

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
December 5, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Russell T. Barstow, Commissioner Adam G. Rosenlund, Fire Chief Ryan Baskett, Deputy Chief Tony Judd and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds.

Commissioner Gustafson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a recess at 7:02 p.m., at which time the Board members and District legal counsel Attorney Joseph Quinn exited the meeting room and convened in Executive Session.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:03 p.m.

An announcement was made at 7:13 p.m. to extend the Executive Session another five minutes.

Executive Session ended at 7:18 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Commissioner Rosenlund addressed the candidates in the audience and stated the Board feels they are all great which will make the decision process very difficult, and the Board would be honored to work with any one of these candidates. He encouraged those not chosen for appointment to seek other opportunities to run for elective office. He expressed that our community deserves people like you serving at this level and encouraged them to stay involved.

Commissioner Gustafson stated the interviews of the six candidates would commence. He asked the six candidates to stand. He explained the Board had the list of candidates arranged in alphabetical order, and they would begin the process with the first candidate on the list, Gina Blanchard-Reed. He requested the other five candidates leave the room and be seated in the lobby, until the first interview was completed, at which time Deputy Chief Judd would bring in the next candidate. The interview commenced with each Board member asking the candidate two questions from a list of six. The questions were as follows:

1. What do you feel are key values and roles of the fire department in your community?
2. How much time do you have to dedicate to this position?
3. What do you feel will be your hardest decision as a commissioner and how will you handle it?
4. How do you see your role as a commissioner?
5. What have you done with this fire department, volunteer or otherwise?
6. Do you have the desire and would you be able to get the resources together to run a reelection campaign?

The interview concluded and the next candidate on the list, Ed Hennings, was summoned from the lobby by Deputy Chief Judd. This process continued and the Board interviewed the remaining candidates in the following order: Amy Pivetta-Hoffman, Dennis Kirstein, Ryan Portmann and Daniel Wadley. At the conclusion of the interview process, Deputy Chief Judd brought the candidates back into the meeting room.

Commissioner Gustafson invited the audience members to offer comments about the candidates at this time. Lee Leddy, Braedon Wilkerson, Amy Cruver and Ivy Berger each delivered their endorsements of candidate Gina Blanchard-Reed. Graham Fire Lieutenant and IAFF Local 726 Vice President Troy Flowers gave his personal endorsement of candidate Amy Pivetta-Hoffman. The comment period concluded.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a 15-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a recess at 8:14 p.m., at which time the Board members and District legal counsel Attorney Joseph Quinn exited the meeting room and convened in Executive Session.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 8:17 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:32 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Commissioner Rosenlund moved to appoint Ryan Portmann Fire Commissioner for Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 as the first Commissioner appointment. Commissioner Barstow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Quinn advised the Board under RCW 42.12.070 the fourth Commissioner should now take the Oath of Office. Then, the fourth Commissioner, by statute, participates in the selection of the fifth Commissioner. The Board, including the new Commissioner, would likely go into Executive Session to see if the new Commissioner had any thoughts about the fifth Commissioner; then, reconvene and appoint the fifth Commissioner. Finally, according to law, the Board must determine by lot or by chance who gets the longer term which will be determined by the flip of a coin.

Deputy Chief Judd then administered the Oath of Office to Ryan Portmann.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (h) to evaluate the qualifications of a candidate for appointment to elective office.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a recess at 8:37 p.m., at which time the Board members and District legal counsel Attorney Quinn exited the meeting room and convened in Executive Session.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 8:39 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:49 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson stated the Board would now select the fifth Commissioner.

Commissioner Barstow moved to appoint Gina Blanchard-Reed Fire Commissioner for Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 as the second Commissioner appointment. Commissioner Portmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gustafson expressed that the group of candidates was very strong, making their selection difficult. He thanked all of the candidates for their participation.

Deputy Chief Judd administered the Oath of Office to Gina Blanchard-Reed.

Attorney Quinn then explained the rules of the coin toss to determine the longer term. Attorney Quinn tossed the coin and the result was favorable for Commissioner Portmann who received the longer appointment up in 2019, and Commissioner Blanchard-Reed received the shorter appointment up in 2017.

Chief Baskett suggested they pause to allow pictures to be taken of the new five-member Board. He added that staff would prepare a press release promptly.

Commissioner Gustafson stated the next item under New Business is the Fire Chief's Evaluation. Chief Baskett explained he requested of Commissioner Gustafson in September the Board complete his evaluation prior to Commissioner Gustafson leaving on his extended vacation. He said the evaluation was complete and ready for Board review and consideration at this Board meeting.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a 10-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) to evaluate qualifications of public employees or review their performance.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a recess at 8:58.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 9:00 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:10 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Special Board Meeting at 9:12 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

Chief Baskett informed the two new Board members and reminded the other three about the municipal roundtable offered by Attorney Quinn regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Fire Chief and Commissioners. This will take place Friday, December 23rd from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Chief Baskett said he plans to attend and invited the Board members to ride with him. Commissioners Rosenlund, Barstow, Portmann and Blanchard-Reed responded they will attend. Chief Baskett asked that anyone wanting to ride with him meet at 8:15 a.m. at Station 94.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Special Board Meeting of December 5, 2016, was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary