

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
July 9, 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 Ryan Baskett, Assistant Chief Steve Richards, 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 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 Regular Board Meeting of June 25, 2012, were approved as presented.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Thank You Letter from Assistant Chief Bryan Pearson, Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

**FINANCIALS:**

General Payable Vouchers #06162, #07001 through #07043 in the amount of \$35,504.82 and Account Transfers in the amount of \$398.70 for a total of \$35,903.52 where presented for approval.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$35,903.52 after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**Chief's Report**

Chief Romines reported on the following:

Fire Fighter/EMT Brett Kanton was offered and accepted a temporary promotion to Lieutenant. This promotion was done in accordance with the labor agreement following

an injury of an officer. It is estimated the need for the temporary position will be approximately one month.

Chief Romines requested Board approval to use leave on July 11, 2012, through July 13, 2012. The Board gave their approval.

WAC 296-305. Chief Romines presented the Board with the new timelines/deadlines relative to the review and adoption of the update to Chapter 296-305 WAC, Safety Standards for Fire Fighters.

Commissioner Skaggs inquired if anyone from our District will be on the review committee. Deputy Chief Franz answered he resubmitted his request to be on the committee, but has not heard yet if he was selected.

New Construction. Chief Romines informed the Board he recently became aware Assessor Washam may not include new construction in this year's tax assessment. It is estimated our District would lose approximately \$250,000 in revenue if he goes through with this plan. Chief Romines stated he just heard this afternoon Assessor Washam is saying he will get the new construction assessment done in time.

Commissioner Skaggs inquired if the District should put in for the SAFER Grant this year. Chief Romines answered he would like to stay with the plan to file the grant for the 2013 period as he feels we would have a much better chance at that point when the potential of lay-offs is greater.

Commissioner Pierson voiced his concern that Assessor Washam is sending out an internal memo stating his office will not be doing new construction while at the same time telling the news media he will be. Commissioner Skaggs stated the Pierce County Fire Commissioners' Association has sent a letter to the County Council compelling them to direct the Assessor's Office to include new construction as the loss in additional revenue is an impact to public safety.

FEMA Grant. Chief Romines informed the Board staff found out the deadline for submitting for an equipment grant was July 6, 2012. Staff had decided last week to seek a grant for the purchase of fire hose and filed the grant last Friday. Chief Romines, for the record, asked for Board approval of staff's FEMA Grant submittal.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of staff submitting for a FEMA Grant for the purchase of hose. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Valley Water District. Chief Romines informed the Board that recently one of our tender crews filled their tender after a brush fire causing alarms to go off at the water district. He stated he will be meeting with the Manager, Betty Vance, on July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss how we can least impact their system while maintaining their hydrant system as a fire protection water source.

#### **PPEO Report**

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. 803, Surplus Miscellaneous Computer Items. DS Hale read Resolution No. 803, Surplus Miscellaneous Computer Items, into the record.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved the approval of Resolution No. 803, Surplus Miscellaneous Computer Items, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution No. 804, Surplus Certain SCBA Bottles. DS Hale read Resolution No. 804, Surplus Certain SCBA Bottles, into the record.

**Commissioner Gustafson moved the approval of Resolution No. 804, Surplus Certain SCBA Bottles, as presented. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Station No. 21-0. Chief Romines presented an email from John Hildenbrand regarding the recent testing done at Station No. 21-0. The results showed no measurable traces of benzene in the water. Assistant Chief Baskett stated he has been in contact with John about going to the State to ask about modifying our original plan and not drill the off-site well. While John does not think the State will agree to a plan modification, AC Baskett said he would like to have a meeting with the parties to try and convince them of the financial impact the project would have on the District. More to follow.

Fair Staffing. Chief Romines presented the Board with a staffing plan for this year's Pierce County Fair. He recommended a minimum staffing level of 15; 11 on duty and 4 on overtime for Thursday due to that being picture day for the kids, and 14 the other three days, which would be a total of five 15-hour overtime shifts. The total anticipated costs would be between \$3,743 and \$2,145 depending on the ability of light-duty personnel to assist. He also stated Station No. 21-6 will not be staffed any of the four days of the fair unless additional overtime is spent.

Commissioner Skaggs inquired of PPEO Meridian-Drake if she was okay with the staffing plan and the number of personnel available to her. She answered she was and would make it work.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve Chief Romines' staffing plan for the fair this year. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Awards Banquet. Chief Romines informed the Board he had met with staff to evaluate how to implement the Board's direction to present awards for last year's accomplishments. He stated staff is recommending we present framed certificates at this year's Annual Picnic, tentatively set for September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve the Annual Awards Banquet be held at the Annual Picnic this year. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board Letter. Chief Romines presented a draft letter for Board review addressed to the Pierce County Council voicing the Board's concern about the formation of a county-wide flood control zone district.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve the letter as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chief Romines requested a 5-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, and 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for negotiations, with no business to follow.

**Commissioner Pierson announced a 5-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, and 15 minutes under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for negotiations, with no business to follow. Total time 20 minutes. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:35 p.m.**

**An announcement was made at 7:55 p.m. to extend the Executive Session another five minutes.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2012, was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary