

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

January 19, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

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

Commissioner Larson led the group in a flag salute.

The following were in attendance: Mike Berg, John Clancy, Jack Hooper, Gary Larson, Vic Rasmussen; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs, Dean Thornberry; Tammy Dinius; Sean Guard, John Roth, Jerry Boon, Russell Bergerson, Chris Guin, Diane Guin, Richard Mehos, Chris Noah, Sheila Owens, David Raines (a total of 10 citizens were present—not all signed-in); Brad Baldwin, Kevin Bergstrom, Josh Burson, Brooks Cooper, Harry Goodnight, Jr., Nancy Hooper and Paula Knapp.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Washougal Water Tower. Commissioner Larson asked the Representatives of the City if they had any new information to provide for the Board's consideration. John Roth advised that the water reservoir would require 0.25 acre for the structure, itself. Adding room for piping and road access could require a total of 0.36 acres—however, depending upon design, that number could be decreased.

Mayor Guard advised the Board that Clark County has granted preliminary approval for the City to construct the reservoir on their property. The City is approaching the deadline to secure the USDA loan and Mayor Guard is hoping to get a decision from the Board of Fire Commissioners regarding using Fire District property to construct the project. He feels that this project could be a 'win-win' for both government entities, as well as the taxpayers.

The citizens began asking the Mayor questions about the reservoir. The vessel is anticipated to be 30 feet tall—surrounded by a berm that will be landscaped with fast growing trees.

The citizens also voiced the following concerns:

- The public was not notified by Clark County about the project
- The public was not notified by Clark County about the Hearing for this project
- City Staff denied that tonight's meeting would be held
- The water tank will provide substandard pressure for fire hydrants
- The neighbors don't want a tank—they want an underground fixture with a pump(s)
- There is concern about the impact of this tank on surrounding property values
- There is concern about the negative impact on a property owners ability to sell their house after the tank has been built
- The City did not honor its promise to keep the tall trees around the 100 foot water tank at Lehr Road and 34th Street. There is concern that the City will not maintain the buffer around the tank.

Chris Guin does not understand why the City is asking the Fire District to re-visit this project after the Fire District turned down locating the water tank on FD property in 2006. Mr. Guin stated that there are a group of neighbors ready to take anyone to court who tries to construct this

tank. He feels that going to court will slow this project down for at least 10 years—if it does not stop it altogether—and will cost the government a lot of money to litigate.

Harry Goodnight, Jr., stated that he does not support moving the water tank onto Fire District property just to gain three feet of additional elevation. Goodnight noted that the City could raise their proposed tank by 3 feet to accomplish the same thing on City-owned property.

John Roth noted that property values could increase after the tank is built. This would occur if the current owners sub-divided their property (after annexation to the City) and sold their lots with water service available.

The citizens present advised the City that they don't want the water tank built on Fire District property—nor on the proposed City site. Both Mayor Guard and John Roth were asked if they live next door to a water tank. They do not. Diane Guin stated that she does not want to, either.

Harry Goodnight noted that the Fire District can make low pressure fire hydrants work by drafting. The neighbors suggested that the Fire District can also draft out of the pond on the east side of SE 352nd Avenue, north of the Mt. Norway Fire Station, instead of using fire hydrants. Chief Koehler noted that it is faster to fill a truck—and the water is cleaner—when it comes from a hydrant.

John Roth advised that the City could utilize an underground tank—but on-demand pumping of water is not as efficient or as reliable as gravity feed. In answer to a citizen question, Roth noted that the City could add another water tank on Lehr Road, except that it would not add additional head pressure to the water system—which is needed now and for future development.

Chairman Larson reminded those assembled that tonight's discussion was Fact Finding. The Board would make no decisions tonight. In fact, the Fire District has not heard from its Attorney, yet, on the matter—and there are several issues that would have to be worked out, satisfactorily, before the Fire District would even think about moving forward on the City's request. However, as part of the District's effort to seek information about the project, tonight's citizen input was very important.

Commissioner Larson advised the audience that there was a full Agenda for tonight's Board Meeting—and that the Board needed to move on. However, Larson assured the public that their opinion has been heard by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

Mayor Sean Guard, John Roth and the 10 Concerned Citizens left the Board Meeting at 7:29 PM.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Minutes:

1. January 5, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. January 5, 2010 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of January 19, 2010 Financial Report

MOTION (by Clancy): To approve items 1-3 from the Consent Agenda. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was nothing discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Board of County Commissioners—State of the County Report. The Annual State of the County report will be held Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 3:30 PM at Skyview High School in Vancouver. All Elected Officials are requested to reply—if they plan to attend the event—by January 29th.

Woodland Fire Department—Meet the Final Four Fire Chief Candidates. The City of Woodland is inviting neighboring Fire Agencies and the public to meet the four finalists for the Fire Chief’s position. The gathering is scheduled for January 21st from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Woodland City Hall.

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 (+2.9%)
FY2009	1.79 Calls/day	655/year (+5.1%)
<u>FY2010—YTD</u>		
8 Calls	1.6 Calls/day	584/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

- 18 EMS
- 5 Non-Injury MVA
- 3 Injury MVA
- 1 Electrical Problems
- 2 Mistaken Alarms
- 3 Public Service
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Chimney Fire
- 1 Unattended Fire (DNR Property)
- 1 Structure Fire (ECFR)
- 2 Structure Fires (Camas—Mill and Residence)

Had Good Member Coverage During Holidays—Thank You !!!!!
 Members Assisted with CAROL Box Packing and/or Distribution
 Volunteer Fire Fighter’s Association Stood-by at New Year’s MX Event
 More Exercise Equipment has arrived for Health & Wellness Grant
 Finalizing Scheduling of Health & Wellness Evaluations at Station 91
 Three-month grant extension has been approved
 Working on Fitness Incentive Program
 Painted Exercise Area (Loft) and Tool Room at Station 94
 Tammy Reassigned/Promoted to HR/Finance Manager effective January 1st
 Implementing Peachtree Accounting Software
 Re-submitted FY2010 Revenue and Expense Budgets to County—per their new protocol
 Still Working with County Auditor’s Office to finalize likely revenue
 New Attendance Tracking System Implemented on January 1st
 Held Part-Timer Meeting—Gathering Will Become a Quarterly Event in FY2010
 Held Part-Time Fire Fighter Interviews
 Working on SAFER Grant

Finalizing Agency ID Cards for All Personnel—All Members Need to Get Photographed
Held Year-End Review of FY2009 Goals and Objectives on December 30th
CERT Class Cancelled Due to Lack of Students
Finalizing Weekend Class List
Drills: All Hands Meeting
Clark County Fire Marshal's Office Operating on Reduced Hours Due to Budget
Implementation of New CAD Progressing for March Start-up
Type 3 IMT Recruitment Has Closed—Team Meeting Scheduled for mid-January
Finalized Hydrant Charges from City of Camas Water Department
Received Pre-App Report from Washougal Community Development on Rezoning of Station 95
Chief Leon Submitted Shared Services Proposal—but ECFR has Received No Response From Leon or Mayor
Issued ECFR Response Guidelines to Camas Fire & Washougal Fire
Attended Quarterly Ambulance Oversight Meeting on December 17th
Discussed Public Information/Marketing Efforts with Martha Martin
Preparing Defensible Space Presentation for Autumn Hills Home Owners Association
Working on Public Information/Public Education Displays

Chief Koehler:

- Reminded the Board they could sign-up for the Wellness Initiative physicals
- Invited the Board to visit any of the CERT Program sessions
- Provided the Board with the 2010 Weekend Training Class Schedule
- Reminded the Board that they could cast nominations for the 2010 Awards Program

Upon questioning, Chief Koehler advised that, as part of the Federal Grant, every Member of the Fire District must be offered a physical. Those who choose NOT to participate must sign a statement declining the offer. In regards to ID Cards, the group doing the project is still collecting pictures of each Member. When all pictures have been obtained, the cards will be printed. Estimated completion time is about 1—2 weeks.

Assistant Chief Jacobs reviewed his written report. He also reviewed the Emergency Support Team's Training Schedule for FY2010.

Assistant Chief Thornberry:

- Provided an update on the FY2010 Training Program
- Discussed the Water Tank leak on WT93—and it's warranty repair
- Reported that implementation of the new CAD will be delayed until May or June (could be as late as September)
- Noted that one of our Part-Time Fire Fighters has resigned—and Staff will be seeking to replace him.
- Overlooked the Fleet Report for FY2009—maintenance costs exceeded the 6-year average (due to some unexpected repairs) compounded by an aging fleet.
- Noted that ECFR has three Engines that will exceed 20 years of service over the next three years. Staff may seek to replace one or more of these rigs with Type 3 units.
- Suggested that after the final payment is made on Engine 91 (June 2011) that those funds be used to purchase new apparatus to comply with the Washington Survey & Rating Bureau's 20-year rule for maximum apparatus age (to receive credit toward the District's Fire Protection Class Rating).

Finance/HR Manager Tammy Dinius review her written report.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, the Volunteer Association's Liaison reported that the Volunteers provided medical coverage at the MotoCross track on January 1st. The Fire Fighter's Association received a \$250 donation from the MX Sponsor for their standby and will, probably, be asked back to cover next year's event. The Volunteers appreciated the District allowing them to undertake this standby.

ID badges should be completed in the next two weeks. The Association is developing some group goals—and may undertake some fund raising efforts in support of pre-determined groups/causes. The Volunteers are getting ready to sign-up for their chosen Membership Class (Entry Qualified vs. Support vs. EMSO vs. EST). The group has also offered some suggestions toward the Health & Wellness incentives.

SAFETY REPORT:

Assistant Chief Jacobs advised that the Safety Committee is:

- Ensuring that monthly Station Safety Inspections occur
- That MSDS notebooks are present in all six stations
- That the Eyewash is moved to a better location at Station 94
- Emphasis is placed on the 'Near Miss' Program
- That the Safety Program is updated/documented

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS (continued):

WFCA/WFC's Legislative Day. The Fire District will be sending four personnel (Clancy, Hooper, Koehler and Larson) to this event—in Olympia, tomorrow—based upon feedback obtained from other Districts that will be attending. There is support being voiced for the bill that allows a 'simple majority' approval of EMS Levies. Also, there is significant concern about the Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters and Reserve Officers being moved into the Department of Retirement Systems. ECFR will seek contact with its Legislators in the 15th & 18th Districts.

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Chief Koehler advised that he met with Camas' Chief Leon for over two hours—last week—to discuss the current situation involving the Joint Staffing Agreement and some other operational issues. The two points that Chief Leon wanted to make were that a previous informal offer (of potential solutions to ECFR concerns) was, merely, the starting point for negotiation AND that Mayor Dennis desires the 'clock' (365 day run-down to termination of the Staffing Agreement on December 2, 2010) to stop. The Mayor is willing to 'freeze' the clock (if it stops) allowing the count-down to resume from the current 11 +/- months if proposed solutions do not work.

As a result of that meeting, Chief Leon sent a formal letter to Chief Koehler offering a list of potential solutions to the concerns/complaints that ECFR has been voicing about the Joint Staffing Agreement for the past year. The letter addresses most—if not all—of ECFR's concerns. Chief Koehler is concerned, however, that the solutions offered by Chief Leon may not be achievable—especially in light of the current economic situation that exists (less tax revenue due to significant reductions in Assessed Value; the potential for pro-rationing of tax dollars; and the short-fall that will occur due to the statutory limitation on the EMS Levies (they cannot exceed the voted tax rate).

Commissioners Larson and Rasmussen are, both, unwilling to stop the 'clock'. They feel that Camas can work on issues while the clock runs. Even if the effort to preserve the Joint Staffing Agreement fails, at least the City will have made efforts to address ECFR's concerns—which will, hopefully, move the service delivered by the City closer to the service originally requested by the Fire District.

Commissioner Berg asked Chief Koehler if Chief Leon's letter was a fair representation of the District's concerns. Koehler felt that—in general—the letter covered most of ECFR's concerns. However, there is a big difference between meeting the District's requirement (Camas sending someone to fill a shift at Station 91) and delivering the same level of service that we expect from our own personnel (welcoming Volunteers and Part-Timers, coaching and mentoring personnel, being involved during training, completing projects and overseeing programs, actively communicating, etc). Berg asked the Board if Koehler's overview represented the Board's views. It did.

