

Special Meeting Minutes
Spokane Regional Emergency Communications
December 22, 2020

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chief Bryan Collins called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. The following Board members were in attendance:

Board Members

Chief Bryan Collins (Chair) – Spokane Valley Fire Department
Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich (Vice Chair) – Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Chief Dave Ellis, Spokane Valley Police Department
Chief Brad Richmond – Airway Heights Police Department
Chief Randy Johnson – Spokane County Fire District 4
Chief Cody Rohrbach – Spokane County Fire District 3
Gerry Gemmill – Spokane County

Staff – via Zoom

Lori Markham, Executive Director
Kim Arredondo, Deputy Director
Tim Henry, Finance Manager
Brad Kane, Dispatch Operations Manager
Heather Wood, 911 Operations Manager
Patrick Erickson, Communication and Media Manager
Cherell Yates, Office Manager

Auxiliary Partners / Guests – via Zoom

Howard Johnson, SCFD 4
Laura McAloon, McAloon Law Offices
Ariane Schmidt, Spokane Regional Project Manager
Nadine Woodward, City of Spokane
Brian Schaeffer, City of Spokane
Damon Simmons, Liberty Lake Police Department
Tom Williams, City of Spokane
Darin Morgan, Liberty Lake Police Department
Jay Atwood, City of Spokane
Scott Simmons, City of Spokane
Brian Coddington, City of Spokane

2. Open / Public Comment

Speakers sign-in onsite and are allowed 3 minutes each to address the Board.

Nadine Woodward thanked the Board for their time and consideration. Nadine stated she appreciates the agreements over the last year and half and values the partnership and relationship, for her as well as the City of Spokane. She explained inroads have been made, and the on-going discussions and involvement of Local 29 in those discussions are signs of success. Nadine stated she will continue those discussions regardless of the decision made to today and hopes to preserve the relationship so SREC can remain part of those discussions as well. She emphasized how seriously she takes the on-going behavioral and personnel issues between City Fire and SREC dispatchers, and has met with Fire leadership and Local 29 to address those issues. She explained they too take the

issues seriously and if in the meantime something is needed to physically separate the entities, then the City is willing to move forward to make that happen. The City will do what needs to be done on their part to rectify that situation. She reiterated that no matter what the decision is today she will do her due diligence to continue discussions with City Council and Local 29. She stated it is her goal to get the City of Spokane to be a part of the Regional Emergency System. She furthered that it is best for the City and best for the constituents.

Brian Schaeffer agreed with the Mayor. He explained he has met with the Fire leadership team and that work group will be working closer with SREC and Lori Markham's team. He added they have already enjoyed a firm and robust level of collaboration with SREC and intend to improve that. He stated there will be the highest level of accountability with the work group and many of the processes that are out there; all designed to improve the system, not Spokane Fire, not SPD, not SREC, but the system. He continued that he believed everyone would agree, at least in his group, that the system is best lead and managed by SREC. Brian made a personal request and asked the Board to realize the impact of the citizen safety if the ILA is not extended. He would enjoy the opportunity to reengage with the Board. He added there is a good team in place now coming from other consolidated and mixed centers. The Fire group sees the future and where it is, and they would like to be a part of that.

3. Closed Meeting to Discuss Matters with Legal Counsel Related to Potential Litigation

As allowed by RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

Moved to closed session at 11:39, estimated 20 minutes, will reconvene at 12:00 pm and extend if necessary.

At 12:00 pm the Board estimated 10 more minutes.

At 12:10 pm the Board estimated 2 more minutes.

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:12 pm.

4. Discussion and Possible Action Item

Ozzie Knezovich stated the ILA has already been extend for 19 months now and there is no need for further discussion. He explained the City continues to use SREC as a labor pool, no effort has been made to correct the behavioral issues, and the City has been given plenty of notice and options in order to prepare for this. He does not think the Board should extend the ILA again. Bryan Collins asked what SREC's current staffing looks like regarding COVID and how many shifts has SREC covered for the City in the last month or so. Lori Markham answered the COVID numbers are improving and SREC has covered 226 hours between October and the requested time through December for the City. Kim Arredondo explained there are currently 3 employees out due to quarantine, but no positive COVID cases. Last month 16 employees were out and that month also included a good portion of the hours covered for the City. Ozzie Knezovich motioned to deny the request to extend the ILA with the City of Spokane for Dispatch Services and let it expire on February 1, 2021. Randy Johnson seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed. Bryan Collins stated he would work with Lori to draft a formal response to the City of Spokane.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Signatures:

DocuSigned by:

Chief Bryan Collins

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Board Member
Governing Board

DocuSigned by:

Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich

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Board Member
Governing Board