

Board of Commissioners Meeting

July 26, 2006

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

Commissioner Hallanger	Commissioner Olson
Commissioner Merritt	Duty Chief Ramey
District Secretary Bouchard	EMS Administrator Ribelin
Driver Operator Neely	

Commissioner Bergquist arrived at 5:33 p.m.

Approve Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve the July 12, 2006, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. Further discussion. Motion carried.

Revisions were made to page 1 reflecting the correct date of the approved minutes as June 28, 2006, and page 3 reflecting the correct date of the special meeting on Wednesday, July 19, 2006.

A motion was made by Commissioner Merritt to approve the July 19, 2006, minutes of the special meeting. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Administration of Oath:

None

Awards & Recognition:

EMS Administrator Ribelin reported that Volunteer FF Ashley Springer graduated from the Washington State Fire Academy as a Firefighter I. Chief LaFave and Volunteer Coordinator Gregory attended the graduation ceremony last Friday; Ashley was very excited and she represented us well. She will follow up on her EMT test now so she can become a Shift Volunteer. Congratulations from the Board!

Public Comment:

Ardith Libby attended the meeting to hear the Board's comments on the engineering report from Sargent Engineering regarding the Libby Lane Bridge. Chairperson Cameron reported that we just received the report this Monday; the Board will need to review and comment to Sargent

Engineering if there are questions. After that, a final report will be received from Sargent and made available for distribution.

Risk Management:

None

Verbal Reports:

Annexation Issues: - Duty Chief Ramey displayed a document from the County GIS department regarding the Columbia Heights annexation. There is a Boundary Review Board meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. The Rick Annexation Boundary Review Board meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on August 17th. Staff will follow up with the County GIS to receive a map of the affected areas.

Chairperson Cameron indicated the information is getting detailed enough that he needs to recuse himself from the discussion and recommended Commissioner Bergquist does the same; Commissioner Bergquist agreed and they left the meeting. The meeting was then turned over to Vice Chairperson Hallanger until the discussion was over.

Vice Chairperson Hallanger indicated he feels that for the district, the issue is money for the level of service we can provide. As the district gets smaller on the west end, he's not sure what level of service it makes sense for us to provide there. EMS Administrator Ribelin pointed out that in the overview from the Chief, there is a proposal to offset the value of the lost revenue. Hallanger is concerned that as the annexation goes further out west, it doesn't make sense to have a career staffed station on the west end.

Commissioner Merritt indicated that since the Supreme Court overturned the decision in Yakima and Moses Lake, digging your heels in to prevent the annexation doesn't do any good; it just extends the time it takes to be put into place. He agrees with the concern over loss of revenue and feels that the approach of a pre-annexation agreement compensation for some loss of revenue is appropriate. He feels that timing is an issue; we can go to the Boundary Review Board and express our concerns over the loss of revenue which doesn't mean we're going to fight it. It just allows us an opportunity to express our concerns.

Commissioner Hallanger is concerned that District 2 is providing a lot of service to the City of Longview in the area of medical transport. He feels that two thirds of Station 22 medical calls are in the City of Longview. EMS Administrator Ribelin also indicated the fee we pay to the City of Longview is being negotiated.

Commissioner Hallanger feels we need to have somebody go to the Boundary Review Board meeting because the annexation will cause a financial hardship to the district. Commissioner Merritt will call the WFCOA office tomorrow and clarify what our message should be. Commissioners Hallanger and Olson agree with this action, and Commissioner Merritt will attend the meeting tomorrow night and express our position.

Vice Chairperson Hallanger turned the meeting back over to Chairperson Cameron at 6:05 p.m.

Fire Season 2006: – Chief LaFave, Captain Kelly, and Volunteer Group Supervisor Croco have been dispatched to the Tripod Fire in the Winthrop/Twisp area of Washington. They left Monday evening and may be home this weekend as the fire has grown and will be transitioned to a Type 1 Team in the next couple days. Northwest states are requesting resources from Washington; however, the DNR is holding available Washington resources in the state.

The Goat Mountain Fire still has two C2FR members along with a tender and a medic unit.

Written Reports:

Revenue & Expense Report – June, 2006: – Information was provided to the Board in their packets. Questions from the Board were answered by Staff.

Calls Report – through June, 2006: – Information was provided to the Board in their packets. EMS Administrator Ribelin also provided a further breakdown of EMS call types. Questions from the Board were answered by Staff.

EMS Administrator Ribelin reported that after the discussion with Systems Design last week, we found that we are having problems getting signatures from patients. Occasionally, there are patients and/or representatives that are unable to sign. If Medicare audits us, however, we may be required to repay a certain percentage of fees due to not obtaining signatures. Discussion of Medicare, DSHS rates and collection rates.

Action Items:

New Agenda Item – Emergency Declaration/Purchase Air Handler Unit (Staff Report 7-2-001): On Friday, July 21, 2006, a technician from Renaud Electric was called to investigate the reasons for an unusually loud air handler unit at Station 21 that services the main office area. After a few minutes, he notified staff that he is not able to repair the unit as it is very old, parts are not readily available and may not be available at all, the bearings are very worn and the fan has already shifted in the housing, and failure of the unit is imminent.

The unit was shut off over the weekend to extend its life as much as possible, and the temperature in the offices rose to almost 90 degrees. If the unit fails, the temperature in the office will rise to an unreasonable level. Therefore, the unit should be replaced immediately.

Under RCW 39.04.280, the Board of Commissioners may adopt findings and declare the existence of an emergency, and waive competitive bidding requirements for all contracts necessary to address the emergency situation. Staff recommends that the Board adopt the findings in Agenda Summary 7-2-001, declare an emergency, and authorize Staff to execute all contracts necessary to address the emergency.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to declare an emergency, adopt the findings and authorize Staff to proceed with purchase and installation of a new air handler unit. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Tabled for Future Meetings:

- Draft Scope of Work for the Strategic Plan

- Discussion regarding labor agreement; no concerns from the Board except what Chairperson Cameron brought up. Union will be voting on the contract on August 1st.

Chief's Report:

- Discussion of Engine 22's return to service.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the payroll of July 20, 2006, totaling \$70,520.26 for warrant numbers 21890 through 21918. Commissioner Hallanger seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the vouchers totaling \$101,115.02 for warrant numbers 21919 through 21972 dated July 28, 2006. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Drill Points:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the quarterly drill points payments of July 31, 2006, totaling \$9,240.00 for warrant numbers 21973 through 22049. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- Commissioner Merritt reminded the Board that the Board of Volunteer Fire Fighters (BOVFF) is requesting suggestions on basic standards for volunteer fire fighters to satisfy a request coming out of the Supreme Court that every jurisdiction is going to have to determine their own standards or there will be standards imposed.
- Legislative proposals will come out in September from the Chiefs and Commissioners Associations, BOVFF, Council of FF, etc. There are stirrings in Olympia of possible proposals of a modified Prop 13 like in California.
- Commissioner Merritt will be attending the Boundary Review Board meeting tomorrow night.
- Commissioner Bergquist will be absent at the next meeting on vacation.
- Volunteer all call meeting for July 31st has been rescheduled for Monday, September 18th.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. by Chairperson Cameron.

Chairperson

District Secretary