

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013**

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 Ryan Baskett, Deputy Chief Tony Judd, Assistant Chief Todd Jensen and Assistant Chief Steve Richards.

Absent: Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds had an excused absence.

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Gustafson moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2013, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank You email from a Citizen
- Invitation to the Medical Explorers Annual Awards Banquet
- State of WA DNR Commissioner's Order to Rescind Burn Ban

FINANCIALS:

Payable Vouchers #1047 through #1086 in the amount of \$37,288.37 and Account Transfer in the amount of \$490.00 for a total of \$37,778.37 were presented for approval.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$37,778.37, after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Chief Judd requested Board approval for Commissioner Pierson to approve Payroll which will then be presented at the October 2nd, 2013, Special Board Meeting.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to allow Commissioner Pierson to approve Payroll with full Board approval to take place at the October 2, 2013, Special Board Meeting. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:
Chief's Report**

Chief Baskett reported on the following:

He, Commissioner Skaggs, the Station 94 crew and Battalion Chief attended the Starbuck's grand opening on Saturday. The event was well attended by the Graham Business Association. The local online newspaper, the Pierce Prairie Post, did a short article including pictures.

The Department picnic was held on Sunday. He attended the event and observed the attendance seemed low; however, Sunday was the day with thunderstorms, which may explain the low attendance. He extended a special thank you to Jack Gillette for sharing his home for the event.

South Sound 911. Last month's minutes and Infobulletin are in the Board members' books for review. Commissioner Pierson stated he had read through the information earlier and questioned a statement in the Finance Committee Meeting Notes that the debt service for the EOC was being paid for out of the E911 tax revenues. Chief Baskett stated the issue had been addressed at the last meeting, and the new Director of the DEM said he believed the debt service had already been paid. Commissioner Pierson expressed his concern over the drain on E911 funds.

Health Care Reform. The official presentation will be made at this month's Pierce County Commissioners meeting on September 26th. Chief Jensen stated the local consortium that attended the Pinnacle Conference would deliver the presentation.

Budget. Attached to the Chief's Report is the Preliminary Certifications of Assessed Values from the County issued in September that staff is using to develop the 2014 Budget. Chief Judd summarized the data stating the overall increase in values for 2013, taxes payable in 2014, including new construction, is 2%, but he was expecting a 3.2% increase. Chief Baskett said staff is preparing the 2014 preliminary budget for presentation to the Board at the October 2nd Special Board Meeting.

M&O Levy. Staff is continuing to work on the major presentation areas identified at the last Board meeting. The Bethel School District plans to run a measure on the ballot in February 2014. In order for the Department to run a measure in February 2014, submittal to Pierce County is required in early December 2013.

FireComm Annual Meeting. The current FireComm budget proposal for 2014 shows a 9% increase in the user fee for the District over the 2013 fee, for a total fee of \$43,490. This represents a decrease from the amount originally proposed for 2014.

Divisional Updates: No Divisional Reports

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Skaggs reported he and Deputy Chief Judd attended the Colombia Volcano Response meeting in Orting. They identified Graham Fire & Rescue's role in a response would be to facilitate the evacuation up into the hills. Commissioner Skaggs said in a discussion they had with Orting Valley Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Gibson, they agreed they have not yet practiced a response. At the conclusion of the meeting, Orting Valley Fire & Rescue and Colombia became "sister city" fire departments to facilitate the sharing of information. Commissioner Pierson discussed the possible Mr. Rainier scenarios and county mitigation plans for Graham Fire & Rescue. Commissioner Skaggs concluded we are ahead in planning for this type of event over Colombia.

Commissioner Pierson stated the Commissioners have a \$6,000 training budget. Personnel's training has been cut but not the Commissioners' training budget. He requested the Commissioners consider, for example, for this year's state association meeting in the Tri Cities in October, going down early on the first day of the conference, rather than the night before, saving the District the cost of three hotel rooms for one night and per diem. By doing this for each meeting they attend, they can still attend the meetings and receive critical training, and reduce their budget by 18-20%. He asked his fellow Board members to consider cutting their \$6,000 training budget to \$5,000. Commissioner Pierson requested this topic be discussed at the October 2nd Special Board Meeting.

Citizen Russ Barstow asked if Graham Fire & Rescue had considered working with South Pierce Fire & Rescue as they would also be affected by a lahar. Commissioner Pierson responded South Pierce Fire & Rescue has had representatives at the disaster mitigation meetings and mitigation plans are shared between fire departments. Mr. Barstow inquired about staffing plans. Commissioner Skaggs stated now that the framework is in place, the players can be plugged in. He said Orting Valley Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Gibson will be working on this next step.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Special Board Meeting of September 18, 2013, was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary