

**CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026**

Co-Chair Barstow called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at the Fire District Administrative & Operations Center – 1015 39th Ave SE Suite #120 Puyallup, WA 98374 at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Commissioners Buttz, Caverly, Dannat, Estes, Gorder, Holm, McAfee, Mitchell, Palombi, Samuelsen, and Stringfellow, Chief Morrow, Director Robacker, Director Roberts, and EA McInnis, Recorder. Co-Chair Homan arrived at 6:27 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The Board acknowledged the resignation of Commissioner Bellerive, effective March 11th, 2026, and expressed appreciation for his service to the District.
- B. Roll Call – Director Roberts
- C. Excused Absences: None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Co-Chair Barstow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Buttz moved and Commissioner Samuelsen seconded to approve the agenda, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (FOR ITEMS NOT SPECIFICALLY ON THE AGENDA)

None.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Board Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026
- B. Approval of:

Accounts Payable Warrants Numbered 63515 to 63572 totaling:	\$	893,089.34
GRAND TOTAL	\$	893,089.34

Commissioner Mitchell moved and Commissioner Gorder seconded to approve the Consent Agenda for Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Legislative Committee

Commissioner Samuelsen provided a legislative update on HB 2104 addressing aviation funding, HB 2451 addressing TIF legislation, and SB 5847 addressing workers' compensation claims. He also shared updates on HB 2540 which would extend certification renewal periods for EMTs with 10+ years of experience. The Legislative Committee will be stood down at this time.

B. Finance/Audit Committee

Commissioner McAfee reported that she met virtually with auditors regarding the Graham Fire & Rescue 2024 audit. The audit was completed with no findings and is included in the meeting packet. Work on the 2025 financials wrap-up remains ongoing. Commissioner Samuelsen acknowledged Director Roberts for her efforts.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Policy 3.037 Commissioner Professional Development

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.037 Commissioner Professional Development for first reading.

Commissioner Palombi moved and Commissioner Samuelsen seconded to waive the second reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

During discussion, Commissioner McAfee requested a list of development opportunities for Commissioners, including any additional training or resources available.

Commissioner Mitchell moved and Commissioner Dannat seconded to adopt Board Policy 3.037 Commissioner Professional Development as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Board Policy 3.038 Commissioner Identification, Attire & Uniforms

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.037 Commissioner Identification, Attire & Uniforms for first reading.

During discussion, Commissioner Caverly proposed revising Section 2A to remove reference to Port Authority; Chief Morrow confirmed that Commissioners are not limited to Port Authority-branded items. Commissioner Estes suggested including language allowing items “as designated by the purchasing agent.” Commissioner Dannat inquired about acceptable pant options; Chief Morrow confirmed black pants, khaki pants, and dress jeans are acceptable.

Commissioner McAfee moved and Commissioner Mitchell seconded to waive the second reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner McAfee moved and Commissioner Dannat seconded to adopt Board Policy 3.038 Commissioner Identification, Attire & Uniforms as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

At 6:32 p.m. Commissioner Caverly requested to briefly step out of the meeting.

C. Board Policy 3.039 Commissioner Access, Visits & Interaction with Personnel

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.039 Commissioner Access, Visits & Interaction with Personnel for first reading.

Commissioner Mitchell moved and Co-Chair Homan seconded to waive the second

reading. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Caverly was absent during this motion.

Commissioner McAfee moved and Commissioner Samuelsen seconded to adopt Board Policy 3.039 Commissioner Access, Visits & Interaction with Personnel as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** Commissioner Caverly was absent during this motion.

Commissioner Caverly returned to the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

D. Resolution 26-03 Delegating Signing Authority
Chief Morrow presented Resolution 26-03, Delegating Signing Authority. He noted a 2016 resolution delegated signing authority to the Deputy Chief; however, since his hiring, the Fire Chief has served as the sole authorized signer.

The proposed resolution authorizes the Fire Chief to execute documents related to surplus property, with final approval retained by the Board. This process requires items to be brought before the Board prior to execution.

Commissioner McAfee moved, and Commissioner Buttz seconded to waive the second reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner McAfee moved, and Commissioner Palombi seconded to approve Resolution 26-03 Delegating Signing Authority, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. Resolution 26-04 Establishing Surplus Real Property and Authorizing the Sale
DC Berdan presented Resolution 26-04 Establishing Surplus Real Property and Authorizing the Sale, for first reading. This resolution authorizes the surplus and sale of the District's C Street property.

During discussion, Commissioner Estes inquired about the proceeds of the sale, which DC Berdan shared will be the proceeds less broker commission and applicable taxes and fees.

F. Resolution 26-05 Appointing the Executive Services Director as District Secretary
Chief Morrow presented Resolution 26-05 Appointing the Executive Services Director as District Secretary.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, and Commissioner Gorder seconded to waive 2nd reading. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Palombi moved, and Commissioner Buttz seconded to approve Resolution 26-05 Appointing the Executive Services Director as District Secretary, as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The swearing-in was performed by Co-Chair Barstow.

Chief Morrow thanked Director Robacker for her previous role, balancing the work of the District Secretary along with being the Finance Director.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:46 p.m. the Board moved into Executive Session for 10 minutes until 6:56 p.m. under RCW 42.30.140(4)(a) to review the proposals made in negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement.

At 6:54 p.m. Co-Chair Barstow extended the meeting for 5 minutes until 7:01.

At 7:01 p.m. the Board returned to regular session.

10. CONSIDERATIONS & REQUESTS

A. Local 726 MOU Dispute Resolution (Firefighter Bargaining Unit)

Director Washo presented the Dispute Resolution MOU (Firefighter Bargaining Unit) for review and requested Board authorization for the Fire Chief to execute the agreement with IAFF Local 726 as presented.

Commissioner Palombi moved, and Commissioner Estes seconded, to approve the Local 726 MOU Dispute Resolution (Firefighter Bargaining Unit). **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Local 726 MOU Dispute Resolution (Chiefs Bargaining Unit)

Director Washo presented the Dispute Resolution MOU (Chiefs Bargaining Unit) for review and requested Board authorization for the Fire Chief to execute the agreement with IAFF Local 726 as presented.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, and Commissioner McAfee seconded, to approve the Local 726 MOU Dispute Resolution (Chiefs Bargaining Unit). **MOTION CARRIED.**

C. Fire Benefit Charge Waiver

Director Robacker presented a request for a Fire Benefit Charge waiver.

During Discussion, Commissioner McAfee inquired why the FBC would be waived for a property located within the district boundary. Chief Morrow provided historical context regarding the request.

Co-Chair Homan moved, and Commissioner Dannat seconded to approve a Fire Benefit Charge waiver for parcel 0518012004 that waives \$453.42 in 2026, with no future charges being applied until on-site structures are modified or added. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. Board Policy 3.0310 Communications, Media Relations & Public Statements

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.0310 Communications, Media Relations & Public Statements for general input.

Co-Chair Homan moved, and Commissioner Mitchell seconded to waive the 1st reading and move to 2nd reading at the next meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. Board Policy 3.0311 Self-Evaluation & Governance Review

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.0311 Self-Evaluation and Governance Review for general input.

During discussion, Commissioner McAfee stated that the Board is expected to conduct a self-evaluation but expressed concern regarding a lack of clarity in the process, including whether members are evaluating one another. Chief Morrow explained that the policy incorporates elements from MRSC and existing Board policy and is intended to encourage an annual Board-level discussion on governance practices, including alignment, engagement, and financial oversight appropriate for a district of this size.

Co-Chair Homan stated support for utilizing a facilitator during the initial self-evaluation process.

Commissioner Caverly expressed opposition to moving forward at this time, citing a desire for more thorough review and concern about rushing the policy.

Commissioner Buttz suggested revisiting the policy after the first self-evaluation.

Commissioner Estes expressed support for involving legal counsel during the initial self-evaluation.

Commissioner Holm concurred with Commissioners McAfee and Caverly, emphasizing the importance of a detailed, page-by-page review and noting that waiving the two-meeting rule should be used judiciously.

Commissioner Mitchell moved, and Commissioner Gorder seconded to waive the 1st reading and move to 2nd reading at the next meeting. **MOTION CARRIED** (3 opposed).

