

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
September 13, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Gustafson 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 Tony Judd, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, Assistant Chief Todd Jensen, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake and District Secretary Kathy Hale.

Absent: Assistant Chief Tom Mason had an excused absence.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Skaggs moved to bring Resolution No. 760 forward to the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 760, Promotion of Matt Black and Luke Guthrie to Lieutenant. District Secretary Hale read Resolution No. 760, Promotion of Matt Black and Luke Guthrie to Lieutenant, into the record.

**Commissioner Pierson moved the approval of Resolution No. 760, Promotion of Matt Black and Luke Guthrie to Lieutenant. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**PROMOTIONS:**

Matt Black and Luke Guthrie were promoted to the position of Lieutenant effective September 11, 2010. Congratulations were given!

**PRESENTATION:**

Citizen Eric Hoover was present to receive a Letter of Appreciation from the Board of Fire Commissioners for the many volunteer hours he spent helping Assistant Chief Baskett scraping the concrete bay floor at Station 21-5. Thank you, Mr. Hoover! A Letter of Appreciation was also given to his son, Logan Hoover, who was unable to attend the meeting, for the hours he spent helping.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 23, 2010, were approved as presented.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Letter of Resignation from Volunteer Support Services Katy Brown
- Letter from State of Washington Public Employee Relations Commission
- Letter from Bill Jorgensen

**FINANCIALS:**

Construction Payables Vouchers # 08078, #09001 through #09024 in the amount of \$62,950.76 and General Payables Vouchers #09001 through #09072, in the amount of \$67,825.78 for a total of \$130,776.54 were presented for approval.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$130,776.54 after proper auditing. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**Chief's Report**

Chief Romines thanked everyone involved in the Grand Opening and Opening House at Station No. 21-6 this past Friday and Saturday. Both events were a huge success.

Chief Romines expressed a special thank you to Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake for once again presenting an incredible Scout Night Out last Friday. Thank you, Myra, for all your hard work!

Commissioner Skaggs stated he would also like to thank Vanessa Bryant and Rachel Wheeler for attending the Open House and designing balloon objects for the children. Their attendance was voluntary and a great addition to the festivities. Thank you, Vanessa and Rachel!

The Board inquired about having an annual Open House. Chief Romines suggested taking the matter up during the budget process. The Board concurred.

Station No. 21-3. Assistant Chief Baskett presented the Board with preliminary floor plans of the building for their review. He stated he has not yet, but will be meeting with the Sheriff's Department soon to narrow down their needs. He was informed the Sheriff's Department will be meeting with the Pierce County Council next Tuesday to brief them on the idea of leasing space in our Station No. 21-3.

Station No. 21-5. Assistant Chief Baskett stated the buildings are both up and running. Station No. 21-4 is cross-staffed as well as Station No. 21-5, and when there are 13 people on shift there will be an engine company at Station No. 21-6.

Assistant Chief Baskett recommended removing the two stations as regular topics from the Chief's Report. The Board concurred.

Station No. 21-6. See above

Station No. 21-2. Chief Romines reported he contacted Steve Taylor, Planning Director for the Muckleshoot Tribe, to inquire about the status of the 34 acres they own around Kapowsin Lake. Mr. Taylor had stated they may never do anything with the property due to a water available issue, and he would speak with their real estate division regarding selling us a couple of acres.

Above-ground Fuel Storage. Chief Romines stated the Request for Proposal will be advertised next week.

Operating Instruction No. 410, Controlled Substance Use, Acquisition, Record Keeping. Chief Romines requested Board approval of Operating Instruction No. 410, Controlled Substance Use, Acquisition, Record Keeping.

**Commissioner Pierson moved the approval of Operating Instruction No. 410, Controlled Substance Use, Acquisition, Record Keeping, as presented. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Electronic Reader Board. Chief Romines reported the application for permit was filed today.

Medical Insurance Increase. Chief Romines stated staff was notified the Washington Counties Insurance Pool rates will increase approximately 23% for 2011. He will be meeting with union representatives on September 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss the matter and available providers. Chief Romines asked to have further discussion of the matter in Executive Session under contract negotiations. The Board concurred.

VFIS Evaluation. Chief Romines reported he and staff will be meeting with a representative of VFIS to assess our risk status as it relates to our insurance coverage tomorrow morning beginning at 8:00 a.m. He presented the Board with a letter from VFIS detailing the area that will be evaluated. He also stated a Board member is welcome to attend. Commissioner Gustafson replied he would attend the meeting.

Fire Fighter Bargaining Unit Mediation. Chief Romines informed the Board he and D/S Hale will represent the District at a mediation session on September 17<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

911 Fees. Chief Romines presented the Board with a letter he sent Pierce County Executive McCarthy and County Council members requesting their support for the \$.20 increase in 911 fees. He explained the Council must approve the increase by October 1<sup>st</sup> or Pierce County will lose the present fee of \$.50. He further explained that according to Steve Bailey at the DEM the Ordinance increase fee must be to the County Council before October 1<sup>st</sup> in order for the Council to approve the issue before the present fee is lost.

2011 Budget Schedule. Chief Romines presented the Board with a proposed schedule for meetings regarding the 2011 Budget. He asked the Board to review the dates and to contact D/S Hale with any needed changes.

H.R. 5081 and S. 3756. Chief Romines presented the Board with a copy of letters he sent U.S. House of Representative Dave Reichert and U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray requesting their support of the allocation of 10MHz of spectrum, known as D block, to public safety. If approved, the allocation will provide for a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband public safety network.

## **PPEO Report**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. 761, Declaring the 1986 Sutphen Engine Surplus. District Secretary Hale read Resolution No. 761, Declaring the 1986 Sutphen Engine Surplus, into the record.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of Resolution No. 761, Declaring the 1986 Sutphen Engine Surplus. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Gustafson reported he had attended the 2011 FireComm Budget Meeting last Thursday. He stated next year a new formula method to determine user fees will be implemented. The new formula has more emphasis on call volume rather than assessed value. As a result, our fee for 2011 will decrease by roughly \$6,300.

Assistant Chief Baskett stated he is looking into changing which company does our ladder testing. Pacific NW Hydro, who does our hose testing, can perform the ladder testing at the same time as they are doing the hose testing and at a decreased cost. This will allow for the equipment to be out-of-service less time.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT**

None

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chief Romines requested a 20-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, with business to follow, and a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to plan for collective bargaining negotiations with no business to follow.

**Commissioner Gustafson announced a 20-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining with business to follow, and a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to plan for collective bargaining negotiations with no business to follow. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:40 p.m.**

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

**Commissioner Pierson moved the approval of an MOU regarding medical/dental/vision insurance with the Fire Fighter's and Chief's Bargaining Unit.**

**Commissioner Skaggs stated he would be withdrawing from any discussion and abstaining from the vote on this matter due to his position with the Washington State Fire Commissioners Association.**

**Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Commissioners Gustafson and Pierson; yes. Commissioner Skaggs, abstained. Motion passed by a majority.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of September 13, 2010, was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.**

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Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

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Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary