

# EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

## Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

September 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: Greg Cox, John Clancy, Harry Goodnight, Gary Larson, Vic Rasmussen; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs; Greg Anderson; Brad Baldwin, Chris Fry, Jack Hooper, Paula Knapp, Rick Knapp, Martha Martin and Sheldon Tyler.

### AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

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

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- ◆ Approval of Minutes:
  - August 18, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
  - August 18, 2009 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Approval of September 1, 2009 Financial Report

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

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Martha Martin advised that she had come in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the recent Primary Election—and would not be on the General Election ballot for the open Fire Commissioner's position. However, she wanted to thank everyone at ECFR for helping her learn about the Fire District; facilitating her request to review Agency policy; answering her questions about finance, operations and administrative issues; etc. She stated that more Elected Officials should be like the ECFR Fire Commissioners—because it appears that the ECFR Commissioners are trying to 'do it right'. She stated that she will continue to attend meetings to learn more about the Fire District.

The Board thanked Ms. Martin for her interest in serving the Community—as an Elected Official—and for her continued participation in the public meetings where Fire District business is conducted.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Washington State Depart. of Transportation—SR 14—Camas/Washougal—Hearing Findings. WA-DOT provided the results of their Access Hearing regarding the proposed addition of lanes between Lady Island and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street; and the construction of an interchange at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

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
<u>FY2009—YTD</u>		
435 Calls	1.78 Calls/day	650/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

14	EMS
5	Non-Injury MVAs (1 Involved a Car Fire After Impact—M/A from SCFD #4)
5	Burning Complaints
1	Public Service

Chief Thornberry and Chief Koehler participated in several State Mob Fires: Grant County Complex (Ephrata); Dead Canyon Fire (Alderdale); and Dry Creek Complex (Richland)

WT 94 participated as part of the Clark County Strike Team

Plans/Finance Trailer Earning \$500 per day—or portion of a day—for State Mob Incidents

Reimbursing the Fire District for trailer repairs/hitch installation/office supplies

Finished PSC3 Task book

Thanks to Chief Jacobs and Captain Carnes for operating the District in our absence.

12 New Volunteer Members Are Coming On-Board—Being Oriented—Some are EMTs

Camas Fire & Rescue Has Been Provided with ECFR Work Expectations While Staffing Station 91

Completing Efforts for VFIS Evaluation/Renewal of Insurance Via Risk Management Group

Worked with Clark County to Finalize Ballot Measure Information for 5-Member Board Issue

Clark County Public Health is Considering Usage of Regional Type 3 IMT for Swine Flu Clinics

Last Surplused Water Tender has Been Picked-Up by Worland (WY) Fire Protection District #1

Station 95 Repair/Claims Process—Is Underway—The District's Insurance Broker Has Been Very Helpful

Finalizing Participation in September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Motorcycle Ride—and ECFR's Own Memorial Events

Health & Fitness Grant Committee Met—Rebidding Exercise Equipment & Finishing-Up Medical

Evaluation Piece

Purchased PA System for Public Events

Vancouver Fire Paid \$1,400 toward \$2,000 Renumbering Costs (Apparatus Placards/Crew Cards/Helmet Shields)

One Quarterly Fire House Birthday Party scheduled—Waiting to Hear from Other Winner

Recreational Fire/Backyard Burn Ban Continues

Cadet Class Starts Wednesday

Finalizing Instructor I Class

ECFR Budget Process Continues

Square Mile Project is underway.

ECFR is waiting for completion of DRS Audit Paperwork

Risk Management Group Meeting scheduled for September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Drills: OB/GYN & Peds; Rescue

**Commissioner Goodnight thanked those who had responded to a motorcycle crash involving his Step-Grandson. The boy is doing well—and the whole family is appreciative of the service they received from ECFR.**

Assistant Chief Bob Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Commissioner Goodnight suggested that GPS units might assist the Air Unit and the Rehab Unit during Mutual Aid responses—and might be useful in other rigs during State Mobs. Chief Koehler noted that the Rehab fund could pay for a GPS unit for that rig—and the Plans Trailer can fund its GPS unit. The Chief will check the budget for available funds for the Air Unit—and will check with Chief Thornberry about obtaining GPS units for State Mob applications.

Assistant Chief Dean Thornberry was on vacation. The Board reviewed his written report.

### **VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:**

Brad Baldwin, Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Liaison, introduced Chris Fry, a new Respond-From-Home Volunteer. Paula Knapp discussed the upcoming September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Event.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

There were no miscellaneous reports.

## **FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:**

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue—Commissioner Larson and Commissioner Rasmussen met with the Mayor of Camas and the three City Councilpersons on the Fire Authority Planning Committee. The City feels that they were ‘blind-sided’ by not being made aware of the Fire District’s concerns before the letter of withdrawal was submitted—for the Staffing Agreement—despite the District’s complaints to Chief Leon and Councilman Anderson.

The Fire District apologized for discussing the letter of withdrawal in public—at our last Regular Board Meeting. The Board will now discuss its issues directly with Mayor Dennis and the three City Fire Authority Representatives. Such direct discussion should alleviate mis-statements like ‘having to hire two more Full-Time Fire Fighters to fulfill minimum staffing required (per Union contract) for both ECFR stations. (The Mayor and Council will NOT authorize more full-time positions—and no hiring of Camas employees can occur without their approval).

The Fire District has agreed to discuss rescinding the letter—which served notice to the City to begin the 365-day clock to end the Staffing Agreement. The Elected Officials will work to address the significant cultural differences between ECFR and Camas personnel. If ECFR can get the work done (by Camas staff) that is needed to fulfill operational readiness, crew leadership, personnel training, etc., then the Staffing Agreement may survive. However, Commissioner Larson would like the Board to place any further discussion about functional consolidation or formation of a fire authority on the “back burner.”

Commissioner Rasmussen felt it was a good meeting and believes that the City of Camas is now motivated to improve communications and, hopefully, improve service to the Fire District. He believes it is appropriate to rescind the Staffing Agreement cancellation letter—for now.

**MOTION (by Cox): To rescind the letter providing notice to the City of Camas to end the Staffing Agreement—pending a common understanding of purpose and agreement upon the services to be provided to the Fire District—ensuring that efforts to attain a workable shared arrangement should be the District’s first priority. SECONDED by Rasmussen. Passed Unanimously.**

Camas City Councilman Greg Anderson—who specified that he is NOT the official Council representative to this process—agreed that improved communication will be a good thing. He is pleased that the Board rescinded the letter of cancellation.

Commissioner Clancy noted that—to avoid the posting requirements for a public meeting and the Staff time required to maintain Meeting Minutes—he will no longer attend meetings focused on Shared Services—unless Commissioner Larson or Commissioner Rasmussen is unable to participate.

Joint Ambulance Purchase & Financing. The City has awarded a bid for one mid-sized ambulance. Production should take about six months to complete. ECFR will provide \$100,000 toward the project. The City will fund the rest of the purchase.

EMS Service Agreement. Lloyd Halverson, Camas City Administrator, has updated the draft EMS Service Agreement with language provided by the three Agency attorneys. Chief Koehler asked the Board to review the document—at the last Regular Board Meeting—with the intention of adopting the agreement tonight. After some discussion, the Board was OK with the document as submitted.

**MOTION (by Rasmussen): To authorize the Board Chair to sign the EMS Service Agreement on behalf of the Fire District. SECONDED by Cox. Passed Unanimously.**

EMS Response Billing.

Debt Forgiveness. There were no debt forgiveness requests to consider.

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Commissioner Larson reported that, following further discussion, it would be more beneficial to build a simple—yet complete—side wall for the south end of the carport. This will add the stability that the County desires and provide a nicer looking solution than just criss-crossing a couple of long 2” x 4”s. The Architect should have the drawings completed for the carport and the barn enclosure shortly.

Washougal Water Tower. The City of Washougal Water Department is requesting an update on the Fire District’s willingness to grant them an easement to their proposed water tanks—located next to Station 94. The Board is waiting for additional feedback from our neighbors.

Station 95 Air Compressor. Efforts continue to find an appropriate air compressor—at a reasonable price—for installation at Station 95.

Neighborhood Bazaar at Station 94. Chief Koehler attempted contact with the neighbor—who is out-of-town for vacation. He left information on their answering machine about the District’s willingness to assist with a Neighborhood Bazaar.

Annual Fire Commissioners Conference. The Annual Fire Commissioners Conference is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in Spokane. Commissioners Larson and Rasmussen desire to attend the Conference. Chief Koehler will also attend. Commissioner Larson agreed to attend the Snure Seminar on the evening of October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioners Clancy, Cox and Goodnight completed proxies for use at the Business Meeting. Commissioner Larson will carry Commissioners Clancy and Cox’s proxies. Commissioner Rasmussen will carry Commissioner Goodnight’s proxy.

FEMA-AFG-Exercise Equipment Bids. Chief Koehler and Administrative Assistant Tamara Dinius have reviewed the quotes/bids that the Committee has obtained/received. No single bid document was utilized when quotes/bids were sought. Some vendors provided information before the Committee determined the features that were desired. Thus, the information varies too much to make an ‘apples-to-apples’ comparison. The Chief suggests that the Board reject all quotes/bids—received to date—and seek new bids based upon a single, written request for prices using standardized equipment specifications.

**MOTION (by Cox): To reject the quotes/bids received, to date, on the AFG-Exercise Equipment Grant Project—with an apology to Bidders—and direct the Committee to seek new bids based upon a standardized list of equipment and desired features. SECONDED by Clancy. Passed Unanimously.**

**LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS**

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 8:41 PM. There were no items of business to discuss. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

**ROUNDTABLE:**

Risk Management Group Meeting, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 0800 hours, Station 61  
Administrative Offices Closed on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, to Observe Labor Day  
Commissioner’s Workshop—FY2010 Budget, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, Station 91  
Ambulance Advisory Board Meeting, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 PM, Station 42  
September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial, 6 PM, Station 91

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There was no Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Board adjourned at 7:53 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

**EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE**

By

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John Clancy, Commissioner

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Greg Cox, Commissioner

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Harry Goodnight, Commissioner

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Gary Larson, Chairman

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Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

**DISTRICT SEAL:**

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Scott Koehler, District Secretary