

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

January 6, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Larson at 7:01 PM at Station 1-1.

The following were in attendance: John Clancy, Greg Cox, Harry Goodnight, Gary Larson, Vic Rasmussen; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs, Dean Thornberry; and Brad Baldwin.

COMMISSIONER ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009:

The Board has considered assignments for Commissioners—and for the Local Board For Volunteer Fire Fighters—for calendar year 2009.

MOTION (by Rasmussen): To reappoint Commissioner assignments “as is” from 2008. SECONDED (by Cox). Passed Unanimously.

MOTION (by Rasmussen): To reappoint Local Board for Volunteer Fire Fighter assignments “as is” from 2008. SECONDED (by Goodnight). Passed Unanimously.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- ◆ Approval of Minutes:
 - December 16, 2008 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Approval of January 6, 2009 Financial Report
- ◆ Excuse Commissioner Clancy.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was no public input.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Department of Homeland Security—FY2008 SAFER Grant Application Status. The DHS has notified the District that the SAFER Grant Program expended all of its allotted funds prior to being able to fund ECF&R’s staffing grant request.

CHIEF OFFICER REPORTS:

The following has occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

<u>Total Calls</u>		<u>Projected:</u>
FY2007	1.65 Calls/day	605/year
FY2008	1.70 Calls/day	623/year

FY2009

18 Calls

3.00 Calls/day

1095/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

- 17 EMS
- 7 MVA—Non-Injury
- 6 MVA—Injury
- 3 Powerline Calls (Lines Down or Limbs Across Lines)
- 2 Car Fires (Both Working Fires)
- 2 Furnace Problems
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Mutual Aid Fire with Camas
- 1 Mutual Aid Fire with Washougal (cancelled upon responding)
- 1 Sandbagging houses/yards (40th & J in Washougal)

Conducted significant preparation for inclement weather—chained rigs several times

Thanks to Commissioner Goodnight for clearing snow from Station 1-1 Parking Lot

Responded to working structure fire on 362nd Avenue—hampered by snow, ice, wind, freezing rain

Conducted technical rescue of persons from car that went into the Little Washougal River

Handled a significant number of Auto Accidents

Dealt with heavy rain/flooding—handed out sandbags/sand—Sandbagged one Washougal neighborhood

Talked/Met with Camas Fire Chief Leo Leon Several Times Regarding Shared Services Issues

Conducted Chief's Interviews for CFD FF/IV Tech Applicants

Trying to Complete Interlocal Agreements for EMS Levy Funding Transfer and Staffing

Completing arrangements for an IV Tech class in February and March

Obtained 15+ applications for Part-Timers

Re-scheduled Holiday Gathering—Tomorrow, 6 PM, Station 1-1

Dealing with EMS Response/Invoice Issues

Working on Conditional Use Permit for Bear Prairie Satellite Station

Efforts on Hold for Easement for Hanger Project Behind Station 1-1

Drills: CAROL Boxes

The Board expressed a “huge debt of gratitude” to all ECFR personnel who supported the Fire District—and responded to the large number of incidents that occurred—during the severe cold weather that this area endured for almost two weeks.

Assistant Chief Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Assistant Chief Thornberry reviewed his written report.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, Fire Fighters Association Liaison, advised the Board that he will solicit an “Alternate” Fire Fighter’s Representative for the Local Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters at the Association’s February meeting.

Additionally, Baldwin thanked the Fire District for providing the Leadership, and granting Members the Authority, to utilize District resources to deliver the level of Customer Service—that is deemed appropriate by Emergency Responders—to support and assist those who we encounter. He discussed a semi-truck that had become stuck in the ice—in a sharp corner on Gibson Road—during the last bout of snow. The Incident Commander utilized District personnel and apparatus (for several hours) to block both ends of the roadway, and supported a ‘Class A’ Tow Truck that ‘lowered’ the semi down Gibson Road—to a point where the truck’s chains were, again, effective in providing traction. The truck driver noted that—in his many years on the road—he had never witnessed such help from any public safety group. That driver wished to

express his appreciation to those who rendered assistance—and to those policy makers—who made Customer Service ‘the’ priority that he viewed that night.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the Volunteers who provided outstanding service to the Truck Driver—in this situation—as well as to all Members who have provided excellent Customer Service to our patrons.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Chief Koehler and Chief Leon have been talking on an ongoing basis. Shared Services efforts have been slowed by the hiring process for ECF&R’s five personnel—to be hired by Camas—and the slow response of the City Administrator and the City Attorney in development/refinement of two Interlocal Agreements. The testing has been completed for the five positions. The Interlocal Agreements should be completed soon.

Shared Services talks are expected to begin, later this month, as Administrative Staff review a series of questions (developed by the Chiefs)—and arrange job duties (to reduce or eliminate duplication)—under a theme of Functional Consolidation. The outcome of such meetings will be provided to Elected Officials for their review, comment and (ultimately) adoption.

EMS Response Billing. There were no issues to discuss tonight.

Debt Forgiveness Request.

“BH” has one EMS response bill pending. They have asked for 100% forgiveness due to being on a fixed income—with virtually no discretionary income to pay for ECFR’s response.

“RK” has one EMS response bill pending. They have asked for 100% forgiveness due to being on a fixed income—with virtually no discretionary income to pay for ECFR’s response.

“FB” has one EMS response bill pending. They have asked for 100% forgiveness due to being on a fixed income—with virtually no discretionary income to pay for ECFR’s response.

MOTION (by Rasmussen): To grant “BH”, “RK” and “FB” total forgiveness of their EMS invoices. SECONDED (by Cox). Passed Unanimously.

Volunteer Reimbursement Schedule—Day Shift Assignments: Recent opinions from several attorneys indicate that use of Volunteers—for staffing fire stations—creates potential legal problems for Fire Districts when lump-sum reimbursements exceed 20% of the hourly pay rate for Full Time Fire Fighters. Our attorney, now, agrees with these opinions—which is a change from last year’s review of the program.

There was a long discussion, among the Board—and the audience—about the pros and cons of continuing the existing Volunteer Day Shift Program. Chief Koehler wants Volunteers to have every opportunity to assist the District—but, can not find a way to continue the Day Shift Program without reducing reimbursements. Reducing reimbursements could, easily, be seen as an insult to our Volunteers. Likely, the Fire District would need to spend a lot of money

TRYING to get our Attorney to develop a defensible Volunteer Day Staffing Program. Such a large expenditure could be rendered useless—in short order—if the Department Of Labor makes changes in their policies OR INTERPRETATION of their policies.

Commissioner Goodnight wants to make sure that this move is not an attempt to end Volunteer participation at ECFR. Chief Koehler assured Commissioner Goodnight that there are many other ways for Volunteers to serve our Community—via the Fire District. This Volunteer Staffing Program, unfortunately, could subject the Fire District to legal problems—and significant financial burdens—if current and future changes in DOL policy and procedure open the door for a Member complaint.

MOTION (by Cox): To discontinue the Volunteer Day Shift Program. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Commissioner Larson discussed his conversations with various personnel at the Clark County Department of Community Development. They have agreed that the outlying barn, at the Bear Prairie Satellite Station, is an Ag Building—and need only have plans drawn-up for expansion/enclosure of an Ag Building—regardless of what is stored inside. An “As Built” drawing of the three storage bays will, also, have to be submitted. There is no need for a Conditional Use Permit. The Health Department may have to inspect the septic system (for the house) if that was not done when the District purchased the property.

Clark PUD has confirmed that they can run a separate power supply line from the existing transformer to a meter that serves only the three storage bays being considered for expansion/enclosure.

Surplus Process for GMC Utility Vehicle. The Board has, in past instances, supported sealed bids for disposal of surplus equipment. A review of Kelley Blue Book .com shows the van may have values ranging from \$5,130 to \$5,980. The Chief asked the Board if they wanted to set a minimum bid. After discussion, Board consensus supported a minimum bid of \$4,000 to ‘move’ the vehicle quickly—avoiding the cost of advertising repeatedly—while trying to find a salable price in the current economic conditions.

MOTION (by Cox): To surplus the GMC van, via sealed bid, setting the minimum bid at \$4,000. SECONDED (by Goodnight). Passed Unanimously.

Commissioner for Insurance Broker. Feedback from the Risk Management Group supports an additional commission for the Group’s Broker—based upon VFIS’ extremely low commission (as compared to other commercial insurance carriers). ECF&R has a ‘credit’ in the pool that should cover most of—if not all of—the increase in the Broker’s commission.

MOTION (by Cox): To support an increase in the Risk Management Group’s Broker’s commission—as previously discussed at Risk Group Meetings. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 8:51 PM. There were two items of business to consider this evening:

To accept an Injury Report and Authorize Payment of Medical Costs, by the State Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters, for an Ankle Injury at Occurred on 09/24/2008.

To request reimbursement of the Fire District, by the State Board, for four New Member Physical Examinations.

The Local Board approved the two issues. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

ROUND TABLE

Annual Holiday Gathering Wednesday, January 7th, 6 PM, Station 1-1
Shared Services Meeting, Thursday, January 22nd, 5:30 PM, Station 4-2

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session, at 8:57 PM, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g): Review the Performance of a Public Employee. The estimated time for the Executive Session was estimated to be 20 minutes.

At 9:17 PM, the Board advised the audience that the Executive Session would be extended 10 minutes.

BOARD RECONVENES:

The Board Reconvened at 9:27 PM.

The Board advised that they had been discussing Performance of Public Employees in consideration of pay raises for FY2009. A proposed set of pay scales has been developed by Chief Koehler—for consideration by the Board.

MOTION (by Rasmussen): To adopt the pay scales, for FY2009, as developed by the Chief. SECONDED (by Cox). Passed Unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 20, Station 1-1, 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

by

Gary Larson, Chairman

Greg Cox, Vice-Chair

Absent _____
John Clancy, Commissioner

Harry Goodnight, Commissioner

Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SEAL:

Scott Koehler, District Secretary