

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2015**

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, Fire Chief Ryan Baskett, Deputy Chief
Tony Judd and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

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.**

PROMOTIONS

Resolution No. 847 – Promotion of Timothy Susee

Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds read Resolution No. 847, Authorizing the Promotion of Timothy Susee to the position of Lieutenant, into the record.

**Commissioner Barstow moved the approval of Resolution No. 847, Authorizing the promotion of Timothy Susee to the position of Lieutenant, as presented.
Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Baskett administered the Oath of Commission to Timothy Susee. The Board and Chief Baskett then presented Timothy Susee with his badge and collar brass for the position of Lieutenant.

Resolution No. 848 – Promotion of Jeff Davison

Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds read Resolution No. 848, Authorizing the Promotion of Jeff Davison to the position of Captain, into the record.

**Commissioner Gustafson moved the approval of Resolution No. 848, Authorizing the promotion of Jeff Davison to the position of Captain, as presented.
Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Baskett administered the Oath of Commission to Jeff Davison. The Board and Chief Baskett then presented Jeff Davison with his badge and collar brass for the position of Captain.

Resolution No. 849 – Promotion of Michael Juergens

Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds read Resolution No. 849, Authorizing the Promotion of Michael Juergens to the position of Battalion Chief, into the record.

Commissioner Barstow moved the approval of Resolution No. 849, Authorizing the promotion of Michael Juergens to the position of Battalion Chief, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Baskett administered the Oath of Commission to Michael Juergens. The Board and Chief Baskett then presented Michael Juergens with his badge and collar brass for the position of Battalion Chief.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 10, 2015, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you card and donation from a Citizen
Registration information for WFOA Pre-Conference Snure Seminar – Chief Baskett asked the Board if any members wished to be registered for this seminar. Commissioners Gustafson and Barstow responded they would attend.

FINANCIALS

Payables Checks #19663 through #19722 in the amount of \$123,367.74, Payables (Payroll) Checks #19731 through #19746 in the amount of \$304,494.15, Payroll Checks #19723 through #19730 in the amount of \$24,967.46, and Payroll Transfers (EFTs) in the amount of \$497,594.29, for a total of \$950,423.64, were presented for approval.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$950,423.64, after proper auditing. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Baskett greeted the Board and audience members and then reported on the following:

The Volunteer Recruit Academy graduation is scheduled for this Wednesday, August 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Station 21-4.

The Washington State Fair annual VIP luncheon is Thursday, September 17th from 11:30 – 2:00. The price is \$20 which includes two tickets to the fair. He inquired if any of the Board members would like to attend. Commissioners Skaggs and Gustafson responded affirmatively, and Commissioner Barstow said he would let staff know tomorrow.

The Department has deployed a three-person type 1 engine and a two-person tender to the Omak Fire Complex. Chief Baskett stated he is receiving updates regularly. They are doing well, and are working alongside other Pierce County agencies. Commissioner Skaggs stated Chief Baskett had informed him of this earlier.

South Sound 911. Chief Baskett referred the Board to the updated Operations Board minutes in their Board books. He explained on August 14th the Operations Board moved to direct Director Neiditz to pursue the \$30 per radio fee with the two system owners for the 2016 budget. Director Neiditz is confident he can secure the \$30 per radio per month fee. Chief Baskett stated he will keep the Board updated on any progress.

Policy Updates. Chief Baskett requested the Board review Operating Instruction 604 – Hearing Protection, a draft of which is located in their Board books, over the next two weeks.

Administrative Consolidations. Chief Baskett informed the Board that Chief Vellias of South Pierce Fire & Rescue notified him their Board has decided to look for a District Secretary to replace theirs who is retiring. He explained they will continue to look for efficiencies for the future, but their Board felt this decision was in the best interest of their department.

Chief Baskett referred the Board to the draft Interlocal Agreement in their Board books which outlines how Graham Fire & Rescue can assist South Pierce Fire & Rescue and Orting Valley Fire & Rescue with incident command support. Each Chief has reached out to their respective labor groups to discuss potential impacts and is working through that process. Chief Baskett requested the Board review the draft agreement over the next two weeks and bring any comments to him before the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Gustafson stated that in the past he was against having a five-member Board, especially during the times we were restricting money going out, but at this time, he wants to go with a five-member Board.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to direct staff to formulate a plan to place a measure to increase the District's Board of Fire Commissioners to five members on the next available ballot. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion.

Discussion was held on the motion. Deputy Chief Judd explained the next ballot would be in February and would be expensive. Commissioner Skaggs expressed that Commissioner Gustafson was hoping for this November. Chief Baskett responded the deadline for filing was August 4th. Commissioner Skaggs stated he agreed with Commissioner Gustafson on moving to a five-member Board, and he said the February ballot was satisfactory.

Commissioner Skaggs called the question. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gustafson stated he had a second item to address. He stated that with the remaining bond money, approximately \$200,000, he is requesting the District build living quarters at volunteer Station 21-2.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to direct staff to formulate a plan to construct living quarters at volunteer Station 21-2 to be funded with the remaining bond money, approximately \$200,000. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Skaggs stated he had an item of business to discuss with the Board regarding the District's policy for memorial services. He requested the services be extended to all fire service members including those who are retired, etc., and not just those with a line of duty death.

Commissioner Skaggs passed the gavel to Commissioner Gustafson. Commissioner Skaggs moved to direct staff to revisit the District's Memorial Service policy, revise it to include all fire service members, and present it to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

Local No. 726 Fire Fighters Bargaining Unit Representative Troy Flowers stated he had questions related to the five-member Board. First, he asked how much it will cost to put the measure on the February ballot, if it is the only measure. Chief Baskett consulted with Deputy Chief Judd and replied approximately \$250,000, according to the cost to place the M&O Levy measure on the February 2014 ballot, which is why we decided on the August 2014 ballot instead. Flowers asked the Board what the benefits of a five-member Board versus a three-member Board are, and what dollar amount is that worth? Commissioner Barstow responded one benefit is better communication. With a five-member Board two commissioners can meet to discuss a matter without it being a quorum. Commissioner Skaggs replied we must first consider how much it will cost, and staff will be coming back with the numbers. With a \$15 million budget, lots of work to be done, and only three commissioners to do it, a five-member Board would be beneficial. Flowers asked when the deadline is to get a measure on the February ballot. Deputy Chief Judd responded mid-December, 45-days in advance. Chief Baskett added staff is considering running an EMS renewal next year and will bring a recommendation to the Board for the best time to run it. Commissioner Skaggs suggested it would be less expensive if we can run both at the same time.

Troy Flowers then requested clarification on the Station 21-2 living quarters matter. He asked how many people the quarters will accommodate. Commissioner Gustafson responded, "To be determined." Flowers then asked how many personnel are at that station now. Chief Baskett responded there are two.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of August 24, 2015, was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Robert E. Skaggs, Commissioner

Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary