GIG HARBOR FIRE & MEDIC ONE

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Minutes
Date: October 13, 2026

Chairman Entze called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
Present: Commissioners Entze, Urvina, Nelson, Hayden and Fleming; Fire Chief D. Doan; Deputy Chiefs P. Oldenburg, N. Langlow, T. Wescott, J. Johnson; Division Chief S. Peterson, IS Manager T. Wagenmann, Technology & Communications Specialist M. Herzog, Finance Director K. Hackmeister, HR Manager J. Grunder, and EA L. Medved.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioners Nelson and Urvina moved and seconded approval of the agenda. With no further discussion, the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMISSIONER ABSENCE

COMMUNICATIONS

MINUTES AND VOUCHERS

Commissioners Hayden and Fleming moved and seconded approval of the 9/22/2026 meeting minutes. With no further discussion, the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioners Nelson and Fleming moved and seconded approval of payable checks #4330 – 4373, 4384 – 4457, 4470 – 4499, payroll checks #4374 – 4383, 4458 – 4469, EFT's and ACH payroll transfers, as outlined in the agenda for a total consideration of $4,015,385.22. With no further discussion, the MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

LOCAL 3390 REPORTS

CHIEFS REPORTS

FC Doan reported:

- Introduced Eric Tuott, incoming Deputy Chief of Admin and Finance. Eric officially starts in January and is assisting with the transition now ahead of DC Oldenburg's departure. DC Oldenburg's last day is December 11; more information to come.
- An arbitrator has been selected. Both attorneys are coordinating with the arbitrator to schedule dates.
- FC Doan will be on vacation for the next two weeks.

DC Langlow reported:

- Deployment season is winding down. DC Dumas and FF/PM Dan Cox are currently deployed in Oregon; their deployment was extended at their request, and they are expected back within 7 to 8 days.
- The training center is operational and has been hosting both internal and external events.

DC Oldenburg reported:

- Final interview for the Logistics AA is scheduled for tomorrow, with a possible job offer by end of day.
- Facilities position: down to seven finalists; interviews scheduled for the last week of the month.
- Fleet mechanic: the candidate declined the conditional offer, and the position will be reopened.
- The bond sale is scheduled for next week.

DC Wescott reported:

- The Prevention team is attending a conference in Chelan this week.
- Recent community events include the scarecrow festival and fall prevention event at the YMCA.
- 02X training is next week. The instructors agreed to include neighboring agencies, and Tacoma Fire and West Pierce Fire & Rescue are sending personnel.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Entze acknowledged Chief Doan's report that an arbitrator has been selected for interest arbitration.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The August 2026 financial report was presented.

2022 CAPITAL BOND PROJECTS UPDATE

- DC Johnson gave a presentation on the bond sale and project timeline.
- The District sold $50M in bonds in 2022, and the remaining $30M will be sold next week.
- Bond requirements call for 85% of proceeds to be spent within 36 months.
- To meet this requirement, Station 54 was added to the project schedule, and Stations 58 and 59 will be completed at the same time. Start dates may be staggered by a few months but work on all projects will run concurrently.
- Station 51
    - Decking in the apparatus bay is nearly complete. Decking has started on the second floor, walls are expected to be up this week, and work is progressing quickly.
    - Concrete pours in the apparatus bay are planned for next week.

- DC Johnson invited Commissioners to schedule a site walkthrough with him.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

A. Radio Presentation FC Doan

- Chief Doan gave a presentation on the Pierce County 700 MHz radio system agreement and billing, followed by extended Board discussion and questions.
- Chief Doan invited Brent Vankeulen, Strategic Advisor for the Western Fire Chiefs Association (WFCA), to discuss his recommendation of developing a technology roadmap focused on strategic investment while minimizing near-term spending on legacy technology.
- Commissioner Nelson stated he will abstain from votes involving payments to Pierce County, as it is his employer. He noted Pierce County is charging GHFMO 2.5 times what other entities pay and suggested exploring a partnership with the City of Gig Harbor. He requested an analysis of infrastructure costs and potential savings compared to remaining at the current rate.
- DC Oldenburg noted emerging technologies, such as low orbit satellites, and agreed the District should evaluate fixed versus mobile infrastructure options with Brent's group.
- Arel Solei, Director of Pierce County DEM, addressed the Board regarding system funding, rate history, and the District's outstanding balance, and asked the Board to consider paying prior years in full.
    - New services, including ES Chat, Smart Connect, and roaming, are pending until all users are current on payments.
    - Six agencies are in arrears, with GHFMO representing about 80% of the outstanding balance. She asked the Board to consider paying prior years in full.
- The Board discussed the rate increase, cost comparisons with other users, alternative infrastructure options, and the current agreement. Chief Doan stated the agreement is not one the District wants to sign, and Director Solei offered to meet with him to discuss further.
- Board Direction
    - Chief Doan will work with the County to pay the 2026 invoice in full with a reservation of rights letter, negotiate a new contract and service level agreement, and request removal of the 1% late fee.
    - The Board is willing to pay the prior balance but wants a new contract and service level agreement in place and a funding source identified.
    - FC Doan will move forward with hiring Brent as a consultant.

- Commissioner Nelson thanked Director Solei for attending.

B. 2027 Budget Timeline K. Hackmeister

- Division budgets have been submitted. The preliminary review will be at the October 27 meeting, and the final draft and budget hearing will be on November 10.
- Budget approval is scheduled for November 24, which is Thanksgiving week. If there are concerns, approval could be moved to a special meeting held after the November 10 meeting.
- If approval remains on November 24, Commissioners will be asked to sign electronically before leaving the meeting.

C. New District Website T. Wagenmann & M. Herzog

- Travis reported that the previous website was outdated and needed accessibility improvements. WCAG standards ensure the site can be used by people who rely on screen readers or other languages.
- In February, staff researched options and selected four vendors for quotes and meetings. Streamline, part of CivicPlus, was selected in March.
- The project kicked off in April and ran through September 24. Travis recognized Melissa, who manages all social media, website, and content, for accomplishing a great deal with some AA support.
- Melissa walked the Board through the new site, including its features and improvements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner photos will be taken before the November 10 meeting. Leslie will send an email reminder with details.

SPECIAL INTERESTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:13 p.m., Chairman Entze announced a 15-minute Executive Session, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. No action will be taken. Will call back to order at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman Entze reconvened the meeting at 7:28 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Entze adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m. The next regular meeting will be 10/27/2026 at 5:00 p.m.

Kevin L Entze (Nov 18, 2026 12:56:01 PST)

Chairman/Commissioner

Joe Urvina (Nov 18, 2026 11:45:17 PST)

Commissioner

Commissioner

Matthew Fleming
Matthew Fleming (Nov 18, 2026 16:59:48 PST)

Commissioner

Phil Hayden
Phil Hayden (Nov 18, 2026 20:37:09 PST)

Commissioner

Dennis Doan
Dennis Doan (Nov 18, 2026 09:53:25 PST)

Attest: District Secretary