

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 28, 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 Ryan Baskett, Assistant Chief Tom Mason, Assistant Chief Todd Jensen, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake and District Secretary Kathy Hale.

Absent: Assistant Chief Tony Judd had an excused absence.

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

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA:

Commissioner Pierson 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 March 14, 2011, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank You Letter from a Citizen
- Thank You Letter from a Citizen
- Invitation from Pierce County Sheriff's Department for a Special Award at their Annual Awards Recognition Ceremony, April 7, 2011

FINANCIALS:

Construction Payables Vouchers #03001 through #03002 in the amount of \$135,776.70, General Payables Vouchers #003061 through #03154 in the amount of \$412,589.42 and Account Transfers in the amount of \$471,212.44 for a total of \$1,019,578.56, of which \$622,296.62 was for Payroll and \$397,281.94 was for Payables, were presented for approval.

Commissioner Pierson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$1,019,578.56 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines informed the Board he authorized a six-month leave of absence for Volunteer FF David Serr who is pursuing an enlistment opportunity with the U.S.A.F.

Chief Romines announced the Washington Fire Chiefs' Annual Conference will take place May 23rd through the 27th. Please let D/S Hale know if you would like to attend.

Chief Romines reported our new medic unit is scheduled for delivery tomorrow. Chiefs Baskett and Jensen will be inspecting the unit tomorrow morning before delivery is made.

Station No. 21-0. Assistant Chief Baskett outlined the letter sent to Scott Rose, Department of Ecology, and Rob Olson, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, from John Hildenbrand (Robinson Noble) wherein our proposed work-plan is to continue to move towards achieving a no-further-action status. The work-plan consists of suspending quarterly monitoring activities and reallocating the funds towards an application of ORC to MW-7, evaluating its effect on dissolving the product at one-month, three-month and six-month intervals, and then sampling the groundwater in six-months. If the six-month testing shows concentrations below acceptable levels, quarterly monitoring will resume. Assistant Chief Baskett stated the State and County are amenable to the proposed plan, are please we are taking further action to the process, and have agreed to help facilitate moving the grant deadline date forward.

Electronic Reader Board at Station 21-5. Assistant Chief Baskett explained the Frederickson Community Plan allows only a time/temperature reader board sign, not an informational sign. He stated there is an appeal process available to us which will cost approximately \$3,000. He asked for Board direction whether or not to go forward with the appeal process.

Chief Romines stated he feels it is very important that we are able to communicate with the community, especially about emergency situations that may arise, and recommended the Board approve going forward with the appeal process. Commissioner Gustafson stated the County is considering standardizing the regulations for reader board signs. Board discussion continued on the importance of being able to communicate with our public, not only on a daily basis, but in times of emergencies.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to go forward with the appeal process to attain an electronic reader board sign for Station No. 21-5. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Award of Bid. Chief Romines presented the Board with a recommendation to award the bid for the electronic reader board signs for Station No. 21-4 and Station No. 21-6 to Culbertson Signs. He stated five bid specifications had been sent out over the course of the open process and one had been submitted. The submitted bid was found to be in compliance with the specifications and was given by Culbertson Signs in the amount of \$55,510 plus tax.

Commissioner Pierson moved to accept the bid for the electronic reader board signs at Station No. 21-4 and Station No. 21-6 from Culbertson Signs in the amount of \$55,510 plus tax. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

T-Mobile Declined. Chief Romines presented the Board with an e-mail from Assistant Chief Baskett on behalf of the District to T-Mobile declining their request to lease District property for sighting a cell tower at Station No. 21-1. The e-mail explained the District is concerned about the adverse effects of the tower on our citizens and employees

Open Burning Dispute. Deputy Chief Franz explained our on-duty crew had responded to a burn complaint last week, determined it was not a legal outdoor burn and extinguished the fire. The main issue was the crew was unable to sense if the fire was a nuisance or inter-neighborhood interaction, which brings up a legality problem of the complaining person stating the fire was interfering with his enjoyment of life or property.

Several citizens were in attendance, who asked the Board to consider allowing legal outdoor permitted fires to continue if the crew determines it is not a nuisance and it should be allowed to continue burning. A petition stating such, containing 25 neighboring signatures, was presented to the Board.

Chief Romines stated the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is the entity which dictated what the quality of clean air is, and while the Fire Department can issue outdoor burning permits, they are not the authority in clean air issues and are not in the business of enforcing air quality laws. Further discussion was had with the citizens as they asked what options they had for outdoor burning legally.

Chief Franz offered that our Outdoor Burning Regulation Resolution have added a section which adds “apply a reasonable person’s standard in determining if a legally permitted outdoor fire is a nuisance and interfering with enjoyment of life or property.”

Commissioner Skaggs moved to revise Resolution No. 697, Outdoor Burning Regulations, to add in Section 2, a 2B sub-section which speaks to applying a reasonable person’s standard in determining if a legally permitted outdoor fire is a nuisance and interfering with enjoyment of life or property. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Training Report

Assistant Chief Mason presented the Training report for Board review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 769, Surplus Equipment. D/S Hale read Resolution No. 769, Surplus Equipment, into the record.

Commissioner Pierson moved the approval of Resolution No. 769, Surplus Equipment, as presented. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board asked staff to look into donating any of the equipment to in-need districts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Skaggs inquired about the over-crowding event which took place at GK High School last week. Deputy Chief Franz stated he had been in contact with the on-duty crew monitoring the situation. Our crew had responded, along with the Fire Marshall’s office, and mainly took over the responsibility of making sure the exits were clear and traffic control trying to prevent any incidents from happening.

Commissioner Skaggs asked why we were not informed of the event beforehand, along with the Fire Marshall's office, if the School District knew ahead of time there was going to be a crowd problem.

Deputy Chief Franz answered there is a meeting set up for this Wednesday with the Fire Marshall's office and School District representatives to discuss this particular event and prevention methods for future events.

The Board asked D/S Hale to post for a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 30, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. so the Board can attend the meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of March 28, 2011, was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary