

Board of Commissioners Meeting

August 9, 2006

Jeff Cameron, Chairperson, called a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:30 p.m. on August 9, 2006, at the 701 Vine Street District Meeting Room. The following were present:

Commissioner Hallanger
Chief LaFave
District Secretary Bouchard

Commissioner Olson
Asst. Chief Headley

Commissioner Cameron announced a change to the agenda to delete the scheduled Executive Session.

Approve Previous Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the July 26, 2006, Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Olson seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Administration of Oath:

None

Awards & Recognition:

Chief LaFave received a letter from the DNR in appreciation of his participation on the Goat Mountain Fire in the Kalama River drainage. We also had four other C2FR employees participate on suppression efforts for this fire. DNR indicated they appreciate Cowlitz 2's ongoing cooperative efforts.

Public Comment:

None

Risk Management:

Asst. Chief Headley noted he needs Chairperson Cameron's comments on the agreement for the Clark County Risk Management Group in order to finalize and get signatures. (The agreement has been approved by the Board.)

[Commissioner Merritt joined the meeting at 5:33 p.m.]

Verbal Reports:

Annexation Issues: - Chairperson Cameron turned the meeting over to Vice Chairperson Hallanger. Discussion of the draft pre-annexation agreement developed by Brian Snure. Commissioner Merritt and Asst. Chief Headley attended the last Boundary Review Board (BRB) meeting when the BRB made their recommendation official to add area to the original Columbia Heights proposed annexation. New maps were distributed by Asst. Chief Headley. The BRB scheduled another public hearing for Wednesday, Sept 6th. The is approximately \$8.9 million in assessed value for this annexation. The Rick Annexation covers approximately \$49 million in assessed value. The total tax revenue for C2FR is close to \$100,000.

Chief LaFave said the only way to a real solution is to have some collaboration with the City of Longview. From a strategic standpoint, Longview Fire is in support of developing an agreement. Bob Gregory, Longview City Manager, would like us to present a proposal for their review. Chief LaFave indicated he will have an improved draft of the pre-annexation agreement by next week. It will look at keeping us status quo with the 2008 valuation that we would lose through the annexations. He feels that's the long-term solution as we will still need to provide service to our citizens. The impact to calls would probably make us look at volunteer staffing, however, we don't have a lot of success with the volunteer staffing in the area out west. Commissioner Hallanger feels we could provide these services from the Columbia Heights station and is not opposed to moving career staff from Station 22 (Bakers Corner) to Station 23 (Columbia Heights).

Chief LaFave said looking at building a joint facility with Longview would be the best long-term solution, however, timeliness is an issue; Commissioner Hallanger feels that the money is also an issue. He questions whether it makes sense to invest out there; Chief feels it makes sense operationally for a joint solution.

Noted by the BRB was the ongoing planning process with the City of Longview; they pay attention to interlocal agreements and levels/changes in service. Commissioner Merritt asked what the preference is. Chief LaFave responded that jointly staffing so neither agency is funding the entire cost would be the preference. We need to collaborate use of our available resources on the west end. Timing is an issue and we need to get a commitment. Otherwise, we have to do something to move the City toward a decision to work with us or not. If not, we need to be prepared to take a position that if we need to be redeployed, don't call us for everything; we'll help when we can. Discussion of moving career personnel to Station 23, Columbia Heights, and how we could cover west end calls from there.

Chief LaFave is hoping to have a revision to the pre-annexation draft from Brian Snure by Monday. Commissioner Merritt asked Commissioner Hallanger if there is a different formula for recouping the lost revenue, perhaps something like our agreement with the City of Kelso. We need to identify trigger points, assessed valuation and call volumes, in order to have actual talking points with the City of Longview. Discussion of AMR services and availability; also discussion of facilities available for volunteer intern/resident programs for staffing. We could relocate career staff from Station 22 to Station 23 with no negative impact to the City of Longview; Commissioner Hallanger wants to ensure that this is part of the discussion with them. Chief LaFave agrees we need to be talking more about operating out of Station 23 and maintaining staffing levels. At this time, we need to look at full annexation under the City of Longview's Urban Growth Boundary and focus our planning efforts for that scenario.

Chairperson Cameron returned to the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Fire Season 2006: – Chief LaFave indicated this is a late fire season as was previously discussed. He shared a progression map of the Tripod Fire where he, Captain Kelly and Volunteer Group Supervisor Croco were assigned, along with an overview of that fire.

Right now we have two strike teams out, however, they'll probably be coming home tomorrow. There's also a fire north of Spokane that's gone into homes. We are experiencing a late fire season and expect it to last until at least the first half of September, maybe late September. Fuel moistures on this side of the state are as low as they've been since approximately 1985.

Chief LaFave also mentioned that during the Goat Mountain Fire, the DNR crews stayed at Station 23 to reduce their travel time. Also, yesterday we had a fire at Willow Grove, and we have had a number of smaller fires.

Written Reports:

Strategic Plan, COG: – A Scope of Work and cost breakdown developed by Steve Harvey through the Council of Governments was included for the Board to discuss. This cost estimate is for joint planning through the City to estimate the costs of that project. Commissioner Hallanger feels this is putting the cart before the horse; Chief agrees we need to get some commitment as to what we're doing first. The thought was that if we start getting involved with the COG and do some of this locally, people will be less resistant to the plan and our intentions. If we don't have somebody like Steve Harvey involved, the project will lack credibility and at least a perception of an unbiased view.

Tabled for Future Meetings:

- None

Chief's Report:

- Nothing further.

Payroll:

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the payroll of August 4, 2006, totaling \$159,238.22 for warrant numbers 22050 through 22108. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Vouchers:

A motion was made by Commissioner Hallanger to approve the vouchers totaling \$49,320.42 for warrant numbers 22109 through 22174 dated August 11, 2006. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Action Items:

Labor Agreement 1/1/07 through 12/31/08: The negotiation committees have come to an agreement on a new labor contract to be effective January 1, 2007, through December 31, 2008. This agreement was previously distributed to the Board and discussed. The union has ratified the agreement and it is now ready for Board action.

A motion was made by Commissioner Olson to approve the proposed Labor Agreement. Commissioner Merritt seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Announcements:

- None

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. by Chairperson Cameron.

Chairperson

District Secretary