

# Board of Commissioners Meeting

*January 23, 2008*

Jeff Cameron, Chairperson, called a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. on January 23, 2008, at the 701 Vine Street Conference Room. The following were present:

Commissioner Hallanger  
Commissioner Merritt  
District Secretary Bouchard

Commissioner Olson  
Asst. Chief Headley

## **Approve Previous Minutes:**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve the January 9, 2008, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

## **Administration of Oath:**

None

## **Awards & Recognition:**

The Board recognized a moment of silence in memory of Volunteer Firefighter Gary Wagner. FF Wagner was a member of C2FR for 4-1/2 years and was very active at the Rose Valley station, Station 23 day program and Station 21. He also participated on several wildland deployments, including with the group that responded to the large fires in California last year. This turned out to be his last wildland deployment. He was known to be a hard worker, always getting the job done.

Last Friday, 1/18/08, while at work at R.D. Olson Manufacturing in Kelso, at approximately 9:40 a.m., Gary was hit in the head when a large piece of framework shifted on a crane. He was transported to St. John Medical Center by Cowlitz 2 crews and was pronounced dead at the hospital. Janey Gregory responded to the hospital to be with the family; once the extent of the incident was known, Chief LaFave also responded to the hospital. Staff immediately did a callback and backfilled for all crew members who responded on the call. An initial debriefing was held at that time, with a CISD scheduled for the next day.

Staff is working in support of our members and with the family, appointing a family liaison to help the family. An EAP representative and Chaplain White were available on Friday with a CISD held on Saturday. Monday night at drill both the EAP and Chaplain White were again available for members at Rose Valley and at the main station.

It was noted that one of the few items Gary had in his pocket when he was killed was the fire department recognition coin. This meant a lot to him and his family. Brush 21 will be dedicated in memorium to Gary Wagner. The funeral services will be held Saturday, January 26, 2008, at Rose Valley Friends Church at 11:00 a.m. The family requests any donations are directed to the Rose Valley Fire Fighters Association.

[Commissioner Bergquist arrived at 5:44 p.m.]

We received a thank you letter from the Cowlitz County Health Department for support and use of our facilities for Operation Tripod for flu shots.

Also received a thank you from Lewis County Fire Department #2 for including them in the deployment to the Harris Fire in California.

We received a thank you for Brandi Ballinger's assistance in providing car seat checks for two babies that were being released from St. John. She responded to that facility and fitted the two infants with the proper car seats.

### **Public Comment:**

None

### **Risk Management:**

Asst. Chief Headley reported on a couple of minor injuries to high school students during drills. Also, a career firefighter strained his back while assisting in lifting a patient.

### **Verbal Reports:**

None

### **Written Reports:**

None

### **Action Items:**

**Election of Officers:** Per the Board's guidelines, election of officers is typically held the first meeting of each year, however, this topic was tabled at the last meeting until this meeting.

*Commissioner Olson made a motion to nominate the existing slate of officers. Commissioner Bergquist seconded the motion. No further nominations. Motion carried.*

**COG Representative:** Also at the beginning of each year, a representative for the Council of Governments is appointed by the Board. The Board again appointed Commissioner Hallanger to be the primary representative with Commissioner Merritt as the alternate.

**Resolution #667-2008; Transfer Funds:** The M & O Excess Levy Fund will no longer be needed as the District did not levy monies in 2007 to collect in 2008 for this fund. Therefore, staff is requesting the expected balance on January 31, 2008, be transferred to the Reserve Fund.

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*Commissioner Merritt made a motion to approve Resolution #667-2008. Commissioner Bergquist seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

**Physical Fitness Program:** The American Heart Association, along with numerous organizations including the IAFF/IAFC have recognized that practicing prudent heart living can and does have a direct effect on reducing the number of deaths attributed every year to acute coronary heart disease.

In the past, C2FR has attempted to implement various fitness programs with varying degrees of success. At this time, we have an opportunity to purchase memberships through the Three Rivers Athletic Club at a significantly reduced price, i.e. \$15.00 per month per membership compared with the regular price of \$36.00 per month per membership. This program will be geared toward those on duty, i.e. career, volunteers, staff, etc.

*Commissioner Bergquist made a motion to approve purchase of 50 annual memberships at a total cost of \$9,000.00 with guidelines for use and monitoring to be developed within three months. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. Further discussion. Motion carried.*

The Board would like to evaluate in one year to see if all 50 memberships are needed. Also, are we seeing a benefit for the program? Chairperson Cameron clarified that this program is not a new benefit for employees, but rather a trial program.

**Premium Pay for Volunteer Advocate:** With the change in status of Brad Yoder from Volunteer Coordinator to FF/EMT on shift, Janey Gregory has been re-assigned full time as the interim Volunteer Advocate. To provide monetary compensation commensurate with the workload for this position, Chief LaFave has developed a premium of \$150.00 per month to be paid in addition to Janey's regular salary during this interim period.

*Commissioner Hallanger made a motion to approve premium payment of \$150.00 per month to Janey Gregory as interim Volunteer Advocate. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. Further discussion. Motion carried.*

Further discussion centered around defining this position upon Brad Yoder's transfer. The volunteers would like to see this as a non-represented, civilian position. The "Think Tank" planning group that EMS Administrator Ribelin is facilitating has discussed this position at length. As an interim step until the position is more fully developed, Janey Gregory has been moved from the front reception desk to a separate office in order to fully focus on the volunteer component.

### **Tabled for Future Meetings:**

- New POG: Out of District Responses
- Email Issues
- Private Fire Protection Contract – Eyer (Chairperson Cameron has provided verbiage to include in this contract.)
- New POG: #4008 – Emergency Vehicle Driving

## **Chief's Report:**

- Remodel of front offices, i.e. split Brandi Ballinger's office into two offices to accommodate a separate office for Janey Gregory is almost complete.
- Continuing preparations for the funeral service on Saturday.
- Strategic planning has been moving slowly but is still occurring. Chiefs LaFave and McDaniel have been meeting regularly.

## **Payroll:**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve the January 18, 2008, payroll totaling \$74,741.95 for warrant numbers 25885 through 25901. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

## **Vouchers:**

*A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve vouchers totaling \$73,199.44 for warrant numbers 25902 through 25955 dated January 25, 2008. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.*

## **Announcements:**

- Commissioner Merritt will be attending Legislative Workshop tomorrow in Olympia.

## **Executive Session:**

None

## **Adjournment:**

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

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Chairperson

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District Secretary