

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
October 8, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**Attendance:**

Present: Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Fire Chief Reggie Romines, Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Todd Jensen, Assistant Chief Steve Richards, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake and District Secretary Kathy Hale

Absent: Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett and Assistant Chief Tom Mason had excused absences.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve the Agenda as presented.**

**Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**The minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 20, 2012, were approved as presented.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Dedication Ceremony Invitation
- Thank You Letter from a Citizen

**FINANCIALS:**

Construction Voucher # 10001 in the amount of \$45.00, General Payable Vouchers #10001 through #10064 in the amount of \$143,787.03 and Account Transfer in the amount of \$159.05 for a total of \$143,991.08 were presented for approval.

**Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$143,991.08 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**Chief's Report**

Chief Romines reported on the following:

Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake will be using personal leave from October 10<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Lieutenant Luke Guthrie has returned to full-time work following a lengthy medical recovery. Welcome back, Luke!

Congratulations to Resident Fire Fighter Terrance Adams and his wife Lisa on the birth of their baby girl, Olivia.

Operating Instruction No. 411, Guidelines on Standby Fire Fighters and Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT). No action needed at this time.

Station No. 21-0 Remediation. Chief Romines presented the Board with a “short report” from Robinson Noble detailing the status of the remediation work at Station No. 21-0. He stated the full report can be obtained from DS Hale. If all goes well, we may be able to seek closure of the site sometime after the final testing is completed in January.

Information Technology Sharing. Chief Romines informed the Board he has asked the chiefs at South Pierce Fire & Rescue and Orting Valley Fire & Rescue of their interest in having our IT Division support their IT needs. This could be a win-win/money saving venture for all three departments combining resources. He presented the Board with a questionnaire prepared by Lyle Stahnke, which was given to the chiefs regarding their current IT structure and components.

Station No. 21-6 Staffing. Chief Romines presented the Board with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Staffing Report for Station No. 21-6 for their review. Please contact Assistant Chief Baskett if you have any questions.

Assessor Candidate Forum. Chief Romines stated the two Pierce County Assessor Candidates participated in a forum at the recent Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association Meeting. Three questions were asked both candidates:

- 1) As the assessor’s office works through a calendar year, would there be an opportunity to let the districts know how the AV is trending, perhaps an update quarterly or mid-year? *Both candidates expressed a willingness to provide quicker data to the taxing districts;*
- 2) How does I-747 apply to the AV when numbers begin to trend upward? Does the 1% limit apply before or after a district reaches its highest lawful amount as the housing market begins to rebound? *Both candidates believe taxing districts may use the highest AV, therefore allowing for AV increases higher than 1% per year;*
- 3) What is your view of using foreclosures to estimate fair market value of properties that are not in foreclosure? *Candidate Lonergan believes foreclosures should not be used to estimate fair market value. Candidate O’Brien believes foreclosures should only be used if they are in the majority of the sales that are occurring.*

Special Board Meeting. Chief Romines reminded the Board of their Special Meeting on October 9, 2012, at which time staff will be presenting a 2013 Budget Draft for their review. Due to a time conflict, the time has been changed from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2013 Dental Coverage. Chief Romines presented the Board with a Coverage Agreement with WCIF for dental coverage in 2013. He informed the Board the rates

were unchanged from this year and remain less expensive than identical coverage from WFCB. He requested Board approval and signature to retain our dental coverage with WCIF. Commissioner Skaggs stated he would like to see a rates comparison before the Board took action on this matter. Chief Romines answered he would have staff prepare a comparison for Board review before their next meeting.

**PPEO Report**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Commissioner Skaggs stated he would be unavailable from October 9<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chief Romines requested a 15-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for negotiations with possible business to follow.

**Commissioner Pierson announced a 15-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for negotiations with possible business to follow. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:15 p.m.**

**Commissioner Pierson reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

**He stated during the Executive Session the Board discussed with Chief Romines a premature expiration of his personal services contract, given the current economic situation, followed by Chief Romines proposing a severance package to retire two years early. If accepted, Chief Romines' last day would be January 3, 2014.**

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to formally offer an early retirement to Chief Romines and approve the severance package proposed, saving the District approximately \$270,000. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Chief Romines stated he would accept the early retirement for January 3, 2014, and the severance package offered.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of October 8, 2012, was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

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Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

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Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary