

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Gina Blanchard-Reed, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Adam G. Rosenlund, Commissioner Ryan Portmann, Commissioner Robert Homan, Fire Chief Pat Dale, Deputy Chief Oscar Espinosa, District Secretary Brenda Barker and Board Secretary Jodi Reynolds

Absent: None

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the audience.

APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Portmann moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Commissioner Rosenlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed called for nominations for Board Chair.

Commissioner Rosenlund nominated Commissioner Portmann for the position of Board Chair for 2020. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Gustafson nominated Commissioner Rosenlund for the position of Board Chair for 2020. Commissioner Rosenlund declined.

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed passed the gavel to Commissioner Portmann.

Commissioner Portmann called for nominations for Board Vice Chair.

Commissioner Rosenlund nominated Commissioner Blanchard-Reed for the position of Board Vice Chair for 2020. Commissioner Homan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Gustafson nominated Commissioner Rosenlund for the position of Board Vice Chair for 2020. Commissioner Rosenlund declined.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Special Board Meeting Minutes of December 23, 2019

Financial Documentation:

General Fund:

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| Payables: Checks #27552 through #27608 = | \$152,557.40 |
| Transfer (EFT) = | <u>\$171.58</u> |

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| TOTAL: | <u>\$152,728.98</u> |
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Commissioner Rosenlund moved to approve the Consent Agenda in the amount of \$152,728.98 after proper audit. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of appreciation from Graham-Kapowsin High School and East Pierce Fire & Rescue were provided to the Board.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Dale welcomed the Board and audience members and reported on the following:

A dignitary is in the audience tonight. Welcome to Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Fire Commissioner Matthew Holm.

On January 1, 2020, we raised minimum staffing from 19 to 20. With cross-staffing eliminated in 2019, we now have constant 3-person staffing on Ladder 91. This is a big deal.

Our Community Outreach Officer position process is progressing nicely. Background work is done, and Brianna Baker will begin January 23rd.

Several members of our Department attended the memorial service for fallen Pierce County Sherriff Deputy Cooper Dyson, and we provided backfill for East Pierce Fire & Rescue for the entire day.

He is bringing back strategic planning consultant Doug Mah. During the first quarter, he is scheduled to meet with Chief Dale and Command Staff at various times. Chief Dale will report to the Board on 1st quarter progress.

He accepted the resignation of probationary Firefighter Eric Aime on Monday morning. Yesterday, the position was offered to Resident Firefighter Cole Richardson, who gladly accepted. He is currently in the Bates Academy.

Standing Committees

Budget, Finance and Audit – No report

Policy and Procedure – Commissioner Rosenlund reported Policy 214 will be discussed under “Unfinished Business.”

Mergers/Consolidations – No report

Joint Labor/Management – No report

Strategic Leadership Plan – Commissioner Rosenlund reiterated Doug Mah is returning.

Legislative Affairs – Commissioner Blanchard-Reed reported she has secured five appointments with Legislators on January 28th.

Commissioner Portmann reminded the Board members that with this being a new year they may consider changing their participation on committees. He referred them to the Committees list located behind the Committees tab in their Board books for the current list. Historically, each Commissioner has served on two or three committees. He asked that they email him with their requests and he will announce the new list at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy 214 – Board of Fire Commissioner Meetings

Commissioner Rosenlund referred the Board to the draft document containing the edits and notes from Attorney Eric Quinn. He reviewed the proposed changes. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Homan offered suggestions for additional changes to the policy. Commissioner Rosenlund requested he email those changes to the committee members for consideration. Commissioners Blanchard-Reed and Gustafson also suggested changes. Commissioner Rosenlund suggested the Board enact the changes made to the policy before them regarding Public Comment so they can move forward. The policy will then immediately return to the committee to address additional changes.

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed moved to approve Policy 214, Board of Fire Commissioner Meetings, as presented. Commissioner Homan seconded the motion. Commissioners Portmann, Blanchard-Reed, Rosenlund and Homan: Yes. Commissioner Gustafson: No. Motion carried.

Commissioner Gustafson stated he was opposed to approving the policy in its current “draft” form and wanted to see it with all changes incorporated. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed inquired if staff could produce an updated version of the policy incorporating the approved changes. Commissioner Portmann suggested the designated Lexipol administrator can make the changes to the policy in Lexipol. District Secretary Barker requested they send the Word document to her.

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Robert Benum stated with regards to the policy issue just discussed, he wants to be able to comment right when a topic is being discussed. He asked the Board to consider putting more thought into when public comments can be expressed during the meeting. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed explained the reason behind the placement of the additional public comment period near the beginning of the meeting. Commissioner Portmann acknowledged Mr. Benum’s concern and explained the need to limit public comment to two specific periods during the meeting. Commissioner Rosenlund added that the Board Chair does have some latitude on this.

Citizen Carolyn Benum commented that they have not been diligent about reading the Agenda in advance (online) and will start doing so to be better prepared to speak on a topic.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Graham Fire Association – Glenn Barcus explained they have not had their meeting yet this quarter. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed asked when their meetings are held and if Commissioners may attend. He responded they are the last Tuesday of each odd-numbered month; so, the next meeting is in two weeks, at 6:00 p.m. He explained the Association is for the entire District: Firefighters, Chiefs, Commissioners, etc.

IAFF Local 726 – Luke Wahl echoed what Chief Dale reported earlier regarding the increase in minimum staffing to 20. This is a really big deal to them. He thanks everyone present who contributed to getting us to this place. This is a huge step toward national standards. Thank you to the Association for allowing the Local and the Department to join in helping 10 families this Christmas. Each family had Christmas delivered to them by Department personnel in fire

engines. Individually, Station 92 took on a family, as did Battalion Chief Matt Black, and Firefighter Chris Rawlins. This was much appreciated by the families. Thank you to Michelle Greco for the outstanding job she did organizing the efforts for these families. Her time and effort made all of this possible.

Glenn Barcus added that the Association received a grant from the State (Association of Washington Businesses) for \$1,000, and this in combination with the Local's funds, allowed them to help 10 families. This grant is a yearly opportunity, so they will be looking forward to applying for it in the future to help more families.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Homan stated he is glad to be here. He thanked Chief Dale for the 2019 Year in Review document he sent out as well as the extremely well done video. He offered his deepest sympathies to the Dyson family and apologized for being unable to attend the memorial service. He offered a huge thank you to the Department for its role as liaison and covering for East Pierce. Thank you to Chief Mason in the IMT and to Chief Black assisting as liaison. He read about the adopt-a-family program, which provides a great opportunity to connect with the community. He also read the Health and Wellness piece, and encourages our personnel to access the South King peer support resources as well as our own.

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed inquired about the date, time and location of this month's Pierce County Fire Commissioners Association Meeting. Commissioner Gustafson asked Board Secretary Reynolds to provide them with a schedule of the meetings. She distributed copies to the Board.

Commissioner Blanchard-Reed inquired if there was still interest by the Board in replacing the wooden sign positioned in front of their Board desk; and if so, how they would go about doing that. Chief Dale responded they could submit some design ideas and cost, which staff could help with. Commissioner Portmann asked if there was any historical significance of the sign currently installed. Commissioner Gustafson responded it, along with some other pieces, were carved out of a tree that was removed to make way for this fire station. Commissioner Blanchard-Reed suggested the sign could be moved to the museum in the front lobby to preserve that history. Chief Dale responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Portmann stated he encourages the Board to attend the upcoming Pierce Co. Fire Commissioners Association (PCFCA) meeting on January 23rd. A topic of discussion will be South Sound 911, specifically the importance of having the Sheriff on the Board. Audience member Commissioner Matt Holm from Central Pierce stated the South Sound 911 Board meets prior to that date, so there may already be a decision made. The Commissioners' representative is Pat McElligott, so if they have something specific to address they may want to bring it to him soon. Commissioner Portmann responded he has spoken to Pat McElligott and is hopeful a decision will not be made that day and that there will be enough votes to forestall that until the PCFCA meeting on the 23rd.

Commissioner Portmann also thanked the Department for all they did for Deputy Dyson and his family, the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and community as a whole. Being on the IMT and having done this several times, he appreciates seeing all of the different stakeholders in the community come together, especially public safety agencies, in times of crisis, and in this case to produce an excellent memorial ceremony. Thank you to Chief Mason, Chief Richards and others for their efforts. This means a lot to their other brothers in blue in law enforcement to see

the fire guys helping with the planning. Chief Dale responded that he would pass that on to them.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Chief Dale thanked Commissioner Blanchard-Reed for her role as Board Chair for 2019 and the leadership she provided.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2020, was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Ryan Portmann, Commissioner

Brenda L.B. Barker, District Secretary