

Board of Commissioners Meeting

January 13, 2010

Chairperson Cameron called a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. on January 13, 2010, at 701 Vine Street in the classroom. The following were present:

Commissioner Merritt	Commissioner Bergquist
Commissioner Hallanger	Commissioner Olson
Chief LaFave	Asst. Chief Headley
District Secretary Bouchard	EMS Administrator Ribelin
Section Chief Kelly and various crew members	

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the December 23, 2009, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. Further discussion; Commissioner Bergquist clarified his comments on page 3. Motion carried.

Administration of Oath:

Chairperson Cameron administered the Oath to Bert Thayer, who has been promoted to Captain, and Erik Dearth and Stu Hodnot, new FF/Paramedics. He also noted Joe Tone will begin employment in about a month as a lateral FF/EMT.

Awards & Recognition:

Chief LaFave noted that Section Chief Kelly has completed his Associates Degree and is now a Senior at Columbia University for his Bachelor's Degree. Good job and well done! Chief LaFave is also a Senior at Columbia University.

Public Comment:

None

Risk Management:

None

Verbal Reports and/or Discussions:

Station 25 Update:

Asst. Chief Headley reported he attended the pre-application meeting at the County on Dec. 29th where we received input from various agencies. He learned that DOT will allow our own

entrance so we will not have to rely on the park entrance/exit. Gibbs & Olson is working on a solution for the stormwater. We should have drawings by the end of the month along with a new cost estimate. There will be two bond underwriters at the January 27th meeting with presentations. Chairperson Cameron will develop ground rules for these presentations. He also reminded Board members of the information pending Board review.

Written Reports:

Chairperson Cameron moved the written report for the Weyerhaeuser agreement to the Action Items section.

Action Items:

Weyerhaeuser Agreement: This was discussed at the last meeting so Chief LaFave asked if there were questions from the Board. Section Chief Kelly is working on the run cards to ensure our District is still covered in the event of a Weyco call. Fire District #5 (Kalama) has indicated they are not going to respond to any contract areas; they will only respond under auto and mutual aid. Longview Fire has not provided a final answer on whether they will still respond to calls at Weyerhaeuser.

Commissioner Bergquist clarified the contract does not reimburse for calls for the District. The contract covers all calls as if they were in the District; the amount paid is all inclusive.

Commissioner Merritt confirmed Weyerhaeuser and Longview were in discussions prior to Weyerhaeuser approaching us.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the agreement with Weyerhaeuser as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Merritt. Further discussion (see below). Motion carried with Commissioner Bergquist opposed.

Discussion: Commissioner Bergquist noted the District's direction and policy for "no man's land" contracts is generally not to approve unless there are plans for annexation. He supports annexation for a more reliable contract. He also indicated there is the potential to change the levy rate to all taxpayers through annexation. He feels we don't have an obligation to Weyco to treat them differently.

Commissioner Bergquist is also concerned that we don't have a deployment plan. In addition, we have lost one department's (District #5) response, which is a main component of confined space rescue. At this time, we also don't know if Longview Fire is on board; this takes out a large amount of resources.

Commissioner Bergquist also noted this deployment results in losing medics from the County EMS system while on a fire and we won't be able to cover EMS calls. He understands the contract says we are not committed, however, this will still delay our response. He believes the safety of our citizens should be our priority. This deployment stretches us thin and puts our personnel and the citizens at risk.

Commissioner Bergquist also feels this contract will hurt our relationships with other departments, which has some value.

Chief LaFave responded that we do have a deployment plan that Chief Kelly is working on. We also have not only a Plan B but a Plan C for confined space rescue. Weyerhaeuser supports this plan. In addition, our organization has Type 3 team capabilities such as were used during the 2008 snow/freeze and 2009 flood events. During the snow/freeze event, only one agency opted out of assisting because they felt they weren't affected; this agency was Longview Fire.

Chief LaFave noted Commissioner Bergquist brought up good points, but he is confident we have addressed those points. In fact, during the last year, there were two, three-alarm events at Longview Fibre and most resources came from us. We had six engines along with other resources and we still had other crews to cover the rest of the District. We learned a lesson about how to respond to events at the mills as there were resources called that were not required. Chief LaFave agrees we can't strip the Fire District; we never have and we never will. This agreement will provide funding to agencies involved on the front end. Our District handles many different types of incidents including landslides, floods, trestle fires, and a number of EMS calls, including into the City of Longview.

In 2009, there were 43 calls to Weyco; C2FR responded on all 43 calls. More often, there is a medic unit responding as these are primarily EMS calls.

The plan is to introduce a deployment plan for three companies and bring on a fourth company. The fourth company is currently available 50% of the time now.

Regarding annexation, Asst. Chief Headley and Weyco talked yesterday to ensure that is still part of the discussion. If Weyco was annexed, response is a moot point. Our intent is to continue those discussions.

If we invest in certain elements and Weyco changes or terminates the contract, we have a plan to absorb those elements with the Longview Wye project.

Commissioner Hallanger said in his view, a contract forces the District to provide the best, friendly service versus annexation that allows complete authorization. A contract requires the best service available in order to keep the contract.

Commissioner Merritt noted those are good point to continue to use as we move forward. Are we providing the most effective and efficient service?

Commissioner Olson indicated staff identified resources in the contract. There is no special guarantee given to Weyerhaeuser. He sees this contract as moving toward annexation; contract looks good.

Election of Officers: Annually at the first meeting in January, the Board holds an election for officers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to nominate the current slate of officers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson. No further discussion or nominations. Motion carried.

EF Recovery Contract: Due to continuing customer service issues with Systems Design, we have worked with a new third party billing company to contract with for EMS billing services. We are already using this company, EF Recovery, for billing insurance claims for recovery of supplies used at the scene of traffic accidents. Also, they have hired the staff person that was invaluable while at Systems Design prior to their change. There is a contract for EMS Billing Services, a Business Associates Agreement for HIPAA compliance, and an agreement for the continuing work for recovery of supplies to be approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve all three agreements to be signed by Chief LaFave. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hallanger. Further discussion. Motion carried.

Amendment to Jack Smith Contract: Due to the addition of a new status of students, referred to as Work Based Learning, at Kelso High School, there is a need to identify this group to allow for payment under the current contract. Chairperson Cameron noted there is a discrepancy in the periods of instruction in the contract. With the correction of that item, the Board voted to authorize Chief LaFave to sign the contract.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to authorize Chief LaFave to sign the revised agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olson. Further discussion. Motion carried.

Kelso School District is also working on an amendment to their contract with the District to allow for these payments. They have indicated in writing that they intend to pay for these additional periods of instruction.

Surplus Trailer: The trailer that we have been using as a wildland cache with the Type 3 team last year was reimbursed \$3,500.00 for deployments. It has been identified that there is a need in the State for Mobile Supply Caches to support Type 3 Incident Management Teams. The Washington State Mobilization Guide sets a minimum size of 16' long and minimum GVWR of 7,000 lbs. Our current trailer does not meet this minimum standard required.

We have identified a used trailer that meets the requirements that costs \$5,000; the current trailer has a trade in value of \$1,000. Staff is recommending approval to trade in the current trailer and purchase the used trailer that meets the state's requirements.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bergquist to trade in the current trailer for the used trailer that meets the State requirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merritt. Further discussion. Motion carried.

Tabled for Future Meetings:

- New POG: Out of District Responses
- New POG: #4008 – Emergency Vehicle Driving

Chief's Report:

- Crews have been active.
- Chief LaFave would also like to respond to Commissioner Bergquist's comment regarding the relationship issue with other agencies. He said C2FR has a history of reaching out to build, whether that is for studies, EMS research, apparatus, equipment, training, EMS tips for county agencies, etc. Relationships are still a priority, but we are not going to feel like we have done something wrong in working with Weyerhaeuser. As an organization, if anyone approaches us for assistance, we ask what we can do. This is reflected in many areas including SWAT and HazMat, along with having more nationally recognized personnel under the NIMS system in the State. We continue to reach out. For example, during the flood event, we used Station 23 for the Incident Command Post without asking questions. The bulk of the personnel that staffed the ICP came from our organization. We have never asked for anything in return; somehow, though, personal conflicts seem to get in the way. At this time, Chairperson Cameron corrected Chief LaFave to note that we did ask for help

during the snow/freeze, and were turned down by Longview. Three times, without being asked, our employees have given up or decreased pay raises; we have never gone to the press with that type of information. Except for the contract areas, all agencies are involved with auto and mutual aid. Our intent is to work on and build relationships. It would be very difficult not to recommend and pursue this opportunity with Weyerhaeuser. This is not considered a win for C2FR. Chief has given direction to all personnel to take the high road and remain humble. This direction is clear and happening. We are going to balance the issue of taking care of our citizens and the District and give the appropriate resources to our personnel.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve payroll totaling \$161,414.98 for warrant numbers 31108 through 31164 dated January 5, 2010. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve vouchers totaling \$92,099.18 for warrant numbers 31165 through 31242 dated January 15, 2010. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Merritt provided the Board information on his upcoming meeting dates on behalf of the District.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Cameron at 6:22 p.m.

Chairperson

District Secretary