

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 10, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Skaggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Russell T. Barstow, Deputy Chief Tony Judd and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

Excused: Fire Chief Ryan Baskett

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

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barstow moved to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 27, 2014, were approved as presented.

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 27, 2014, were approved as presented.

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 3, 2014, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Thank you card from a local family
- Thank you letter from the All Bethel Community Days Planning Committee
- Pierce Co. Fire Prevention Bureau Monthly Report for October 2014
- Flyer for DNR Open House Meeting for Proposed Lake Kapowsin Aquatic Reserve

FINANCIALS

Deputy Chief Judd presented to the Board an additional voucher for approval. He explained overtime was missed for an employee in the amount of \$1,260.76. The additional check is #18493 and brings the new total to \$166,783.35.

Payables Check #18454 through #18492 in the amount of \$165,212.28, Payroll Check #18493 in the amount of \$1,260.76 and a Transfer (EFT) in the amount of \$310.31, for a total of \$166,783.35, were presented for approval.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$166,783.35, after proper auditing. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION Chief's Report

In Chief Baskett's absence, Deputy Chief Judd presented the Chief's Report.

Chief Baskett is on approved vacation leave through November 14th.

M&O Levy. Currently the M&O Levy is passing, but trending downward slightly. According to the Pierce County Auditor's website they have approximately 1,500 votes still to count county-wide.

Budget. Chief Baskett is requesting the Board reschedule the November 13 Special Board Meeting on the budget to next week, allowing him time to return and adjust the budget to include the M&O levy funds, hopefully. This additional time will also provide more certainty as to the election results. The Board and Deputy Chief Judd discussed possible meeting dates and times.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to reschedule the November 13, 2014, Special Board Meeting to November 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Chief Judd inquired if the Board had any considerations they would like staff to take into account as they develop the revised budget, assuming the M&O levy passes. In particular, he inquired about accounting for the SAFER Grant. Commissioner Skaggs requested clarification. Deputy Chief Judd stated they are seeking direction as to whether the Board wants the Safer Grant amount deducted from the M&O levy for the first two years. Commissioner Skaggs recommended they leave that decision to Chief Baskett.

Commissioner Skaggs requested an increase in funding for the Public Prevention and Education Division for materials, especially for the Pierce County Fair. Deputy Chief Judd stated if the M&O levy passes, additional funding to support the school programs and Pierce County Fair is planned. Commissioner Skaggs also requested money be set aside for a physician assistant program in response to information received at the Community Paramedic Conference. Commissioners Gustafson and Barstow had no additional requests.

South Sound 911. Chief Baskett has asked South Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Vellias to attend the SS911 Operations Board meeting on his behalf this week. With the Stand Down for Safety and other commitments already this week, we had no one available to attend. Commissioner Skaggs agreed Chief Vellias was a good choice.

Health Care Reform. The Community Paramedic Conference was outstanding and excellent information provided. Deputy Chief Judd assured the Board that Staff will continue to be involved and will report back to them as progress is made. Commissioner Skaggs added he brought a CD back from the conference and the same information is available to download from the Washington State Fire Chiefs website. Commissioner

Gustafson stated he was looking for more out of the conference, but useful information was presented. We are already doing much of what they talked about. Commissioner Skaggs agreed Pierce County is in good shape, as is the rest of the state, with the exception of King County. Deputy Chief Judd added that King County's paramedic programs have always been separate from the state. Commissioner Skaggs stated he is uncertain how King County fits into the Community Paramedic Program, because they do things differently than all other counties in the state.

Grants/AFG. The top four Firefighter/Paramedic candidates all returned their conditional offers of employment well before the deadline. We are conducting some very thorough background and compatibility testing. Deputy Chief Judd informed the Board he has an agreement from a background screening company and he is seeking authorization to sign it and move forward. This company checks several different data bases including criminal and financial records. This is a basic contract for service and will be paid for with a portion of the \$15,000 allotted for medical exams, psychological testing and background checks.

Commissioner Barstow approved Staff to sign the contract for service between Paldin, Inc. and the District to conduct a screening process of the final candidates for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic.

Training. In response to the Ebola scare across the nation, Assistant Chief Jensen has been working on various committees for Pierce County response and is preparing to deliver that information to our personnel this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in a Stand Down for Safety. He had planned to include family members in the afternoon sessions, but received no interest at all, so he shortened each session to a half day starting at 1:00 p.m. This Stand Down will include practicing with personal protective equipment, learning procedures, and identifying locations for transferring patients, among other topics.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

A citizen inquired about the cost of the election including man hours. Deputy Chief Judd stated he had not received the cost from the county yet, but he estimated the cost for the August election at \$30,000 plus \$10,000 for flyers and the November election at \$20,000-\$25,000 plus \$10,000 for flyers. He estimated the man hours cost for primarily Chief Baskett and him at \$10,000 - \$20,000 for their time spent researching figures for flyers and fact sheets, attending open house events and facilitating town hall meetings.

Commissioner Gustafson requested an update on the status of the Volunteer Program and where it is going. Deputy Chief Judd stated he would find out and report back to him. Commissioner Gustafson also inquired about the volunteer savings plan, at which time Deputy Chief Judd clarified he was referring to the deferred comp plan and Commissioner Gustafson said he was. He asked why the volunteers had to fill out a

form every year and why not just once. Deputy Chief Judd responded a form is required every year in case of a change. Deputy Chief Judd asked if he would like a reminder sent out to the volunteers so they do not miss the deadline for turning in their forms. Commissioner Gustafson said he would. Deputy Chief Judd said he would speak to Benefits Coordinator Michelle Greco.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deputy Chief Judd requested a 30-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, with business to follow.

Commissioner Skaggs announced a 30-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 to adopt a position for collective bargaining, with business to follow. The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:22 p.m.

Commissioner Skaggs reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:52 p.m. He announced that during the Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140, discussion was had regarding adopting a position for collective bargaining.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the contract between the District and IAFF Local 726 for the Chief's Bargaining Unit as presented. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of November 10, 2014, was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Robert E. Skaggs, Commissioner

Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary