

Fire Commissioners' Meeting – Special BOCC Meeting

Fire District 6, 2123 Jackson Highway in Chehalis

August 21, 2023

6 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Brummer, Commissioner Pollock, Jenn Libby-Jones, Doyle Sanford, Lee Napier, Undersheriff Wes Rethwill, Nic Scott, representatives from area fire and law enforcement districts

Guest(s): Isabel Vander Stoep, Jared Wenzelburger

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Attendees arrived beginning at 6 p.m., and dinner started at 6:30 p.m. The Fire Commissioners' Meeting started at 7 p.m.

Fire Marshal Doyle Sanford said the county has moved to a full burn ban. He discussed changes regarding road standards.

Undersheriff Wes Rethwill discussed vacancies within the Sheriff's Office. He noted that Operations has openings for two road deputies and that Corrections has nine vacancies with three more likely.

Jenn Libby-Jones said the county has started an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) -funded engineering study regarding radio infrastructure needs. She said 911 is reviewing a potential change to its funding formula and that the Combined User Committee will review the matter Aug. 24. Jenn said the county will need to extend its interlocal agreement with user groups beyond the end of 2023 to fill the gap until new governance of 911 is established.

Randy Pennington discussed protections Seattle City Council has put in place for on-duty firefighters and EMT. The commissioners said they would discuss the creation of a similar ordinance for Lewis County the following week.

Jenn Libby-Jones discussed the two-tenths of 1 percent sales tax that will go before voters in November.

Commissioner Brummer noted that the county must remain neutral about the proposal but that the commissioners as individuals can actively support it.

Fire district personnel noted that the next Fire Commissioners' Meeting would take place Nov. 20 at Riverside Fire Authority.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.