

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

December 1, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Larson at 7:00 PM at Station 91.

The following were in attendance: John Clancy, Greg Cox, Harry Goodnight, Gary Larson, Vic Rasmussen; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs, Dean Thornberry; Brad Baldwin, Mike Carnes, Dale Dawson, Jack Hooper, Nancy Hooper, Paula Knapp, Martha Martin and Sheldon Tyler.

Commissioner Larson asked for a Moment of Silence in remembrance of Bill Hargett, a life-long Member of the Fire Service—who served in many capacities; including, most recently, as a Fire Commissioner (until his death) at Clark County Fire & Rescue. Following the Moment of Silence, Commissioner Larson thanked Commissioners Clancy and Rasmussen, as well as Jack and Nancy Hooper, for attending Mr. Hargett's funeral.

Commissioner Goodnight noted that information had just been received about Robert Lansberry, a Fire Commissioner from Spokane Fire District #4, who had recently passed away.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Larson sought adjustments to the Agenda. There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes:

- November 17, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- November 17, 2009 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes

Approval of December 1, 2009 Financial Report

MOTION (by Clancy): To approve the Consent Agenda. SECONDED (by Goodnight). Passed Unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was nothing discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

CHIEF OFFICER REPORTS:

The following activities have occurred since your last meeting:

<u>Total Calls</u>		<u>Projected:</u>
FY2007	1.65 Calls/day	605/year
FY2008	1.70 Calls/day	623/year
<u>FY2009—YTD</u>		
602 Calls	1.79 Calls/day	655/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

18	EMS
3	Injury MVA
1	Non-Injury MVA
2	Burning Complaints
1	Fire Alarm (Unauthorized Testing)
1	Mechanical Problem (Equipment Failure)
1	Structure Fire—M/A to Camas Fire

Closing Out FY2009 Budget

Trying to Schedule Quarterly Ambulance Oversight Meeting (December 10th vs. 17th)

Communicating Operational Issues/Concerns with Chief Leon

Working on Agency ID Cards for All Personnel

New Insurance Policy—for FY2010—Coming Thursday

Researching Hands-Free Phone for Staff Cars

Met with Washougal Mayor-Elect Sean Guard and Fire Chief Schumacher—at Guard's request

Re-Scheduling After-Action-Review with DNR for the Jones Creek 3 Fire

Finally Completed Incident Report Documenting ECFR's Actions

Completed and Submitted Preliminary Versions of FY2010 Revenue and Expense Budgets to County

Camas has been asked to re-evaluate our maintenance charges for hydrants located in the Fire District

Exercise Equipment is due to arrive—any day—for Health & Wellness Grant

Finalizing Scheduling of Health & Wellness Evaluations at Station 91

Square Mile Project is underway.

Purchased a DVD Recording Camera For Training Activities and Other District Events

JAS (Job Acquisition Skills) Interview with Washougal High School Student

Completing Plans for Annual Holiday Gathering on December 9th

Planning for Year-End Review of FY2009 Goals and Objectives on December 30th

Drills: WMD Awareness—MCI Drill, Thanksgiving Holiday Break

Employee Assistance Program is available for Any Member Needing Support During the Holidays or for any Issues/Concerns

Assistant Chiefs

Chief Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Chief Thornberry reviewed his written report.

Thornberry also over-viewed proposed updates/changes in the Membership Policy for Volunteers. These changes will categorize Volunteers into four distinct groups; set clearer roles, responsibilities and standards of operation for those groups; set the PPE that would be issued—based upon their group assignment; and set distinct training/participation requirements for each group. Members will be asked to pick the group assignment that they desire AND in which they can fulfill all requirements.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Liaison, advised that he and Dale Dawson would be conducting the Part-Timer testing this weekend. They are looking for more helpers.

SAFETY REPORT:

Commissioner Larson noted that—while at the last Washington Fire Commissioners Association Conference—there was a presentation on 'making Safety part of the Fire Service culture'. To that end, it is Larson's intent to give Safety greater visibility in ECFR; thus, a short report on safety-related topics will occur at each Regular Board Meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Commissioner Larson advised that he and Commissioner Rasmussen have a meeting scheduled, this next Thursday, with Camas Mayor Paul Dennis to discuss the status of the Staffing Agreement.

Larson reported that the Commissioner's Sub-Committee met, last night, to discuss the Shared Services Agreement—with the intent to determine what actions/changes were needed—by Camas—to keep the Staffing Agreement viable. The Sub-Committee, which was comprised of Commissioners Larson and Rasmussen; Chiefs Koehler and Thornberry; Volunteer Representative Brad Baldwin; and Part-Timer Representative Danny Burch; discussed the issues and concerns surrounding the way that Camas delivers services (staffs/operates) Station 91 and Station 95.

The feedback from the Sub-Committee (representing the feedback from many Employees and Volunteers) was overwhelmingly negative—the feeling is that ECFR is NOT getting its money's-worth from the Joint Staffing Agreement. This, despite, providing ongoing requests/information/feedback to Camas—some verbal, most written. The Fire District's concerns were delivered to Camas Battalion Chiefs; Camas' Fire Chief; Camas' Mayor, City Administrator and various Councilpersons—without significant (or any) improvement:

- Short-term projects are not getting done—nor—communicated to the next shift for completion—some of these 'breakdowns' are costing the Fire District money to have these tasks completed by private vendors when time-specific issues don't get done;
- Long-term projects are not getting done due to the constant turn-over of Camas personnel that 'visit' Station 91;
- Bidding for shifts—designed to result in a longer-term assignment at Station 91—as promised by Chief Leon, was not done for Station 91 for FY2010;
- Camas personnel at Station 95 usually don't return calls to Station 94 personnel who are seeking to arrange the daily drill;
- Camas' Station 95 personnel take little or no initiative to maintain that facility; they have to be asked—frequently—to do yard work and to conserve utilities;
- there is no predictable communication within CFD—ECFR requests don't get passed within their Agency;
- there is no communication initiated by CFD toward ECFR—ECFR has to 'mine' information from CFD to find-out what is going on—or—not going to happen—or—why something 'different' than expected/requested DID happen;
- there is no effort by CFD to 'close the loops' to ensure information/assignments get passed from person-to-person or shift-to-shift or to ECFR's Administration;
- Camas personnel immediately call Washougal personnel to respond with them—instead of waiting (afterhours) for Station 94, 95 or 96 Volunteers to respond from home on Eastside calls;
- Camas personnel are paid, on average, 30-35% more than ECFR staff—yet many Camas personnel allow the ECFR Part-Timers, Interns and Volunteers to do the work (truck checks, station clean-up, teaching Cadet classes, delivering drills) while they watch TV, play computer games, sit in the La-Z-Boy, etc. The sole ECFR Captain is carrying an extremely heavy workload (coordinating desired

work assignments) compared to Camas personnel—and not receiving comparable pay for his efforts.

- Operational assignments are also falling to the Assistant Fire Chief—in charge of Operations—which interferes with his ability to do Administrative work.
- Etc.

The Sub-Committee recommended that ECFR terminate the Joint Staffing Agreement; inasmuch as efforts to address recurrent issues with Camas' Fire Chief—and then, Camas' Mayor—have resulted in little or no progress over the last year. The Sub-Committee also feels that ending the Joint Staffing Agreement in less than the 365 days, listed in the Agreement, would be beneficial to the Fire District.

It was noted, by one of the Board Members, that Camas' City Council has already disbanded their Fire Authority Workgroup—so, it appears, they may have anticipated the end of the Staffing Agreement. It was suggested that, perhaps, Camas might be open to a more rapid end to the Staffing Agreement. Commissioner Larson hopes that both parties can find an equitable arrangement to save the five (5) jobs of those Fire Fighters employed under the Staffing Agreement. Camas may have 2 or 3 openings—due to retirements or staff reorganization—that could be filled (most likely by the Paramedics). ECFR could then take-on the two FF/EMTs.

Commissioner Clancy asked if ECFR has the right to communicate with the five FTEs. It was felt that, as Camas employees, Camas should communicate ECFR's desire to 'salvage jobs' to the five Camas personnel involved. Commissioner Rasmussen feels like ECFR has—constantly—worked to communicate with Camas. Documenting our intent to save jobs is, probably, the best we can do. We can only hope that our message gets communicated to Camas' troops and hope for an amicable departure from the Staffing Agreement.

MOTION (by Clancy): To officially notify Camas of ECFR's intent to withdraw from the Joint Staffing Agreement in 365 days—or less, by mutual agreement. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

In a somewhat related topic--regarding the City of Washougal—Commissioner Larson advised that there have been two meetings between ECFR and Mayor-Elect Sean Guard. Commissioner Larson and Chief Koehler meet with Mr. Guard the first time. Washougal Fire Chief Ron Schumacher joined that group for the second meeting. Mr. Guard desires to have a better relationship between Washougal Fire & Rescue and East County Fire—and would like to see ECFR apparatus back on Washougal Run Cards (so that the closest unit responds to emergency calls).

The Board was open to a better working relationship with Washougal—especially after the total lack of a working relationship during Mayor Seller's tenure. However, 'IF' ECFR starts responding, again, on a regular basis with Washougal—there should be a fair exchange of services. To that end, Commissioner Larson desires to develop a document that identifies ECFR expectations and 'deal breakers' that would require compliance by whoever desires to share services with the Fire District.

EMS Response Billing – Debt Forgiveness. There were no issues to discuss tonight.

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Commissioner Larson advised that the Pre-App Conference paperwork has been completed and is ready to submit to Clark County. The Pre-App Conference will allow the Fire District to meet with Clark County Community Development personnel to learn what will be required of the District—operationally and financially—if we seek a building permit for the equipment storage building at the Bear Prairie Satellite Station.

Regarding the house, the last project that must be completed to finish that project is to build a side-wall to better support the Car Port. Commissioner Larson would like to utilize the Small Works Roster to complete that work—which has an estimated cost of \$3,000 to \$4,000.

MOTION (by Clancy): To direct the Board Chair to utilize the Fire District’s Small Works Roster list to obtain a contractor to complete the required work—on the Bear Prairie carport—to bring total completion to that project. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

Washougal Water Tower. The City’s Public Works Director has asked if the District would be interested in having further discussions about allowing the City access to the proposed water storage tanks (at SE 352nd Avenue near SE 16th Street) via 16th Street—a private roadway on the north end of the Mt. Norway Fire Station property. He will send a note requesting to meet with District representatives.

Purchase Request: Minitor Tone Pagers: Chief Koehler requested the purchase of five (5) Motorola Minitor Tone Pagers—to help outfit some of the 12 new Volunteers who just completed their Basic Fire Fighter Academy. The estimated cost of these pagers is \$2,500. This is a planned/budgeted purchase for FY2009.

Chief Koehler will approach the Board—early in FY2010—to obtain additional Tone Pagers which are budgeted for next year.

MOTION (by Larson): To approve the purchase of five (5) Motorola Minitor Tone pagers, estimated to cost \$2,500. SECONDED (by Cox). Passed Unanimously.

Appointment of Commissioner to fill Newly Approved 5th Board Seat. Three requests were received by the Fire District from District Residents interested in seeking appointment to the ‘vacant’ 5th Commissioner’s position—recently approved by the voters—to begin service on January 1, 2010. One application was received after the published deadline—and will not be considered. The other two applicants are: George Hooper and Martha Martin.

Chief Koehler will contact the two applicants to confirm their availability on Thursday, December 10th. Interviews will be conducted at Station 91. Martha Martin requested that interview times be established at the earliest possible convenience to allow her to schedule around her other work assignments.

Board Assignments for FY2010. The Board needs to fill task assignments for FY2010. Chief Koehler provided the Board with past-Board Assignments for their review. The Chief suggested that this topic be discussed at the December 15th Regular Board Meeting, but hold-off on final action/assignments until the two New Commissioners have been sworn in (i.e. at the January 5, 2010 Regular Board Meeting). The Board agreed that this approach would work for them.

Policy Updates: Membership Requirements. Chief Thornberry provided an overview of this project in his earlier report to the Board. Staff will provide the updated Policy to the Board at its December 15th Regular Board Meeting.

LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 7:52 PM. There was one item of business to discuss: Seek reimbursement from the State Board for a New Member Physical. The Local Board supported the request for reimbursement. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

ROUND TABLE

Annual Holiday Gathering, December 9th, 6 PM, Station 91

Year in Review—Agency Goals & Objectives, December 30th, 7 PM, Station 91

Commissioner Goodnight advised that tonight’s Regular Board Meeting would be his last—due to a work schedule conflict on December 15th. Goodnight said that he will miss the Fire District and its great group of personnel.

Commissioner Larson thanked Commissioner Goodnight for his 35 years of service to this Community as both a Volunteer Fire Fighter/Fire Officer and as an Elected Fire Commissioner.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session, per RCW 42.30.110(g)—To Review the Performance of a Public Employee—at 7:56 PM. The expected duration of the Executive Session was estimated to be 10 minutes. No Board action is expected after the Executive Session.

The Board advised the audience, at 8:06 PM, that the Executive Session would be extended another 10 minutes.

BOARD RECONVENES:

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:16 PM. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 15, 2009 Station 91, 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

by

Gary Larson, Chairman

Greg Cox, Vice-Chair

John Clancy, Commissioner

Harry Goodnight, Commissioner

Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SEAL:

Scott Koehler, District Secretary