

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

August 18, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Larson at 7:00 PM at Station 94.

The following were in attendance: Greg Cox, John Clancy, Harry Goodnight, Gary Larson; Scott Koehler, Bob Jacobs, Dean Thornberry; Greg Anderson; Brad Baldwin, Frank Billington, Chris Fry, Jack Hooper, Nancy Hooper, Paula Knapp, Martha Martin, Janet Savoy and Jeff Walton.

OPEN SEALED BIDS—SURPLUSSED WATER TENDER AND PORTA-TANK:

Chief Koehler advised that the District has received only one bid. Unfortunately, the bid envelope did not indicate the fact that the contents were a ‘sealed’ bid. The District’s Administrative Assistant has seen the contents of the document—but it was then returned to the envelope and stored in a secure location until tonight.

The bidder is OK with the bid having been opened. The Chief asked the Board how they wished to proceed. The consensus was to review the bid, as is—since only one bid was submitted—rather than go through the time and cost that would be required to re-advertise the vehicle.

Commissioner Larson opened the following bid:

Worland (WY) Fire Protection District #1 **\$7,000**

They request to purchase this Water Tender; the Porta-Tank; and the tire chains for this vehicle—and the last Water Tender we surplused (to them)—as part of that \$7,000 offer.

Chief Koehler requested the return of the Opticom (from the first water tender they purchased from us) in exchange for the chains and water tank.

MOTION (by Cox): To sell the surplus Water Tender, Porta-Tank and two sets of tire chains to Worland Fire Protection District #1 for \$7,000 plus the Opticom from the first Water Tender that had been surplused to Worland Fire Protection District #1. SECONDED by Clancy. Passed Unanimously.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

Commissioner Larson sought adjustments to the agenda.

Commissioner Clancy requested that the Board discuss sending letters of appreciation to all five (5) Fire Commissioner candidates for their interest in that position.

The Board was OK with adding that item to the Fire District Business section of the Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- ◆ Approval of Minutes:
 - August 4, 2009 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
 - August 4, 2009 Local BVFF&RO Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Approval of August 18, 2009 Financial Report
- ◆ Excuse Commissioner Rasmussen

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was nothing discussed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Brian Snure—Opinion on I-1033—Effect on Fire Districts. Attorney Brian Snure feels that I-1033 will affect the State, counties and cities—but not Fire Districts or Fire Authorities. Affected jurisdictions could suffer significant reductions in tax revenue beginning in 2010.

Washington Finance Officers Assn.—Tamara Dinius—Professional Finance Officer Award. Administrative Assistant Tamara Dinius was earned the “Professional Finance Officer Award” for the State of Washington from the Washington Finance Officers Association. This is Tammy’s second year as a PFO.

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> | | |
| 409 Calls | 1.77 Calls/day | 649/year |

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

| | |
|----|--|
| 10 | EMS |
| 6 | Burning Complaints |
| 3 | Non-Injury MVAs |
| 3 | Brush/Grass Fires |
| 1 | Fire Alarm |
| 1 | Building Fire (Washougal—Requested Only Air 93 and Rehab 93) |
| 1 | Semi-Truck Fire (Mutual Aid to Skamania Co. FD #4) |

Station 95 was struck and damaged, last night, by a passing car
Considering Opening a Cooling Room for this week’s high heat
Chief Thornberry and Chief Koehler participated in the Avery Fire (State Mob) in Wishram, WA
Plans/Finance Trailer Got Its First ‘run’ on a Real Event
SQ 93 also participated as part of the Clark County Strike Team
Thanks to Chief Jacobs and Captain Carnes for operating the District in our absence.
Fourteen applications were received for the Quarterly Fire House Birthday Parties
Lisa McColm and Kile Epperson Won the Quarterly Fire House Birthday Parties
Recreational Fire Ban Implemented by Clark County Fire Marshal and DNR
Discussed Planning Issues with Williams Pipeline Company
Coordinating Inclusion of Station 91 in Countywide September 11th Memorial Motorcycle Ride
Confirmed Completion of Insurance Consultant’s Loss Control Recommendations with VFIS
Met with Pilots Association for After Action Discussion on Open House/Airport Appreciation Day
Planning for Next Year—Discussed Potential Date Change
Held Monthly ECFR Staff Meeting
Did Not Attend CFD’s Monthly Staff Meeting—Cancelled by CFD
Preparing for Start-Up of Cadet Class
Public CPR Class Announcements Have Been Published

Enrolling Outside Students for this Fall's Instructor I Class
ECFR Budget Process Is Underway—Receiving Suggestions for FY2010 Budget
Health & Fitness Grant Committee Met—Finishing-Up Medical Evaluation Piece
Square Mile Project is underway.
ECFR is waiting for completion of DRS Audit Paperwork
Risk Management Group Meeting scheduled for September 2nd

Commissioner Goodnight asked Chief Koehler to thank everyone who responded to his Mother-In-Law's medical emergency. All responders were very professional and provided good medical care.

Assistant Chief Bob Jacobs reviewed his written report.

Assistant Chief Dean Thornberry reviewed his written report.

New Volunteer Member Candidate Chris Fry was introduced to the Board. They asked Chris to tell the group about himself and how he got interested in becoming a Fire Fighter.

VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION:

Brad Baldwin, Volunteer Fire Fighters Association Liaison, reported that the Fire Fighters Association is completing plans for the September 11th Memorial—to be held at Station 91. The Volunteers are working hard to make this a nice event for ECFR Members, Member families, the Motorcycle Riders who are coming to acknowledge/honor all local Fire Fighters (as well as those FDNY Fire Fighters killed on September 11, 2001), and the public—who will be invited to participate. The Pilot's Association has been invited—and intends to participate.

The Fire Fighters have started a monthly Family Night. Currently, a movie is being shown on the second Friday of each month. The gathering starts at 7 PM at Station 91. The Association picks-up the refreshments. Fire Fighter Arthur Bonenfant has helped find/connect/operate the AV equipment to drastically improve the delivery of the featured movies. Every ECFR Member is invited to attend.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:

There were no miscellaneous reports.

FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue—Commissioner Larson advised that Shared Services talks have been postponed. There are several issues that need to be addressed—and progress cannot continue on the Shared Services proposal until those issues are settled. The City's Fire Authority Planning Committee Representatives are seeking to meet with ECFR's Fire Authority Planning Committee Members. Commissioner Clancy will accompany Commissioner Larson, to that meeting, if Commissioner Rasmussen is not back from vacation. The City is, now, interested in using a Facilitator to assist in obtaining a Shared Services/Fire Authority agreement.

In light of the suspension of talks, Chief Koehler reviewed the goals and the 'deal breakers' that were originally discussed when the Shared Services meetings began. Additionally, the pros and cons of the current Staffing Agreement were discussed. The Chief supports the benefits that a Shared Services arrangement could bring to the Community. He asked the Board to revisit the goals and—in future meetings with the City—determine if those goals are being addressed. If ECFR goals are NOT being addressed/considered/achieved, some type of solution should be pursued. Lacking solutions acceptable to the Fire District, the Board will have to decide if Shared

Services discussions are in the best interest of the District's taxpayers. Whatever the Board decides, Staff needs clear direction on how to proceed with administering/operating the Fire District.

The Board asked Assistant Chief Thornberry about the operational aspects of the Staffing Agreement. Thornberry noted that neither day-to-day operational activities nor projects/programs have been getting the attention they need—but he also noted that Camas personnel have been back at Station 91 *only* since August 1st (Camas stopped staffing Station 91 in, approximately, March—when 12-hour staffing started for Medic 43—when Station 95 re-opened).

Commissioner Clancy asked if ECFR needed to hire another Full-Time Fire Fighter to assist in completion of needed tasks. Chief Koehler felt that ECFR did not need to hire another person—rather; we should demand more production/a better work ethic from the Camas personnel who are assigned to Station 91. Clancy feels that ECFR should have “Plan B” available—for in-house staffing—should the Camas Staffing Agreement be terminated.

Commissioner Goodnight feels that there are some Union issues involved in this process—and hopes that all parties can work through them in a manner that best serves the public.

The consensus of the Board was that ECFR pays Camas approximately \$445,000 per year for them to staff Station 91 and Station 95. ECFR is not getting its money's worth in terms of work to maintain operational readiness, complete projects, manage programs and/or coach/mentor personnel.

Joint Ambulance Purchase & Financing. The City has received bids on one mid-sized ambulance. The approximate cost was \$190,000. Camas BC Greg Hochhalter has asked about the deadline to submit paperwork to the LOCAL Program—if ECFR is going to finance the unit—but no formal finance request has been delivered by the City. There was some talk about the City taking-over responsibility for the cost of one of ECFR's contracted Fire Fighters—in exchange for ECFR financing the ambulance—but there has been nothing discussed/offered in many weeks.

Name and Signs on Ambulance. Commissioner Clancy would like the new ambulance to better illustrate the names of the agencies that fund the joint ambulance venture. He has asked that this discussion item be placed on the next Ambulance Advisory Board agenda.

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 with the intention of adopting the agreement at the September 1st Regular Board Meeting.

EMS Response Billing.

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

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Commissioner Larson reported that the Structural Engineer has provided sketches on methods to reinforce the main structural components of the carport at the Bear Prairie Satellite Station. This project is the last issue that must be dealt with by Clark County before grandfathering the unpermitted construction done by the previous owner. It was unclear, in the six sketches, if all work needed to be completed—or—if several options were being offered.

MOTION (by Clancy): To authorize the Board Chair to secure the work needed for Clark County to accept an appropriate means to reinforce the carport at the Bear Prairie Satellite Station. SECONDED by Cox. Passed Unanimously.

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.

FY2009 Goals & Objectives. The FY2009 Goals and Objectives were put on 'hold', at the beginning of this year, waiting for a joint set of Goals & Objectives to be developed—the Fire District did not want to adopt a goal(s) that conflicted with goals needed for joint operation. In lieu of the Shared Services talks being suspended, Chief Koehler asked if the Board wanted to review/adopt goals for the rest of this fiscal year. Adoption could occur at the next Regular Board Meeting, if the Board wanted more time to review the document.

Inasmuch as the document has been previously circulated among the Board, Board Members were comfortable with the goals and objectives listed. There was discussion about goals and objectives for FY2010. Chief Koehler will develop a draft document and will utilize them—as is done each year—to guide the development of the FY2010 budget.

Commissioner Cox wants to make sure that ECFR honors our promise to the public—that the recent Lid Lift will provide 24/7/365 staffing at two Fire District Stations. Commissioner Clancy feels that we should include have an option in the FY2010 budget to return to in-house staffing—in case the Camas Staffing Agreement is cancelled.

MOTION (by Larson): To adopt the FY2009 Goals and Objectives. SECONDED by Cox. Passed Unanimously.

Station 95 Air Compressor. Assistant Chief Thornberry advised that he had sought three bids to purchase/install an air compressor at Station 95. Only two bids were completed/submitted. Both bids exceeded \$8,000 in cost. Chief Thornberry feels that the cost is too high for this project and requested the Board reject both bids so that other less expensive options can be explored.

MOTION (by Cox): To reject the Station 95 air compressor bids—based upon the cost being higher than anticipated/budgeted. SECONDED by Clancy. Passed Unanimously.

Neighborhood Bazaar at Station 94. A neighbor, in the Mount Norway area, suggested that the Fire District might host a Bazaar—in an effort to bring Community Members together. She also thought such a gathering might allow the District an opportunity to facilitate public information and public education activities. The Fire Fighters could do fund-raising activities like selling hot dogs and sodas. The neighbor is willing to help pass out flyers.

The Board is, generally, open to the idea of using the Fire Station for such a community event. It was suggested that the neighbor could sponsor the event and use the facility—keeping the Fire District clear of any manpower obligations.

Chief Koehler noted that the neighbor wasn't interested in hosting the event—rather, trying to build "Community". The Chief will talk with the lady to get more information. If this event occurs, it will have to have minimal impact on daily operations at Station 94 and can't cost the Fire District any money.

MOTION (by Larson): To allow Station 94 to be used for a Neighborhood Bazaar—as long as it does not interfere with Fire District operation and does not incur costs for the taxpayers. SECONDED by Cox. Passed Unanimously.

Station 95 Repair. The Fire District is anxious to repair the damage to Station 95 that was caused by the vehicle that struck that building last night. The District has asked the State Auditor's Office if—based upon our desire to complete the repairs before Fall rains begin—we can forego the regular bidding process (especially since insurance money will be used to fund repairs—as opposed to tax dollars). The Auditor's Office is investigating our options. They suggested that the Board turn repair of the building over to the Fire District's Insurance Agent—with only minor feedback from ECFR Staff.

MOTION (by Clancy): To turn the repair of Station 95 over to the Fire District's Insurance Agent—with only minor feedback from ECFR Staff. SECONDED by Goodnight. Passed Unanimously.

Thank the Five Commissioner Candidates for Running for Office. Commissioner Clancy asked if the Fire District wanted to send Thank You letters to the five Fire Commissioner candidates for stepping-up to run for elected office when no one registered for the vacant seat. The Board felt that such a gesture would be appropriate. Chief Koehler will draft letters for the Board Chairman's signature.

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 2nd, 8 AM, Station 61.

Administrative Offices Closed on Monday, September 7th to Observe Labor Day

Ambulance Advisory Board Meeting, September 10th, 5:30 PM, Station 42

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board adjourned at 8:43 PM.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2009, 7 PM, Station 91.

Respectfully Submitted,

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

By

John Clancy, Commissioner

Greg Cox, Commissioner

Harry Goodnight, Commissioner

Gary Larson, Chairman

Absent _____
Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

ATTEST:

DISTRICT SEAL:

Scott Koehler, District Secretary