

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Pierson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson (by telephone), Commissioner Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Fire Chief Reggie Romines, Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Tony Judd, Assistant Chief Tom Mason, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, Assistant Chief Todd Jensen, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake and District Secretary Kathy Hale.

Commissioner Pierson led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the audience.

OATH OF OFFICE:

District Secretary Hale administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Skaggs. Congratulations to Commissioner Skaggs!

Commissioner Skaggs recommended taking action on Resolution No. 745 at this point in the Agenda so the promotion ceremony could take place. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Resolution No. 745, Promotion of Steve Richards to Battalion Chief. District Secretary Hale read Resolution No. 745, Promotion of Steve Richards to Battalion Chief, into the record.

Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of Resolution No. 745, Promotion of Steve Richards to Battalion Chief, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

PROMOTION:

The Board and Chief Romines presented Steve Richards with his badge and his family pinned on his collar brass. Congratulation Battalion Chief Richards!

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 28, 2009, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Ken Sharp, Fire Chief Lakewood Fire, announcing the retirement of Greg Hull, Mike McGovern and Bob Bronoske
- Invitation to a Presentation of Paul Embleton's Work in Guatemala
- E-mail from Fire Chief, North Olympia Fire Department, thanking us for the donation of our fire engine

- Thank You Letter from a student at North Star Elementary for our help during the Holiday Season

FINANCIALS:

Construction Payables Vouchers # 01001 through #01003 in the amount of \$412,376.30 and General Payables Vouchers #13001 through #13049 for 2009 in the amount of \$52,445.92 and #01001 through #01014 for 2010 in the amount of \$26,647.49 for a total of \$491,469.71 were presented for approval.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$491,469.71 after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines confirmed Commissioner Pierson would not be attending the Legislative Day on January 20th. Commissioner Pierson stated he would be out of town and unable to attend. Commissioner Skaggs, Fire Chief Romines and Deputy Chief Franz will be attending.

Station No. 21-5. Assistant Chief Baskett reported both stations have tar paper on their roofs – the inside is staying dry and the contractor is just waiting for a dry period to install the roofing. He also reported he will, in the next few weeks, be bringing forth a change order for small items which were missed in the specs.

Station No. 21-6. Assistant Chief Baskett informed the Board he has been working on critiquing the Change Order for boring under 224th for the water system, which was required by the County. At this point, the amount looks to be in the \$50,000 range, but he stated he is still questioning some of the charges. He would like to bring a portion of the bill forward for approval next meeting so the subcontractors could receive a percentage of their money.

Chief Romines presented the Board with Emergency Traffic Signal Agreements for Station Nos. 21-5 and 21-6, between the District and Pierce County. He explained the Agreements would allow us to move forward with the permitting process for the two traffic signals.

Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of the Emergency Traffic Signal Agreements for Station Nos. 21-5 and 21-6 as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Station No. 21-0. Assistant Chief Baskett reported the final test for 2009 was completed last week. The results show a downward trend in the amount of benzene in all the wells – very good news! He stated he had spoken with John Hildenbrand, who recommended testing for one more quarter and then asking the County for sign-off, but he would recommend testing all four quarters in 2010 before going to the County. These additional three quarters of testing would allow the wells to continue to dissipate the benzene to make sure they were all under limits. The Board concurred with testing all four quarters of 2010.

Station Property. Chief Romines reported Jay and Julie Miles have accepted the District's offer to purchase five acres, located in the 29400 block of Meridian, at a price of \$150,000. Chief Romines presented the Board with an Agreement with Apex Engineering in the amount of \$8,000 to begin the process of separating the five acres.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to enter into a contract with Apex Engineering to separate the property in a not-to-exceed amount of \$8,000. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 744, Authorize Response Outside District Boundaries. Chief Romines explained this Resolution provides Board authorization for our units, on occasion, to respond to unprotected areas. He further explained this is a housekeeping issue wherein the District used to have a contract with a property owner at 344th and Orting-Kapowsin Road, which is just outside our boundary line, but we are the closest response agency. The property owner no longer has a contract with us, but because we have had one in the past, Attorney Quinn feels we could be in a liability situation should we not respond to this or similar "No-Man's-Land" properties. Attorney Quinn has written this Resolution to allow our response into those areas.

HazMat Team Openings. Chief Romines presented the Board with an announcement of a testing process to fill two vacancies on our Hazardous Incident Team.

PPEO Report

Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake presented her monthly report to the Board for their review.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 744, Authorize Response Outside District Boundaries. District Sectary Hale read Resolution No. 744, Authorize Response Outside District Boundaries, into the record.

Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of Resolution No. 744, Authorize Response Outside District Boundaries, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Romines informed the Board he authorized a five-month leave of absence for Volunteer Resident Fire Fighter Nathan Nowlin, who will be attend the Department of Defense Fire Academy.

Chief Romines reported the District has a missing SCBA air-pack, Serial #ZU015084, Inventory #2562. The pack was identified as missing when the 2008 annual bench testing was performed, and continued to be missing throughout 2009. Chief Romines stated he has spoken with the Auditor who has recommended we continue to list the pack as misplaced and leave it in our inventory.

The Board concurred with the recommendation to continue to list the pack in our inventory as missing and continue to look for it.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

Assistant Chief Baskett informed the Board he and Assistant Chief Jensen will be going to a pre-build meeting at Braun for the two new medic units next Wednesday. Also, there are pictures of our ladder truck on Crimson's web site. The cabinets are being built, which is the last phase of construction, and we should have the vehicle here by the end of February.

Assistant Chief Baskett reported we are very close to wrapping up the remodeling of Station No. 21-1. Tomorrow the plumber will install the bathroom fixtures. The project should be completed within the next couple of weeks. He thanked the crews for their patience throughout this process.

Commissioner Skaggs inquired about the rating insurance companies are giving homeowners who live in remote areas of our District. Most of these homes are just outside the 5-mile radius and are receiving an insurance rating of 10 instead of our designated 5 rating. He stated he would like the District to voice to the insurance companies how inappropriate this is. Chief Romines answered he totally agreed and that Deputy Chief Franz is currently working on the problem and is in the process of drafting a letter to send to the insurance companies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Romines requested a 5-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider acquisition of real estate when public knowledge could affect price, and 5 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to plan or adopt position for collective bargaining.

Commissioner Pierson announced a 5-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) to consider acquisition of real estate when public knowledge could affect price, no business to follow, and 5 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to plan or adopt position for collective bargaining, with business to follow. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:40 p.m.

Commissioner Pierson reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Local #726 regarding recognizing Domestic Partnerships as set forth in Washington State Referendum 71. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of January 11, 2010, was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary