

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

November 3, 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, Harry Goodnight, Gary Larson, Vic Rasmussen; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs; Greg Anderson, Brad Baldwin, Rob Boren, Mike Fischer, Jack Hooper, Nancy Hooper, Paula Knapp, Martha Martin and Sheldon Tyler.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Larson sought adjustments to the Agenda.

There were none.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chief Koehler noted that at 75% of the way through FY2009, we have expended only 59% of the budget.

Chairman Larson offered the Board's "Thanks !" to everyone in the Agency who has been very careful in their use of supplies/utilities/resources and conservative in their purchasing.

Approval of Minutes:

- October 20, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- October 20, 2009 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes

Approval of November 3, 2009 Financial Report

Excuse Commissioner Cox.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Martha Martin, a resident of the Fire District, noted that she had attended a recent Washougal City Council Meeting. The Council was surprised when Martin informed them that neighbors surrounding the site of the City's proposed water tank (SE 352nd Avenue at SE 16th Street) were considering legal action against the City to stop the construction project.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

CHIEF OFFICER REPORTS:

The following activities have occurred since your last meeting:

Total Calls

FY2007

1.65 Calls/day

FY2008

1.70 Calls/day

Projected:

605/year

623/year

FY2009—YTD

552 Calls

1.79 Calls/day

656/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

9	EMS
5	Non-Injury MVAs
1	Injury MVAs
2	Burning Complaints
1	Public Assists
1	Gas Spill
1	Chimney Fire
1	Mutual Aid Structure Fire—Skamania County FD #4

East County Fire & Rescue Staff have been supporting the Regional H1N1 Pandemic Flu 2009 Event
Helped Write Transition Plan to back the Type 3 IMT out of Managing the Incident
Ensured that all ECFR EMS Responders Completed MPD's Required H1N1 Training
Communicating Staffing Issues/Concerns with Chief Leon
Scheduled After Action Review with DNR for the Jones Creek 3 Fire
FF Billington has started a Facebook Page for ECFR
Reviewed Exercise Equipment Recommendation of Health & Wellness Committee
Station 95 Repairs Have Been Completed—Following Vehicle into the Building
Square Mile Project is underway.
ECFR is waiting for completion of DRS Audit Paperwork
Held Fire House Birthday Party
Involved in Issues Related to another Air Ambulance Service Seeking to Begin Service in this Region
Chief Koehler has been accepted into a National Fire Academy Class in Emmitsburg, MD:
All Hazards PIO—Train the Trainer
Attended Annual WFCFA Conference in Spokane
Citizen's Academy Cancelled Due to No Public Interest
Contacted Neighbor Regarding Neighborhood Bazaar at Station 94—Looking toward Spring event
Drills: Environmental Emergencies and Poisoning; and Pre-Incident Planning

Assistant Chiefs

Chief Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Chief Thornberry could not attend tonight's meeting due to his assignment at the Health Department. He requested that the Board be advised that annual pump testing is underway for the fleet.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Liaison, thanked the Board for allowing him to travel to Baltimore to represent the Fire District at the Residential Fire Sprinkler ballot held by the International Code Council. Thanks to a massive showing of Fire Service personnel, Residential Fire Sprinklers will be mandated in the 2012 International Residential Code.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Commissioner Larson advised that he met with Camas Mayor Paul Dennis to discuss issues related to Shared Services—and why those efforts have “floundered”.

Larson suggested that it might be appropriate to assign a Sub-Committee of in-house personnel to review the current state of the Shared Services project—and document our original ‘wants’; what we are currently getting from Camas; and the ‘gaps’ between those two lists. The District would then have *one* comprehensive document to give to the City—in an effort to, perhaps, get the Shared Services project underway, again, OR to allow the District to speak clearly and definitively about the lack of service that we are receiving for our money.

Larson suggested that two Commissioners and two Chief Officers (Koehler and Thornberry) might be an appropriate group to review the Shared Services project. Chairman Larson desires to serve on that Sub-Committee. Commissioner Rasmussen volunteered to serve, as well. Commissioner Clancy feels that the District has always had a clear idea of what we want—it has been Camas that has, repeatedly, failed to produce requested/promised results. Larson agreed—but wants to try, one last time, to move this project forward—either as a shared effort or have a strong reason to ‘go our own way’. Brad Baldwin stated that there are ‘no new issues’. He wants to know how much longer the District is willing to let Camas NOT meet the intent of the Staffing Agreement. Chairman Larson asked for just a little more patience.

Sheldon Tyler asked if it would be appropriate to have Volunteers serve on the Sub-Committee. Chief Koehler agreed that the Volunteers—who are the District’s primary source of Responders—should have a representative. Rob Boren feels that the Part-Timer’s should also be represented. The Board asked both groups to suggest a representative, respectively, for this assignment. The Sub-Committee will meet after Chief Koehler returns from the National Fire Academy.

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

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. The District now possesses the building permit that grandfathers the unpermitted additions to the house—made by the previous owner—prior to the District’s purchase of that dwelling.

The County now wants to meet to discuss the usage of the proposed storage shed. They think the proposed building would require a Conditional Use Permit because it could house two apparatus. Chairman Larson will meet with the Department of Community Development to reassure them that NOTHING has changed in our plan to use the storage building—from the first discussion—where the County agreed that no Conditional Use Permit was necessary for this structure.

Washougal Water Tower. The District is waiting to see if the neighbors sue the City—in an attempt to stop construction of the proposed water tank—before any further consideration is given the City’s request for road access to those tanks across the north end of the Mt. Norway Fire Station’s property (via SE 16th Street).

FEMA AFG Exercise Equipment Bids. Fire Fighter Mike Fischer and Fire Fighter Rob Boren reviewed the results of the bid for exercise equipment. The lowest bidder (Club Fitness at \$42,706.54) does not provide the same robust equipment that was found with Sampson Partners (\$55,828.94) or Pro-Line Fitness (\$70,037.86). Boren has used equipment similar to that offered by Sampson Partners and found it to be ‘bullet-proof’. Neither Boren nor Fischer feels that the light-weight Club Fitness machines will hold-up to the heavy usage that could occur with up to 60 Members utilizing it. Additionally, Sampson Partners’ warranty is provided by the equipment manufacturer—not just the local dealer.

Part of the bid includes Smith Machines—equipment that lets one person safely lift free weights without a spotter. These machines were not part of the FEMA grant—but would ‘round-out’ the workout equipment for District Members.

Boren and Fischer request the Board to purchase the Sampson Partners equipment—providing a full compliment of exercise equipment for Station 91 and Station 94—for a total price of \$55,828.94. This is approximately \$17,000 over what the FEMA grant will cover. That cost will provide the two requested Smith Machines (not covered in the grant) and meet the District's required 5% match. Chief Koehler feels that the District can absorb the \$17,000 extra cost—which will be off-set, in part, by cancelling the District's two gym passes to All Pride Fitness. This equipment offers ALL Members the opportunity to participate in a well-rounded Health & Fitness Program—which might not be affordable to Members if they had to maintain personal gym memberships. Since heart attacks kill 50% of those Fire Fighters who die, annually, in the Line of Duty—this is felt to be a good, solid investment in Member health and well-being.

The Board discussed the issues and was OK with the heavier-duty equipment—and felt that keeping our personnel safe and healthy is a priority for the District. The Board thanked Fire Fighters Boren and Fischer for the significant amount of time and effort that they expended to find the best exercise equipment—within our budget—for implementation of this important program.

MOTION (by Rasmussen): To purchase exercise equipment—including two Smith Machines—from Sampson Partners for \$55,828.94, including WST. SECONDED (by Larson). Passed Unanimously.

Purchase Requests:

Turnouts. Chief Koehler received a request to purchase new Turnouts for a New Member who does not fit any of our current stock of equipment. These Turnouts were needed, quickly, so that the New Member could participate in the New Member Academy. Chief Koehler authorized the purchase—two weeks ago—but needs the Board's retro-active approval of that purchase. The large size Turnouts are running approximately \$1,800, per set, when purchased off the State Bid.

MOTION (by Larson): To retro-actively authorize the purchase of a new set of Turnouts for, approximately, \$1,800 off the State Bid. SECONDED (by Clancy). Passed Unanimously.

Purchase Requests. While inventorying Engines, Staff found that two apparatus were missing foam eductors and that many engines were missing the required 15 gallons of foam concentrate. Staff wishes to purchase two foam eductors at \$525 each, plus WST; and 20 @ 5-gallon containers of Class B foam, at \$115 per pail plus WST, to meet NFPA Standards. Total estimated cost, including WST, is \$3,538.60.

MOTION (by Clancy): To allow Staff to purchase two foam eductors and 20 pails of Class B foam totaling approximately \$3,538.60, including WST. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

Continuity of Governance Plan. Chief Koehler updated the Continuity of Governance Plan—in light of recent information about the H1N1 pandemic flu. The updated document was presented to the Board.

Home Fire Sprinklers. Fire Sprinklers will be mandated in the 2012 International Residential Fire Code. Currently, as jurisdictions get ready to adopt the 2009 IRFC, builders are trying to get the State of Washington to put the sprinkler requirement in the appendices—so that each jurisdiction will have to—specifically adopt it—separate from the 2009 Code. The District may be called to support the Fire Sprinkler requirement for single- and multi-family dwellings, again, similar to

the actions recently taken in Baltimore—and in Minneapolis, the year prior. It appears that Code hearings will be held in Olympia. However, Clark County may, also, have to be lobbied to include the fire sprinkler requirement, locally.

FY2010 Budget. No one has requested changes in the proposed FY2010 budget. The County, also, does not have any updated revenue figures. The Chief will finalize the FY2010 budget document and email it to the Board for review prior to the next Regular Board Meeting. The Board will have to adopt the FY2010 budget at the November 17th Regular Board Meeting—unless the Commissioners desire to call a Special Meeting to adopt the budget after the 17th but PRIOR to the County's close of business on November 30th (the County must receive all budget documents by the end of November—if any tax increase, over FY2009 budget levels, is desired).

Report on WFOA Conference. Commissioner Larson, Commissioner Rasmussen and Chief Koehler discussed the following information obtained from this year's Annual WFOA Conference in Spokane:

Snure Seminar—Snure feels that Volunteer reimbursements should be reported on W-2s. NAEFO feels that such reimbursements should be reported on Form 1099—to avoid any confusion, by the IRS, about Volunteers being Employees. However, the State BARS Manual currently requires Volunteer reimbursements to be documented on W-2s. This will probably be OK since the IRS says they will not audit Volunteer Reimbursement. However, the State Auditor audits Fire Districts—regularly—to the standards contained in the BARS Manual.

Project limits allowable via the Small Works Roster have been raised from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Project limits allowable via the Public Works Roster have been raised from \$2,500 to \$20,000.

Regional Fire Authorities—The Benefit Charge option might be useful to Camas if a Fire Authority were formed. It would allow the Fire Authority to tax for services at up to \$1.00 per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation. Additional funds would be generated using the Service Charge model—which allows the Fire Authority to base their charges upon likely service demand (more calls at multi-dwelling occupancies, more fire flow needed at large houses or commercial occupancies, etc). Service Charges are not considered to be taxes—but the concept of Service Charges must be approved by the Voters.

The transfer rights of bargaining unit employees were discussed. There was also discussion on how Fire Marshal responsibilities can be addressed.

Fire District Funding in a Post-Recession Economy—Tax rates can climb to a maximum of \$1.50 per \$1,000—as Assessed Values drop—regardless of voted limits. At a voted rate of \$1.25 per \$1,000, ECFR can handle up to a 20% decrease in total Assessed Value before our tax rate hits the \$1.50 ceiling. Clark County has discussed a roll-back of Assessed Values in the range of 9-15% for FY 2010. If values decrease more than 20%, the Fire District will lose projected (allowable) revenue.

Fire District Response in Disasters—The FEMA representative advised Fire Districts to pre-determine who to contact—at the County level—to initiate State and/or Federal Disaster Assistance Requests (before a disaster occurs). In Clark County, such requests are funneled through CRESA.

Everyone Goes Home Safe—The group viewed a short presentation on this compelling 4-

hour national program. 'Everyone Goes Home Safe' underscores the policies, practices, training and attitudes needed to ensure that every Emergency Responder 'comes home safe' after each incident. This program is available, at no cost, to all Fire Agencies. The closest Presenter is located in Vancouver, WA. Chief Koehler intends to pair this Program with the National Fire Academy's 12-hour Incident Safety Officer Program (ISO is offered every year by ECFR).

LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 8:15 PM. There were no items of business to discuss. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

ROUND TABLE

Roving Board Meeting, November 17th, 7 PM, Station 94

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went into Executive Session, per RCW 42.30.110(g)—To Review the Performance of a Public Employee—at 8:17 PM. The expected duration of the Executive Session was estimated to be 10 minutes.

BOARD RECONVENES:

The Board returned to Regular Session at 8:27 PM. No action will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2009 Station 94, 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

by

Gary Larson, Chairman

Absent _____
Greg Cox, Vice-Chair

John Clancy, Commissioner

Harry Goodnight, Commissioner

Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SEAL:

Scott Koehler, District Secretary