

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 11, 2017**

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 Gina Blanchard-Reed, Commissioner Ryan Portmann, Deputy Chief
Tony Judd, Deputy Chief Oscar Espinosa and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds
Absent: Commissioner Adam Rosenlund and Fire Chief Pat Dale

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

Commissioner Gustafson called for a moment of silence to honor the fallen on 9/11.

Commissioner Gustafson reported that Commissioner Rosenlund has an excused absence. He has been deployed to Florida to assist with the aftermath of the hurricane. He will be away for a couple of weeks.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Barstow moved to approve the Agenda as written. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2017

Approval of Financial Documentation:

Payables: Checks #23232 through #23288 =	\$37,007.61
Transfer (EFT) =	<u>\$824.57</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$37,832.18</u>

Commissioner Portmann moved to approve the Consent Agenda in the amount of \$37,832.18 after proper audit. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief's Report

In Chief Dale's absence, Deputy Chief Judd greeted the Board and audience members and then reported on the following:

Chief Dale is on vacation and will return to work this Thursday.

Jasper Stenstrom continues his stair climb efforts around the world. He recently came in second overall in Melbourne, Australia with a time of three minutes and forty seconds. Deputy

Chief Judd referred the Board to the attached article from The News Tribune recognizing Jasper's accomplishments. Jasper is doing a great job representing Graham Fire & Rescue!

Graham Fire & Rescue just entered into an agreement with the state apprenticeship program through the Department of Labor and Industries (L & I) called the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC). Both Labor and Management sat down and went over the program and what it offers Graham Fire & Rescue. The goal is for our new hire employees to go through specific training to become journeyman firefighters. We will address how we can "grandfather in" our current firefighters by demonstrating they have already accomplished a certain level of training. The JATC comes with funding from L & I. Our three new employees going through the academy at Bates will have their tuition fully paid. In addition to the savings, this is an excellent training program, further documenting our continued focus on training.

Remaining 2016 Funds. Deputy Chief Judd recalled for the Board they approved a long list of items at the last meeting. Most of the resulting work is assigned to Logistics. In order for Assistant Chief Richards to have time to accomplish the work by the end of the year so that we are not carrying money over into 2018, staff has come up with an idea to assign a firefighter to the Logistics Division. He plans to request an Executive Session to discuss this collective bargaining issue.

2018 Budget Schedule. Deputy Chief Judd informed the Board it is budget time, and staff is working on the 2018 budget. The initial revenue projections will be available next week; however, we had a preview at the Pierce County Chiefs meeting last week. The Graham Fire District is coming in at a 12.5% increase in assessed valuation, and new construction numbers are slightly higher than what we typically see. He will have firm numbers soon. All of this will only be beneficial if we pass the lid lift in November; otherwise we will be limited to 1% plus new construction. At this time we need to establish a budget meeting schedule. Staff recommends holding a Special Board Meeting on October 11th at 6:00 p.m. for the initial budget presentation, which typically takes approximately two hours. Then, the Board will have approximately one month to consider the information, we will continue to discuss it, with the final review scheduled for November 13th during the regular meeting and final adoption on November 27th at the regular meeting. He asked the Board if the date of October 11th for the Special Board Meeting is acceptable to them, and they responded affirmatively. Deputy Chief Judd stated staff would arrange and prepare for the Special Board Meeting. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed asked him if there will be two budgets prepared since we do not know the results of the November election. He responded that staff is building a budget based on the assumption the levy lid lift will pass, and they will certainly have contingencies available if it does not. He added that the meeting on November 13th will likely be much longer if the lid lift does not pass.

Standing Committees

Budget, Finance and Audit – No report.

Deputy Chief Judd asked the committee members to let him know if they need additional information before the October 11th meeting. He commented that the committee may plan to meet prior to the October 11th meeting. He requested clarification of the purpose of this committee. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed stated her understanding is the purpose is to consider different funding sources, the bigger picture, and not necessarily the details of the budget.

Policy and Procedure – No report

Mergers/Consolidations – No report

Joint Labor/Management – No report

Strategic Leadership Plan – No report

Legislative Affairs – No report

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Portmann thanked staff for the work they put in at the 9/11 ceremony at Graham-Kapowsin High School today. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed asked Deputy Chief Judd to elaborate on the ceremony. He explained this was the first year for this remembrance ceremony for 9/11. Approximately 20 veterans, our personnel, school district personnel, among others, were in attendance. In addition, all three Bethel high schools brought their ROTC members to present colors, of which Graham Fire & Rescue's flag was included along with the military flags. They raised the American flag and brought it back down to half-staff. Pictures of the event are located on the District's computer network.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lucas Wahl from Local 726 stated he wished to thank the District for their support of members' participation in the MDA donation drive. They collected approximately \$12,000. Also, he thanked the District for going through the process for the 2016 excess budget funds. Many of those items directly impact firefighter safety and help with cancer reduction, cancer being the number one killer of firefighters currently. He thanked them for the time they put in and the value they showed for the firefighters, and thanked the Commissioners for approving the expenditures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deputy Chief Judd requested a five-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 (4) (b) to plan or adopt strategy/position for collective bargaining, with possible business to follow.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a five-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 (4) (b) to plan or adopt strategy/position for collective bargaining, with possible business to follow.

Commissioner Gustafson announced a recess at 7:16 p.m.

The Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:19 p.m.

The Executive Session was announced as ending at 7:24 p.m.

Commissioner Gustafson reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Commissioner Barstow moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and I.A.F.F. Local 726 Graham Firefighters Bargaining Unit to temporarily reassign a firefighter or firefighter/paramedic to a 40-hour work schedule assigned to the Assistant Chief of Logistics, as presented. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of September 11, 2017, was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner

Anthony D. Judd, District Secretary