

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 14, 2011**

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, Assistant Chief Tom Mason, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake and District Secretary Kathy Hale.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Pierson moved to approve the Agenda as amended with the report from John Hildenbrand regarding Station No. 21-0 moved to the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

STATION NO. 21-0 REPORT:

John Hildenbrand of Robinson Noble was present to discuss the recent well testing at Station No. 21-0. Mr. Hildenbrand stated the testing showed a higher level of benzene in an isolated pocket by MW-7 just outside where the soils were replaced, which probably is releasing into the ground water from the contaminated soils when the water table is higher during the rainy season. He explained there are two options available which have proven somewhat reliable in mitigating situations such as ours: macro-purging and/or injection of an oxygen compound (ORC compound).

Commissioner Skaggs inquired about the contamination migrating from somewhere else. Mr. Hildenbrand answered the upgrade wells have shown clean the past 24 months of testing, which would lead him to believe the problem is isolated not migrating. Further discussion was had relative to the financial burden being placed on the District with continuing to go down different avenues with no guarantee of solving the problem, as opposed to capping the wells and waiting to see if over time the benzene dissipates.

Commissioner Skaggs moved that Chief Romines contact counsel to inquire about our legal obligation to continue to mitigate as opposed to capping the wells for now, and to talk with the Departments of Health and Ecology to discuss their recommendations. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 24, 2011, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Fire Fighters Local No. 726 requesting negotiations
- Letter from Pierce County Public Works and Utilities regarding Storm Credit Program

FINANCIALS:

Construction Payables Vouchers #02001 through #02004 in the amount of \$6,995.92 and General Payables Vouchers #02001 through #02098 in the amount of \$156,015.41 for a total of \$163,011.33 were presented for approval.

Commissioner Pierson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$163,011.33 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines announced the presentation for Aaron Tang has been set for February 28, 2011, preceding the Board Meeting.

Chief Romines presented the Board with nine volunteer applications for their review, and recommended Board approval.

Commissioner Pierson moved the approval of the following volunteer applications: Jorel Conier; Tyler Fitzpatrick; Sekeli Greco; Charia Lang; Nicholas Lawrence; Robert Merrill; Brianna Moore; Iver Nitz; Ryan Stimson. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Romines presented the Board with two retirement party announcements; Fire Chief Bob Black of Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One on April 1st and Deputy Chief Ruth Obadal of Central Pierce Fire & Rescue on March 7th.

Mitigation Fee Process. Chief Romines informed the Board Deputy Chief Franz is unable to continue with the mitigation fee process at this time due to County Executive McCarthy's reluctance to sponsor the process. Commissioner Skaggs stated he is very disappointed in the position Executive McCarthy is taking on this matter and feels she has turned her back on the fire service as a whole. Chief Romines stated the County Fire Chiefs' Association is working on this issue in a common effort.

Capital Improvement Projects. Chief Romines explained at the January 24, 2011 Regular Board Meeting he had presented the Board with a summary from Assistant Chief Baskett for several capital improvement needs. Chief Romines presented a recommendation and cost estimate for those projects to the Board for their consideration. The projects include: exhaust system upgrade at Station No. 21-1; complete exhaust system installation at Station No. 21-2; new exhaust system at Station No. 21-3; new exhaust system at Station No. 21-4; portable storage buildings at Station Nos. 21-3 and 21-6; fix the sink hole at Station No. 21-1; install reader-board signs at Station Nos. 21-4 and 21-6; facility upgrades at Station No. 21-2. The total estimate is \$274,435.00, which would be taken from the Construction Fund. Discussion followed regarding the need for each improvement project.

The Board inquired further about an electronic reader-board for Station No. 21-2. Assistant Chief Baskett answered he currently does not have a permit for the Station,

but will inquire about the possibility. He also stated he would be concerned about line-of-sight blockage a sign would cause, but he would check into a smaller sign design.

Commissioner Pierson moved to go forward with the capital improvement projects as outlined in Chief Romines' recommendation. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Standards of Coverage. Deputy Chief Franz gave a brief presentation on the reasons he is recommending we change our time standards and response target times. He explained when the original document was drafted only limited amounts of data was available for analyzing, but now several more months are available. Also, other districts in the County are looking to standardize their methodology of computing the time-targets.

Commissioner Skaggs stated he had a lengthy conversation with Deputy Chief Franz about the proposed changes to the time standards and feels comfortable with the changes. He asked the numbers in Section 5,A,4 and Section 5,B,4 be changed to 12 instead of 15. Deputy Chief Franz agreed with the change.

Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of Resolution No. 767, amended to read 12 in Section 5,A,4 and Section 5,B,4. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Alarm Activity. Chief Romines presented the Board with a report detailing our alarm activity for Station 21-6 for December 2010 and for the year 2010. He commented the station is being staffed 84% of the time since it opened last September.

The Board asked staff to compile this report on a quarterly basis for their review.

Central Pierce Transports. Chief Romines gave the Board an email from Fire Chief Willis of Central Pierce Fire & Rescue which explained why they will not write-off transports of our citizens transported from their District. In Chief Willis' opinion, there are greater numbers of our citizens traveling into Central Pierce area than Central Pierce citizens traveling into our area, and therefore, the reciprocal would not be close to equal. Chief Romines stated he agreed with Chief Willis and would like to take each occurrence on a case by case basis. The Board agreed.

Ladder Truck. Assistant Chief Baskett reported the ladder truck will be back at the end of the month.

Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant. Chief Romines informed the Board we are still waiting to hear if we have been approved.

Great Escape Program. Chief Romines presented the Board with a flyer announcing a home-school program being held at the Library. Thank you, Myra, for putting this wonderful program together for the home-school children.

Intent to Sue. Chief Romines reported on January 28, 2011, the District was served with an "Intent to Sue" noticed related to an intoxicated citizen we transported. Our insurance company assigned Attorney Mike Patterson's office to handle the case. A representative from Attorney Patterson's office has been interviewing the responders. The complete notice is in the Board's reading file.

Network Shutdown. Chief Romines stated FireComm will be upgrading their equipment, and therefore, will need to shut down for 72 hours beginning February 28, 2011. Assistant Chief Baskett stated the main area involved will be the automatic input of reports. Members of the FireComm Users Committee will meet to discuss how this can be done manually.

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/PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Skaggs stated Senate Bill 5766 is still alive. This Bill would allow larger districts to move to a seven member Board. More to follow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Romines requested a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, with no business to follow, 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140, to adopt a position for professional negotiations, with no business to follow, and 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for professional negotiations, with no business to follow.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, with no business to follow, 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140, to adopt a position for professional negotiations, with no business to follow, and 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for professional negotiations, with no business to follow, for a total of 40 minutes. Executive Session was announced as starting at 8:50 p.m.

An announcement was made at 9:30 p.m. to extend the Executive Session another 30 minutes.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of February 14, 2011, was adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary