

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

March 2, 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; Brad Baldwin, Kevin Bergstrom, Brooks Cooper, Dale Dawson, Nancy Hooper, Paula Knapp and Martha Martin.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of February 16, 2010 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of February 16, 2010 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of March 2, 2010 Financial Report

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was nothing discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Washington Survey & Rating Bureau—Results of Fire Protection Class Audit. The Fire District retained its Class 8 Fire Protection Rating, along with its previous Tender Credit.

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% over 2007)
FY2009	1.79 Calls/day	655/year (+5.1% over 2008)
<u>FY2010—YTD</u>		
86 Calls	1.4 Calls/day	514/year

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

11	EMS
6	Non-Injury MVA
1	Injury MVA—Hurst Tool Extrication and Life Flight Transport
2	Burning Complaints
3	Public Service
1	Structure Fire—Mobile Home

Wellness Physicals Ending.

Finishing Up Grant with Health & Wellness Speakers

Good participation in Fitness Incentive Program

Final Report Due in May

Accepting RSVPs for Annual Awards Banquet. Ballots tallied, plaques ordered.

Received Ambulance Budget Info from Camas--\$152,000 Revenue Reduction in FY2010

Coordinating Joint Meeting with District #3's Board

Obtained Other Jurisdictions' Disaster Plans to Help Formulate ECFR's Plan

Working with Camas and Washougal on Joint EOC Drill for end of April—First of May

Recruiting EOC Volunteers from current CERT Class

Working with County Fire Marshal's Office on Expansion of Auto Body Shop

Jemtegaard Middle School has ordered Knox Box

Met with Citizen Liaison to Discuss Public Newsletter and Citizen's Academy

Beginning Work on Semi-Annual Public Newsletter

Conducted Quarterly Inspection of Station 96

CERT Class Final Testing this Thursday

Preparing for ISO Class on March 12th & 13th –Getting good number of outside Students

Visited Possible Burn to Learn Site on Vernon Road

Preparing to Present FEMA All Hazards PIO class for Region

Still Working with Brad Allen on IV Tech Class details/costs

Accepted to TTT Class for FEMA All Hazards Planning Section Chief—At National Fire Academy/EMI

Reviewing SW Medical Center Affiliation Agreement for Hospital Rotations

Working on Policy for Provision of Glasses for SCBA Masks

Drills: OTEP—Make-up; Evolution and Pump Operations

Assistant Chief Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Assistant Chief Thornberry reviewed his written report.

Finance/HR Manager Tammy Dinius reviewed her written report.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, the Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association Liaison reported that flyers will be printed, shortly, for the upcoming Poker Night on April 16th at Station 91.

SAFETY REPORT:

Assistant Chief Jacobs reported that the Near Miss Program is starting to receive Member reports.

CITIZEN LIAISON REPORT:

Martha Martin reviewed her written report. She noted that she has been able to meet and talk with a good number of ECFR personnel and has enjoyed learning about them—and their connection(s) to the Fire District. She stated that ECFR personnel are very loyal to this Agency.

Commissioner Larson thanked Martha for her involvement in East County Fire & Rescue.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Chairman Larson reminded the Board that Camas Fire Department's Chief Leon had sent a proposal—some weeks ago—offering a list of ideas (as

a starting point) for negotiation of possible solutions to ECFR's complaints about the Joint Staffing Agreement. Larson is unsure if the Mayor and Council have reviewed/acknowledged/authorized Chief Leon's proposal. Commissioner Clancy feels that there is no valid offer to discuss until the Mayor and Council send an 'official' proposal to the Board. At this point, it appears that the Mayor and Chief Leon have talked about the information—but the offer, probably, has not been authorized by the City Council. Per previous conversations with Mayor Paul Dennis—no offer is valid unless approved by the Camas Mayor and Council.

Commissioner Rasmussen stated that even if the Joint Staffing Agreement gets worked-out, it is still only part of the 'Big Picture'. A long range plan (Regional Fire Authority) is needed—or—we are just trying to exist using a temporary fix (Joint Staffing Agreement). Rasmussen feels that ECFR would be left in a bad position if the 'fix' (Staffing Agreement) breaks down (in the absence of a more comprehensive operational framework).

Commissioner Clancy stated that the last official action that this Board took was to send the City of Camas notice of our intent to terminate the Joint Staffing Agreement—effective December 2, 2010. This termination notice occurred after the City disbanded its Regional Fire Authority Planning Committee—which sent ECFR a strong signal that the City was no longer interested in any kind of Joint Effort.

There was discussion about re-contacting the City to see if Chief Leon's offer is official. Chairman Larson could request an answer from the Mayor by the March 16th Regular ECFR Board meeting. Commissioner Berg suggested that the District and City could meet to discuss the issues, again.

Chief Koehler expressed his frustration with the problems that continue—to this day—despite months of effort to address these issues. Just last Sunday, the Camas Fire Fighter at Station 91 spent most of his day *not* helping the Part-Time Fire Fighter and College Intern with regular duties around the station. Significant TV time was observed—in the middle of the day—instead of having the crew do pre-assigned tasks (i.e. training, yard work, Square Mile Project, etc). At some point, E91 was then taken to Station 42—without Chief Officer permission—leaving the West Side of ECFR uncovered. There is a definite lack of Teamwork, Supervisory Effort and Adherence to Agency Policy in just this one example—which occurred more than one year after we started voicing our concerns to Camas.

Koehler feels that the cultures of the two Agencies are too different to meld. A joint effort, definitively, could benefit the public. However, ECFR is not getting our monies-worth (of output) from the Camas folks—who cost us 30-35% more than comparable ECFR personnel.

Commissioner Clancy is not interested in continuing discussions with Camas—due to a lack of substantial and sustained improvement by the City. Clancy feels that ECFR should hire our own personnel.

MOTION (by Clancy): To advise the City of Camas and the Camas Fire Department that East County Fire & Rescue re-affirms its termination notice for the Joint Staffing Agreement—scheduled to end December 2, 2010. SECONDED (by Larson).

Commissioner Berg asked how hiring our own Fire Fighters would be less expensive than having Camas personnel. Chief Koehler advised that we would not have Paramedics—a significant savings in wages *and* training costs—and would have non-tenured employees who would start towards the bottom-end of the pay scale. Total ECFR personnel costs would climb, over time, but would not be equal—or even close—to the cost of Camas' longer-serving, higher-paid employees.

Brad Baldwin feels that Camas is a great organization. He asked why the two agencies can't find common ground. Brooks Cooper agreed that the cultures differ too much—at this time—to find a workable arrangement, but suggested that middle-ground might be reachable in the future. Baldwin asked, "What has to change to get some type of forward progress?" The group consensus was that a couple of key-players need to change to open the door to future progress.

Baldwin does not want to burn any bridges between the two organizations. The Board agreed—ECFR and Camas will need to respond, together (both efficiently and effectively), on medical calls and fires and whatever else taxes available resources. Chairman Larson thinks it is very important to continue looking for ANY opportunity to cooperate—at ANY level on ANY project—to benefit our taxpayers. Larson feels that the rising cost of providing emergency services will force more and more entities to work cooperatively, so ECFR keeping 'the door open' for Camas will be very important.

Commissioner Clancy called for "The Question".

MOTION (by Clancy): To advise the City of Camas and the Camas Fire Department that East County Fire & Rescue re-affirms its termination notice for the Joint Staffing Agreement—scheduled to end December 2, 2010. SECONDED (by Larson). Passed With 4 Yeas and 1 Nay (Berg).

Ambulance Consortium Budget Information. Chief Leon has notified the members of the Ambulance Advisory Board that the City's revenue forecast for FY2010 will, likely, be \$152,179 less than was originally expected (due to the downturn in the economy). There will be some discussion about a rate increase to make-up some of the revenue deficit—however, significant rate increases always increase the number and amount of write-offs that are requested by Customers.

Chief Koehler advised that ECFR does not have money available to offset any part of this revenue shortfall—unless projects are cut or the Reserve Fund is tapped.

Purchase Request: Fire Shelters. This is the third—and final—year that ECFR has replaced Fire Shelters. The Federal Government set FY2010 as the deadline—several years ago—for elimination of the old-style shelter. Staff is requesting to purchase the final 10 shelters to complete our change-over. The estimated cost for 10 Shelters is \$2,700 plus WST.

MOTION (by Clancy): To authorize Staff to purchase 10 new Wildland Fire Shelters with an approximate cost of \$2,700 + WST. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

Joint Meeting with Fire District #3. District #3 is available to meet with ECFR on Monday, April 12th. They would like to meet at Station 91 to see our new facility and look at the new Water Tender (District #3 is thinking about purchasing a new Tender). They can meet at either 6 PM or 7 PM. The ECFR Board was OK with a 6 PM start for the meeting. ECFR will provide refreshments.

Affiliation Agreement with SW Washington Medical Center. Chief Koehler advised the Board that Southwest Washington Medical Center is seeking to sign an affiliation agreement with each Fire Agency in Clark County—to facilitate in-hospital medical training for EMTs. This DRAFT Agreement is provided for the Board's review. There are some new requirements being placed on EMT students by both the State Health Division and Dr. Wittwer. There are also some costs associated with meeting these new requirements. Staff will be review these requirements and related costs and will bring information and recommendations back to the Board.

Chief Koehler asks that the Board send him any questions that they have with the affiliation agreement.

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Chairman Larson and Assistant Chief Thornberry met with Clark County Commissioner Mark Boldt, on Monday, to discuss the impact of \$29,000 in Conditional Use Permit fees on our proposed \$50,000 garage. Commissioner Boldt was sympathetic to the Fire District's concerns. After conferring with County Staff, it appears that the County is favorable to the original idea of permitting a simple 'residential' garage to house the assigned apparatus. Clark County Community Development should finalize their decision within 1—2 days.

Commissioner Boldt noted that—thanks to a lot of support from local fire agencies and various governmental groups—the Larch Honor Camp is very likely to stay operational. It will have only about half as many residents as in previous years—but should be able to support firefighting efforts, in this region, as it has done in the past.

Chairman Larson is, also, working with Finance/HR Manager Tammy Dinius to secure a contractor to construct/finish the reinforcing wall for the existing carport.

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

LOCAL BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

Chairman Gary Larson called the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting to order at 7:54 PM. There was one item of business to discuss: Authorize the State Board to Pay an Invoice Voucher for A Follow-Up Medical Examination for an On-Duty Auto Accident. The Local Board approved authorization of the State Invoice Voucher. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

ROUND TABLE

CERT Final Testing, March 4th, 6:30 PM, Station 91
Courage to Stay Safe Presentation, March 13th, 8:00 AM to 12 PM, Station 91
NFA's Incident Safety Officer Class, March 13th & 14th, Station 91

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Larson called for an Executive Session, at 7:57 PM, per RCW 42.30.110(g): Discussion by a Governing Body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment, as permitted under RCW 42.30.140(4). The expected time for the Executive Session was 10 minutes.

MEETING RECONVENES:

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 8:07 PM.

The Board discussed Policy # 90.2.6—Paid Time Off for Part-Time Employees. The group desired that a clause be removed—which allowed PTO to be used during inclement weather—it was felt that each Emergency Responder is responsible to plan ahead and ensure that they are present and able to respond at the beginning of their assigned shift. This is a very standard requirement of Fire Agencies throughout Clark County and the Greater Portland-Metro area.

MOTION (by Clancy): To adopt Policy #90.2.6, as amended. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.

There was no other business to be conducted.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 16, 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