

Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 26, 2006

Jeff Cameron, Chairperson, called a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:32 p.m. on April 26, 2006, at the 701 Vine Street District Meeting Room. The following were present:

Commissioner Hallanger	Commissioner Merritt
Commissioner Olson	Commissioner Bergquist
Chief LaFave	Asst. Chief Headley
District Secretary Bouchard	Captain Ramey
Driver/Operator Neely	Fire Inspector Graham
Volunteer FF/EMT Bauman	

Approve Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the April 12, 2006, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Awards & Recognition:

Chief LaFave reported that on behalf of Eleanor Eichtenhopf, who recently passed away, we received approximately \$400 in donations. We sent a letter of condolences and appreciation of the contributions.

The Heroes Breakfast was held last week; congratulations to Russ Neely and Dave LaFave who were honored at the breakfast.

Public Comment:

None

Risk Management:

Clark County Risk Management Group Update: Marty James, Risk Manager, and Jim Palmer, agent, were here last week and toured the stations. They also reviewed the list of policies to be put in place which has been forwarded to Captain Ramey. Their next meeting will be on May 10th and they should be voting on allowing Cowlitz 2 to enter the group at that time. We haven't heard anything back from our inquiry to the WCIA. Chairperson Cameron reminded Asst. Chief Headley about his concerns regarding the bylaws and payment due date.

Verbal Reports:

Libby Lane Bridge Update: Chief LaFave reported that the dynamic that has started to develop over this issue is that some of the folks out there have started to attack Asst. Chief Headley personally at the County Commissioners meetings. There's still clearly a misunderstanding of the Fire District's responsibilities under Title 52. The pace at which the county is taking action on this issue is the same pace they've been on since the issue developed. Chief LaFave has requested Asst. Chief Headley draft a Request for Proposals for C2FR to retain an engineer on our behalf to assess the bridge related to our access, not for certification, or for the residents, but as an expert on our behalf. Our legal counsel, Brian Snure, agrees with this approach.

At this time, AC Headley has drafted the RFP and Chairperson Cameron has reviewed it. Chairperson Cameron indicated he sees us hiring an engineer to assist with developing bridge standards that will be included with our access standards. Then we will have guidelines as to whether we can cross the bridge. In the future, if the County wants to issue building permits, that's their choice, but we will abide by our access standards.

Chairperson Cameron clarified the issue is with the geometrics of the bridge, not the structural questions. Commissioner Hallanger has concerns that we accepted the bridge previously, and are now saying we won't accept it even with the rub rails replaced. Chairperson Cameron clarified that we don't accept bridges, we previously said we would try to cross the bridge under certain circumstances – we haven't promised to cross the bridge. Commissioner Merritt stated his number one concern is that our employees and our apparatus are protected by our standards. Commissioner Merritt indicated it appears the County is not taking our employees' safety into consideration. Chairperson Cameron noted there are only nine houses out there now, but there may be up to 25 homes in the future. Commissioner Hallanger is also concerned that the unsuspecting public may find themselves without emergency response due to the County issuing permits in areas in which we are unable to respond. Chairperson Cameron indicated he agrees, however, building and development is the County's responsibility. Our responsibility is response and we don't have the authority to put conditions on the permits. There are limited opportunities to review information, such as the SEPA review; there is really no mechanism for us to get in touch with people that are thinking of building prior to issuance of the building permit. The current standards are acceptable, but there are many situations that exist that haven't been addressed and don't fall under the current standards yet. Commissioner Hallanger's concern is finding a method to notify the public. Chief LaFave suggests we define what the standard is, and at the same time, we can work with Dave Flemings at the County to incorporate something into Building and Planning's process. AC Headley would be willing to visit in any venue we can find to get the information out to the public. The RFP is to be issued, then the Board will discuss the matter further when we receive the proposals.

Written Reports:

Revenue & Expenses, March 2006: Revenue and expense report information year-to-date through March, 2006, was provided to the Board in their packets. Asst. Chief Headley noted the EMS collection rate has increased approximately five to six percent higher than we've seen in the past few years. Commissioner Hallanger inquired what that may amount to although at this time, it's not really possible to calculate the future impacts due to changes in the Medicare fee schedule. It's also unknown how long or whether the trend will continue.

Calls Report, March 2006: Calls report information for March, 2006, was provided to the Board in their packets. Up to this point, EMS Administrator has been tabulating the types of EMS calls by hand; she will no longer be doing that as it is very time consuming and inefficient. In the future, we'll be using the statistics from Fire House, which may result in a type code difference between the reported problem and the actual problem. Kurt Stich is coming up with a report that most closely describes the actual chief complaint. Other questions from the Board were answered by Staff. Commissioner Merritt thanked Becky for the extra work she's done in compiling this information in the past. The Board indicated that the calls report covering the five-year summary is sufficient in the future.

Action Items:

Review of Board Policy Manual: Chairperson Cameron provided a third draft of revisions to the Board policy manual to the Board via e-mail prior to the meeting for further discussion. At this point, the questions that were previously raised have been resolved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bergquist to approve the revised Board Policy Manual. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vehicle Transfer Agreement (Staff Report 4-2-001): Cowlitz County Fire District #4 (Ryderwood) is in need of a command vehicle similar to the GMC Jimmy that we recently declared surplus equipment. They have requested we transfer this vehicle to them and we have prepared an Interlocal Agreement to do so. The original agreement was written by Clark Snure, and the State Auditor's Office has also approved it. Under the agreement, Cowlitz County Fire District #4 will make the vehicle available to us at no cost in the future if they need arises.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Cowlitz County Fire District #4 for transfer of the GMC Jimmy. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. Further discussion. Motion carried.

Chairperson Cameron requests we add the VIN number of the vehicle to the agreement. [This was completed by District Secretary Bouchard.]

Resolution #645-2006; Transfer from Volunteer Incentive Fund (Staff Report #4-2-002): Chief LaFave previously approved the purchase of coats for volunteers to be paid from the Volunteer Incentive Fund. This was to include sewing the standard reflective material on the coats. At this time, we have received an invoice for this sewing from Little Indian Embroidery in the amount of \$1,065.24 and are requesting this amount be transferred from the Volunteer Incentive Fund to the General Expense Fund accordingly.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve Resolution #645-2006. Commissioner Bergquist seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Chief's Report:

- As part of joint facility planning with Longview Fire, one of our tasks is to identify the annexation timeline related to transfer of assessed value and, therefore, revenue. Chief

LaFave will call County Assessor Terry McLaughlin tomorrow to assist in determining the answer of timing for the loss of revenue.

- As of today, we have over \$1,100 from the raffle; the drawing will be held May 10th. If you need tickets, please see Russ Neely. Ruffled items are a new John Deere self-propelled lawn mower and a fire engine pedal car. Proceeds will go to the citizens fund on the engine and medic units. This is separate from the organization's funding and is through the union. Commissioner Hallanger believes this is supposed to be authorized through the Gambling Commission and Chief LaFave will work with the labor group to clarify that issue.
- Tomorrow Chief LaFave will be picking up Roger and Julie Armstrong; Roger runs the Western Australia version of the DNR. He was at the annual Incident Management Review in Yakima. The Chief's Incident Management Team is doing a hand-off over the last few days in order for the Armstrongs to see different parts of the state. They will spend the night here in Kelso at the Red Lion and Chief LaFave will transfer them somewhere in the Gorge to the next team member.
- Prediction is for a late fire season expected to be "normal" this year.
- Chief recognized Administrative Professionals Day and indicated appropriate staff was recognized during the day.
- House Bill 1756 passed; it requires us to establish standards of coverage and report by next year on our success at achieving those goals and objectives. We are working closely with LFD to establish a similar set of standards for coverage within the urbanized area. Captain Kelly and BC Jurmu will be working on this issue.
- Our crews responded to a couple brush fires in the last few days. Fire activity burned quite well in slash with heavier fuels carrying the fire.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the payroll of April 20, 2006, totaling \$64,920.13 for warrant numbers 21221 through 21235. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the vouchers totaling \$143,108.03 for warrant numbers 21236 through 21296 dated April 28, 2006. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Drill Points:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the drill points payroll of April 28, 2006, totaling \$11,301.25 for warrant numbers 21297 through 21383. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- None

Executive Session:

The Board recessed the regular meeting at 6:32 p.m. for approximately 15 minutes to discuss the upcoming labor negotiations. The Board returned to the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m. by Chairperson Cameron.

Chairperson

District Secretary