be approved by DC Moen and himself. Discussion was brought up about recruit class and the OT needed for it. The training division does a good job of trying to manage OT. Chief Goldsmith brought up a suggestion that we could cut costs by not running a recruit academy this year. The commissioners all stated no, the recruit academy must continue. Commissioner Pettit would like to have the final product sent out before the public hearing to the board for them to consider as a potential adoption next week. Chief Goldsmith said we are going through a tough time but we need to keep rowing and blue skies are on the back end.

**4. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Neil O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Clerf seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

  
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Board Chair

  
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District Secretary