Assistant Chief Thornberry asked if Camas' Mayor and Council supported Chief Leon's proposal. It was not known if Chief Leon had run his ideas past the Mayor or Council prior to sending them to ECFR. Thornberry offered to contact the Camas Battalion Chiefs to see if they could deliver on Chief Leon's promises. Those BCs have, in the past, stated that they could not achieve (within the existing budget) some of the things that Chief Leon had promised. Having the Operations folks talk about our needs vs. Chief Leon's offers might provide the clearest vision of possible success in this latest endeavor.

Chief Koehler feels that strong solutions that address the District's needs are what should be expected from Camas. In fairness to Camas Fire, some of the folks that they have sent have done very well at ECFR. Some, however, have not. Some have not been the Leaders that were promised. Others have spent their time watching TV or messing around on the computer—instead of helping their crews with daily tasks, conducting training and/or completing assigned projects. A small number have had issues getting along with ECFR personnel—sometimes being rude and disrespectful. Few Camas personnel are enthusiastically coaching and mentoring our Volunteers and Part-Timers.

Koehler asked Camas Fire Fighter/Paramedic Josh Burson—who has done a good job for ECFR and gets along well with our personnel—if ECFR assignments are workable. Burson—speaking as an individual and not for his Union or the Camas Fire Department—says that the ECFR assignments are fine. He likes the challenge of being the Shift Leader, coordinating more than one station, helping train ECFR Cadets and personnel, and growing as an Acting Officer.

Koehler asked Camas Fire Fighters Union President Kevin Bergstrom if ECFR assignments are possible to achieve. Bergstrom feels that serving the District is not impossible. Bergstrom stated that District expectations have not been passed down to Camas BCs, Captains or Personnel. Thus, Camas Personnel have a difficult time knowing what to do and feeling empowered to do it—especially when sent to Station 91 for only one or two days.

Assistant Chief Thornberry advised Bergstrom that the initial Camas personnel sent to Station 91 (over one year ago) received a long and involved orientation; and that Chief Leon and all four of the Camas BCs have received written lists of tasks that need to be performed—with those lists being sent to Camas more than once—usually following ECFR's complaints about Camas' failure to perform the tasks that they were contracted to do.

Chief Koehler does not 'buy' the argument that Camas personnel who are assigned to Station 91 for just one or two shifts can't 'buy in' to the assignment. Koehler feels that someone being paid \$80,000 per year (at least 30-35% above what ECFR pays its own Captains) should 'hit the

ground running' and deliver the maximum value they can—whether they are assigned to an ECFR station for only one day or for a full six months.

Commissioner Larson feels that Chief Leon's list is not valid until it has been acknowledged and agreed to by Mayor Dennis and the Camas City Council. Commissioner Berg feels that Labor should have reviewed and agreed to Chief Leon's list prior to it being sent to ECFR. Bergstrom noted—in fairness to Chief Leon—that he had discussed some of these listed items with the Chief, but had not seen the actual letter due to being off-shift for the last few days.

Commissioner Clancy expressed concern about the pending decrease in EMS Levy revenue and the impact it might have on Camas' ambulance operation—as well as the negative trickle-down that could affect Camas' Fire Department operations.

Commissioner Larson wants Chief Koehler to continue his dialogue with Chief Leon. He wants Assistant Chief Thornberry to meet with Camas' Operations folks and report back to the Board. Larson is not against trying to salvage the Joint Staffing Agreement, but feels that the public must 'win'—and paying Camas 30-35% above what we pay our own folks (while not getting the work done that ECFR folks used to deliver) is not a 'win' for the taxpayers. Commissioner Hooper agreed and wants 'the clock' to keep running.

Camas Union President Bergstrom noted that there are services that Camas can offer ECFR that the Fire District cannot offer—Paramedic service being the most obvious.

ECFR Staff will report back to the Board as information becomes available.

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

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. The Fire District's Attorney started working on this project this week. He contacted Chief Koehler, on Monday, to obtain the site address, tax parcel, and zoning information. He will evaluate Clark County's zoning laws/procedures and advise on how the District should proceed.

Commissioner Larson will be seeking five bids for completion of the sheer wall for the carport. He will coordinate with Tammy Dinius to ensure the District meets State Bid Laws.

PERS Membership for Commissioners. The Board was reminded that they can participate in the Public Employees Retirement System. There is the possibility of Board Members retroactively purchasing prior years of service. Tammy Dinius can assist Board Members in getting information. Commissioner Larson expressed interest in getting more information.

Review Updated FY2010 Budget. The Fire District has received updated numbers from Clark County regarding potential tax revenue for FY2010. The Board was provided with an updated budget document where Staff has reduced several line items to balance the budget (based upon more accurate data from Year End totals from the FY2009 budget document). The total FY 2010 budget (on paper) remains the same—as was approved by the Board—but the reduced expenditures have been moved into the 'virtual' line to avoid being spent. Chief Koehler asked if the Board wanted a Resolution approving the Updated Budget—or—leave the Budget Document as was last submitted to Clark County. The Board was OK leaving the Budget Document as was last submitted.

Appoint Part-Time Fire Fighter: Zach Allen. With the resignation of one of the Part-Time Fire Fighters, Assistant Chief Thornberry is requesting that one new Part-Time Fire Fighter be hired to 'fill-out' the duty list. Zach Allen is the next person on the Part-Timer list.

MOTION (by Clancy): To hire Zach Allen as a Part-Time Fire Fighter/EMT. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

Purchase Request: Ladders. Assistant Chief Thornberry noted that 35-foot Fire Service ladders are too heavy for a two-person crew to handle safely. Members have requested changing to 28-foot ladders. This purchase request will place a 28-foot ladder on Engine 91 and another on Engine 94. Other ladders may be requested in the future—as the budget allows. The existing 35-foot ladders can be placed on Water Tenders to ensure that they are available at incidents. Total cost for the two ladders, plus shipping and handling, is estimated to be \$1,533.48.

MOTION (by Hooper): To authorize Staff to purchase two 28-foot Fire Service ladders, estimated to cost \$1,533.48. SECONDED (by Rasmussen). Passed Unanimously.

Renew Contract for EAP Services. It is time to re-new the Contract with Magellan Behavioral Health, Inc., for provision of our Employee Assistance Program for all Members. The Fire District subscribes to additional services involving both Legal and Financial Advice. This is a two-year renewal. There is no significant increase in cost. Magellan has done a good job for us. We receive an annual report on GENERAL usage—there are, never, any specifics about who uses the services, nor what exact services they utilize. This is a budgeted expenditure.

MOTION (by Clancy): To authorize the Board Chair to renew the contract with Magellan Behavioral Health, Inc., for a two-year period, to provide the ‘expanded’ Employee Assistance Program for ALL Members. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

Surplus Equipment. The Board was presented with a list of items that are no longer needed by the Fire District. Staff desires to surplus these items. The Board was asked if they were OK with this list of items/equipment. Chief Koehler will bring a Resolution—surplus approved equipment—to the next Regular Board Meeting. Staff will seek the most appropriate means to sell this equipment for maximum value.

MOTION (by Larson): To authorize Staff to surplus the listed equipment/items. SECONDED (by Clancy). Passed Unanimously.

HB 2825: Move Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters & Reserve Officers to DRS. The Governor has proposed combining the Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters & Reserve Officers with the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems. Preliminary information indicates that the cost for provision of insurance and pension benefits could increase. Several letters opposing this consolidation have already been issued by various fire agencies. Chief Koehler asked if ECFR desired to send such a letter.

MOTION (by Larson): To send a letter to the Governor and appropriate State Legislators opposing the consolidation of the BVFF&ROs with the DRS. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 8:59 PM. There were two items of business to discuss: Authorize Payment for Ambulance Transport; and Authorize Payment of Hospital Costs for A Fire Fighter Injured at a Medical Call. These requests were approved by the Local Board. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

ROUND TABLE

Quarterly Roving Board Meeting, February 16th, 7 PM, Station 94

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2010, Station 91, 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

by

Gary Larson, Chairman

Jack Hooper, Vice-Chair

Mike Berg, Commissioner

John Clancy, Commissioner

Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SEAL:

Scott Koehler, District Secretary