

**PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Monday, December 6, 2021**

The meeting of the Public Works and Safety Standing Committee was held on Monday, December 6, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., via Zoom or on-site. The following members were present: Commissioner Bynum, Chairman; Commissioners Markley, Kane, and Philbrook, and Tom Groneman, BPU Board Member. Commissioner Ramirez was absent. Commissioner Johnson on behalf of Ramirez. The following officials were also in attendance: Emerick Cross and Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrators; Susan Alig, Senior Counsel; Ashley Hand, Director of Strategic Communication; Michael Callahan, Fire Chief; Monica Sparks and Allie Facio, UG Clerk's Office.

Chairman Bynum said before I call the meeting to order, I want to announce that due to COVID-19, some committee members, staff, and public are attending remotely by Zoom, and some on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute your phones when not speaking to avoid background noise.

During the meeting, please make sure you announce yourself by name and title when you speak so the public that's observing knows who's speaking. This is critical given our number of remote participants and it's also current guidance from our Kansas Attorney General.

The public is allowed to participate by Zoom or submit comments by email prior to our meeting and those comments are included in the record. The public can also indicate their intent to provide remote public comment by contacting the Clerk's Office by 5 p.m., the Thursday prior to the meeting. The public also has an opportunity to provide brief comments tonight, either by phone or Zoom or from the lobby of the Municipal Office Building.

Chairman Bynum called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken, and all members were present as shown above.

Chairman Bynum said, there's a revision to the agenda tonight. We removed Item 1, which would've been a resolution to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Zoll Medical for

defibrillators, reusable sensors, and case review subscriptions. So, that item has been removed and we have no minutes to approve this month.

Committee Agenda:

Item No. 1 – 211207... RESOLUTION: APPROVING PURCHASE OF MANUAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Synopsis: A resolution to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Zoll Medical Corporation for defibrillators, reusable sensors, and case review subscriptions, submitted by Michael Callahan, Fire Chief.

Action: **Removed from agenda per blue sheet.**

Item No. 2 – 211209...PRESENTATION: FIRE DEPARTMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE

Synopsis: A presentation and quarterly update regarding the Fire Department, submitted by Michael Callahan, Fire Chief. For information only.

Michael Callahan, Fire Chief, said, I won't take up too much of your time. I just wanted to touch on and highlight a few topics. So, as you know, the Local 64 and the UG have agreed to a paramedic incentivization, which will add 9% to the base pay rate for current firefighter paramedics. We also agreed to move the starting pay to Step 2, it's currently Step 3. So, that will be a starting pay raise for incoming paramedics and those paramedics who are currently employed who haven't yet reached Step 2. They'll be moved up to Step 2.

Also, current firefighter EMTs—those who are not paramedics—who are accepted into a certified accredited paramedic program will immediately receive the 9% differential pay while they take their courses at the college. KCKFD will pay for classes, books, labs, and fees as necessary and after the paramedic student passes the course and has licensure as a firefighter paramedic, they'll receive a \$10,000 stipend. Those were all agreed to, and signed off on, and ratified.

Further into that, negotiations have restarted with Local 64, and cautiously optimistic relative to progress. The Turner Fire Station groundbreaking is scheduled for the second quarter of 2022.

We have a new recruit class that begins on the 17th of January. COEs are currently being offered. I'm told this is the most diverse recruit class in KCKFD history; 56% of the recruits are

from historically underrepresented groups, that includes 31% female recruit COEs. The remainder of the 44% is obviously not from underrepresented groups, but this is a significant improvement. It's a lightyear improvement over some of our past recruiting efforts, so we're pretty proud of the efforts that our people put in on that.

The final thing is the training campus. Many of you have heard about the new training campus. Phase 1 of that is to be awarded December 8th. That is a \$500,000 grant. If you get into Phase 1, there's about 60 entities that will be accepted into Phase 1. Each of them will receive \$500,000 in furtherance of their initiatives that they proposed and that will be paired down to between 20 and 40 entities for Phase 2 of the project, which could be up to \$100M. That is all I have. I will answer any questions I can from anybody that'd like to ask.

Chairman Bynum asked, are there any questions for the Chief?

Commissioner Kane said, I would personally like to be kept in the loop on how that's going, because that won't just affect our guys. That will affect a whole vast number of other unions and I think this project is just short of fantastic. Matter of fact, it's fantastic.

Chief Callahan said, gone from just short of to actually fantastic, that's great.

Commissioner Kane said, absolutely. Anytime we can have something like this to promote our kids and bring into our community, it's exactly what we need.

Chairman Bynum said, the grant is exciting. I don't want to get ahead of myself, but I didn't realize that we would know something so quickly. So, that's really exciting. Who else has a comment or question for Chief Callahan?

Commissioner Philbrook said, although this is probably the last meeting I'm going to see you at, Chief—in this official capacity—I would like to as a citizen still be informed as to what's going on with this project if you don't mind. That can go to janephilbrook@gmail.com, Chief.

Chairman Bynum asked, anything else from anyone?

Chairman Bynum said, this was our only agenda item. Commissioner Markley, I think I'm getting the easier side of our agenda tonight. That does conclude Public Works and Safety.

Adjourn:

Chairman Bynum adjourned the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

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