

**CENTRAL PIERCE FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Special Board Meeting – Board Workshop  
April 8, 2026**

Chair Homan called the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at the Fairview Club at the Washington State Fairgrounds – 110 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Puyallup, WA 98371, at 9:00 a.m. Present were: Commissioners Buttz, Caverly, Dannat, Gorder, Holm, McAfee, Mitchell, Palombi, Samuelsen, and Stringfellow, Chief Morrow, Director Roberts, and CoS McInnis, Recorder. Co-Chair Barstow arrived at 9:38 a.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Roll Call was called by District Secretary Roberts.
- B. Excused Absences: Commissioner Estes

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Homan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Mitchell moved and Commissioner Gorder seconded to approve the agenda as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** Co-Chair Barstow was not present for this motion.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT (For items not specifically listed on the Agenda)**

None

**5. BOARD WORKSHOP**

A. Commissioner Group Exercise

DC Rosenlund conducted a group exercise with Commissioners who were present in-person. Co-Chair Barstow arrived to the workshop during this exercise.

B. Governance Presentation

Chief Morrow presented a governance presentation, which discussed the governance role of a Board.

C. BOD 3.0310 Commissioner Communications, Media Relations & Public Statements

Chief Morrow presented BOD 3.0310 Commissioner Communications, Media Relations & Public Statements for second reading. Co-Chair Barstow moved, and Commissioner McAfee seconded to approve Board Policy 3.0310. **MOTION CARRIED.**

D. BOD 3.0311 Board Self-Evaluation & Governance Review

Chief Morrow presented BOD 3.0311 Board Self-Evaluation & Governance Review for second reading. During discussion, Commissioner McAfee inquired about hiring a consultant for the first self-evaluation. Commissioner Mitchell moved, and Commissioner Gorder seconded to approve Board Policy 3.0311. **MOTION CARRIED.**

E. BOD 3.0312 Commissioner Compensation

Chief Morrow presented BOD 3.0312 Commissioner Compensation for first reading. During discussion, Commissioner McAfee asked for clarification on how to determine which events are compensable. Commissioner Dannat inquired about mileage reimbursement for regular Board Meetings, when Commissioners are already being paid for their time at the meeting. Commissioner Gorder explained that some Commissioners live further out and believes mileage should be reimbursable. Commissioner Caverly expressed support for the current reimbursement mechanism. Commissioner Holm provided historical context, noting that regular Board Meetings are considered compensable events and that Commissioners are limited by law to a total of 144 events per year. Co-Chair Homan supported mileage reimbursement and suggested consideration of limiting the number of Commissioners attending certain events due to cost.

Commissioner McAfee noted that the policy should also account for future growth and ensure equitable opportunities for Commissioners to attend events and request reimbursement. Commissioner Mitchell stated that the policy may need to be revisited if the Board size is reduced but expressed no concern with the budget as long as the policy is not abused.

Chief Morrow outlined proposed policy clarifications, including defining compensable events through Board approval, incorporating “civic engagement” activities, and maintaining mileage reimbursement. He also noted that co-chair responsibilities should remain compensable and emphasized the importance of clear policy language for audit purposes.

Additional discussion included adding language to clarify that scheduled meetings with the Fire Chief on Board-related matters are compensable, as well as guidance on reimbursement for time spent with IT. Commissioners generally agreed that reimbursement decisions should remain discretionary, with staff flagging any concerns for Board review rather than denying requests.

Following discussion, Commissioner McAfee moved and Commissioner Gorder seconded to waive the second reading and approve BOD 3.0312 as amended. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### F. BOD 3.0313 Emergency Governance and Continuity of Board Operations

Chief Morrow presented BOD 3.0313 Emergency Governance and Continuity of Board Operations for second reading. Commissioner Gorder stated that, in an emergency, any available Board member should respond. Commissioner Holm noted that seniority could guide leadership among those present.

Following discussion, Commissioner McAfee moved, and Commissioner Mitchell seconded to approve BOD 3.0313. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### G. BOD 3.65 – Facility Maintenance and Protection of Public Investment

Chief Morrow presented Board Policy 3.65 Facility Maintenance and Protection of Public Investment. Staff is looking for input ahead of aligning this policy with the Fund Management Policy. Commissioner Mitchell moved, and Co-Chair Barstow seconded to waive the second reading and approve Board Policy 3.65. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### H. BOD 3.37 Fund Management

Director Robacker presented BOD 3.37 Fund Management along with the 2026 Revenue & Expenditures and operating funds. The Board expressed general support for a “pay-as-you-go” approach and discussed contingencies.

Staff were directed to return on April 13 with bullet points and recommendations.

Chief Morrow requested that Item K be moved up on the agenda following a five-minute break. The Board reached consensus to approve the change.

#### K. iPad Training

IT Director Ralston presented the Commissioner iPad reference guide. Commissioners were assisted with iPad updates through lunch.

#### I. Financial Reporting Options

Following lunch, at 1:20 p.m., Director Robacker presented three versions of the 2026 Revenue & Expenditures Summary (Operating Funds). After discussion, the Board approved Option 3.

Director Robacker also presented the 2026 Revenue & Expenditures for the General and EMS Funds, the Cash Report, and the Budget GL (Budgets vs. Actuals). The Board directed staff to retain the Cash Report as presented.

#### J. BOD 3.06 – Advanced Travel Payment & Reimbursement

Chief Morrow presented BOD 3.06 Advanced Travel Payment & Reimbursement for Board input, with the intent to revise the policy for future review.

Commissioner McAfee expressed concern with advancing mileage, particularly when carpooling, and preferred a simplified travel packet limited to registration information and a sign-in sheet. Commissioner Homan recommended reimbursing mileage after travel and supported District payment of registration and lodging, while noting concerns with advancing per diem if travel does not occur. He also suggested removing the receipt attachment requirement.

Additional discussion included use of OneDrive for travel documents and updates to Sea-Tac parking and rideshare language.

Chief Morrow will return with a revised policy for Board review.

#### L. Election / Levy Schedule

Director Roberts provided an overview of election and levy cycles for Board consideration. The materials outlined upcoming election years for Positions 1–5, identified the Commissioners with expiring terms aligned to those cycles, and presented potential timelines for future funding measures.

#### M. Naming Convention

Chief Morrow requested final direction from the Board before initiating any process related to the District's naming convention. Staff indicated readiness to proceed and anticipates returning results by the end of the third quarter. The Board, by majority consensus, supported moving forward with hiring a consultant to facilitate the process.

#### N. Community Engagement

Chief Morrow provided an update on the Government Affairs position and thanked the Board for its support of placing the role within the Executive Services Directorate. Staff noted that additional community engagement, particularly with civic organizations, remains needed and requested Board direction on more consistent Commissioner involvement. The Board expressed support for increased involvement and requested that staff communicate opportunities for engagement as they arise. Staff will revise BOD 3.54 Memberships in Professional and Civic/Service Organizations based on that direction.

#### O. Regional Efforts Update

Chief Morrow provided an update on regionalization efforts with Riverside and South Pierce following recent coordination meetings between leadership.

Riverside: Continued participation in the PCF deployment plan, with increased joint training and collaboration on coverage planning for Puyallup Tribe FIFA watch parties.

South Pierce: Staff noted the current contract requires review by June 30, 2026, and outlined key assumptions for potential expanded engagement, including administrative alignment, no duplication of functions, continued pursuit of sustainable revenue, and maintaining separate governance. Financial and policy frameworks would generally align with existing Central Pierce models, with labor considerations addressed through appropriate processes. Staff indicated a desire to begin more formal discussions, with potential enhanced engagement as early as January 1, 2027.

During discussion, Commissioner Samuelsen inquired about labor support and was advised that it is generally favorable. Commissioner McAfee asked about South Pierce's long-term intent, noting an understanding that they may ultimately seek to transition services. Chief Morrow reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening internal staffing while leveraging volunteer resources to support operations.

#### P. SS911 / Radio System Update

Chief Morrow discussed SS911 funding related to the regional radio system, noting that approximately \$9 million had been reserved for a single-system initiative. An estimated \$900,000 may be available through either returned funds or reduced allocation. Staff requested Board direction on establishing an official position and drafting a letter to return the funds to the District. The Board reached consensus to have staff draft a letter for consideration at the April 13 meeting.

#### Q. Data Sets

Chief Morrow presented information on the data currently provided to the Board and expressed a desire to deliver more structured, directorate-level reporting to better support

governance. Staff anticipates needing 30–60 days to compile the necessary information before presenting it to the Board.

## 6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Palombi – Commissioner Palombi, attending remotely, noted he imagined the lunch was good and found the information very informative. He expressed appreciation for the quality of the discussion.

Commissioner McAfee – Commissioner McAfee shared that she gained more from the meeting than expected, noting the Board is coming together as a team and is on the right track. She expressed hope to maintain that momentum.

Commissioner Gorder – Commissioner Gorder concurred, stating he learned a lot and feels confident in his understanding and direction.

Commissioner Holm – Commissioner Holm expressed appreciation for the discussion and information shared.

Commissioner Mitchell – Commissioner Mitchell described the meeting as highly productive and recommended holding similar sessions once or twice per year, adding “onward and upward.”

Commissioner Stringfellow – Commissioner Stringfellow spoke in support of renewed community involvement, specifically suggesting reestablishing a citizen advisory group, noting its past value and diverse participation.

Commissioner Caverly – Commissioner Caverly expressed general support for the discussion and concepts presented.

Commissioner Dannat – Commissioner Dannat shared that a citizen advisory board was instrumental in her path to serving on the Board and voiced support for reestablishing the group, adding appreciation for the informative meeting. She also inquired about the possibility of hosting a CPR course during the fair.

Commissioner Samuelsen – Commissioner Samuelsen reflected on the importance of challenging traditions within the fire service, expressing appreciation for the group’s willingness to ask questions and think differently. He noted the meeting was very valuable.

Co-Chair Barstow – Co-Chair Barstow agreed with holding similar meetings twice per year, noting the group accomplished a great deal, built stronger relationships, and he supports the idea of a citizen advisory board.

Commissioner Buttz – Commissioner Buttz expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend and noted she will miss the group.

Co-Chair Homan – Co-Chair Homan thanked Adam Rosenlund and staff for their

contributions and indicated interest in organizing future sessions. He also proposed exploring the feasibility of offering free CPR courses to the community.

Commissioner McAfee – Commissioner McAfee additionally suggested considering free Safe Sitter courses for the community.

Commissioner Caverly – Commissioner Caverly noted that offering free CPR courses could potentially be integrated with civic organization engagement efforts.

Chief Morrow – Chief Morrow referenced the recent Station 40 push-in event as a meaningful milestone and encouraged viewing the Window Fall Initiative video, noting its value and importance.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

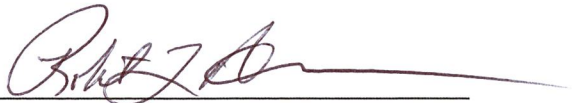
There being no further business, Commissioner Holm moved, and Commissioner Dannat seconded to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 P.M.

*Russ Barstow*

Russ Barstow (Apr 28, 2026 17:36:25 PDT)

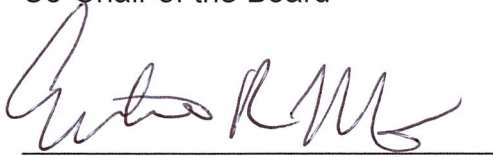
Russell T. Barstow  
Co-Chair of the Board



Robert L. Homan  
Co-Chair of the Board



Sandi Roberts  
District Secretary



Erika McInnis  
Recorder






# 2026-04-08 Special Board Meeting Minutes - Board Workshop

Final Audit Report

2026-04-29

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|-----------------|--|
| Created:        | 2026-04-28                                   |
| By:             | Katie Absher (kabsher@centralpiercefir.org)  |
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## "2026-04-08 Special Board Meeting Minutes - Board Workshop" History

-  Document created by Katie Absher (kabsher@centralpiercefir.org)  
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