F. Board Policy 3.0312 Commissioner Compensation

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.0312 Commissioner Compensation for discussion.

Commissioners discussed the need for clearer definitions of compensable activities, including internal and community events, and requested additional legal clarification. Budget considerations, statutory compensation limits, and the importance of outlining a clear process were also noted. Caution was raised regarding potential overlap with bargaining unit work.

By consensus, the Board directed the policy to a first reading at the April 8, 2026 Board Workshop.

G. Board Policy 3.0313 Emergency Governance & Continuity of Board Operations

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.0313 Emergency Governance & Continuity of Board Operations for discussion.

Commissioners confirmed the policy is new and discussed the designation of the most senior commissioner. Clarification was provided that seniority is based on past Board Chairs, followed by tenure. Direction was given to revise the language to reference "most

recent past Board Chairs.” General support for the policy was expressed. Commissioner McAfee moved, and Commissioner Mitchell seconded, to waive the first reading and advance the policy to second reading at the next meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

11. STAFF, FIRE CHIEF, and LOCAL REPORTS

- A. Finance Directorate/Director Robacker: Director Robacker reviewed the Finance Directorate Report.
- B. Business Services Directorate/DC Berdan: DC Berdan reviewed the Business Services Directorate Report.
- C. Executive Services Directorate/Director Roberts: Director Roberts reviewed the Executive Services Directorate Report.
- D. Fire Chief’s Report/Chief Morrow: Chief Morrow reviewed the Fire Chief’s Report.
- E. Local 726 Report: Not present

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Employee Recognition Letters
Co-Chair Barstow appreciated reading the Employee Recognition letters, and thanked staff for their continued great work.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Stringfellow – Commissioner Stringfellow thanked administration and Local 726 for resolving labor issues.

Commissioner Mitchell – Commissioner Mitchell noted it was a productive meeting and echoed appreciation for the resolution of labor issues.

Commissioner Dannat – Commissioner Dannat asked whether Commissioners pay for their own travel.

Commissioner Palombi – Commissioner Palombi shared he will be out of town in May. He also noted he recently started a nonprofit focused on peer support, utilizing his farm to support members, including bringing animals to fire stations. Chief Morrow requested the process be formalized for coordination.

Commissioner Samuelsen – Commissioner Samuelsen expressed appreciation to all and echoed Commissioner Stringfellow’s comments.

Commissioner Gorder – Commissioner Gorder concurred with previous comments.

Commissioner McAfee – Commissioner McAfee expressed appreciation for the dialogue and discussion. She raised questions regarding travel processes. She then thanked crews, thanked Sher for work on the audit, and noted appreciation that Tanya is recovering.

Co-Chair Homan – Co-Chair Homan reminded the Board that prepaid travel costs must be reimbursed if the event is not attended. He shared participation in an upcoming meeting with Central Kitsap regarding potential collaboration on a health and wellness satellite clinic. He also noted attendance at the Graham Business Association auction, including a community engagement activity involving fire engine rides.

Co-Chair Barstow – Co-Chair Barstow congratulated Sandi and thanked participants for their engagement in the meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Palombi moved and Commissioner Dannat seconded to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Russell Barstow

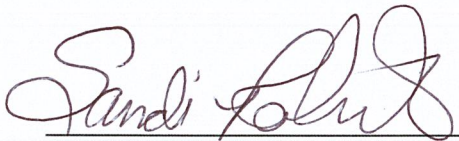
Russell Barstow (Apr 17, 2026 13:09:13 PDT)

Russell T. Barstow
Co-Chair of the Board

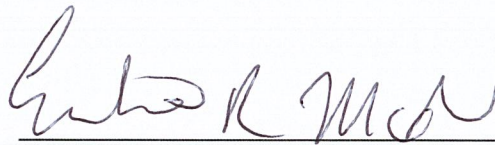
Robert Homan

Robert Homan (Apr 16, 2026 16:16:26 PDT)

Robert L. Homan
Co-Chair of the Board



Sandi Roberts
District Secretary



Erika McInnis
Recorder









2026-03-23 Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-04-17

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