

# EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

## Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting

February 16, 2010

### CALL TO ORDER:

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

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; Tammy Dinius; Kevin Bergstrom, Brooks Cooper, Nancy Hooper, Martha Martin and Jeff Walton.

### AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS:

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

### CONSENT AGENDA:

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

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

### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

There was nothing discussed.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence.

### 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>  |                |                            |
| 60 Calls           | 1.27 Calls/day | 465/year                   |

Calls that have occurred since the last Regular Board Meeting:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 8 | EMS  |
| 2 | Burning Complaints   |
| 1 | Fire Alarm   |
| 1 | Chimney Fire   |
| 1 | Structure Fire (w/Washougal)—Restaurant—Mistaken Alarm (Steam) |
| 1 | Rope Rescue  |

Office Assistant II—Danette Beckwith is working 3 days per week (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday).  
Seeking New College Interns—Baker & Hayford's One Year Commitment has almost been Completed  
Will Need to Temporarily Replace One Part-Time Fire Fighter/EMT During Paramedic Internship  
Shared Services

Trying to Address Tone Issues at Station 95  
Also Addressing On-Duty Crew Response—for Fires—At Station 95  
Waiting for Confirmation from Mayor Dennis of Feasibility of Chief Leon's Offer

Health & Wellness  
Wellness Physicals Being Conducted—Positive Feedback—Approaching Deadline to Participate.  
Have A Wellness Professional Providing Orientation to Equipment on March 3rd  
Incentive Program Has Been Published—Member Participation Has Started  
Cancelled Agency Membership to All Pride Fitness Center  
Consortium Nurse Will Be On-Staff 0.75 FTE

Attended County Commissioner Workshop on Fire Inspections  
Board is working to keep the Larch Honor Camp open

Attended Monthly County Fire Chief's Meeting  
Joint Meeting Scheduled Between Clark Co. & Cowlitz Co. Fire Chiefs

Held Monthly Staff Meeting  
Met with DNR to Review Jackson 3 Fire  
Met with New VFIS Representative. Expecting Risk Group to Take Official Action on Proposed Change  
City of Washougal Notified of Water Tower Decision  
Letter Sent to Station 94 Neighbors—Regarding Water Tank Decision  
Issued Goals & Objectives to Agency—Getting Some Offers of Help on Various Projects  
Strengthened Efforts To Keep Fire Stations Secured  
Issued In-House Newsletter  
Agency ID Cards Being Issued  
Square Mile Visits Are Ongoing—Approaching 100 Visits YTD  
Awards Banquet Preparations Are Coming Along  
MX Nationals Scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>  
Airport Appreciation Day Scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>  
Likely Date for Annual Open House at Station 91  
Dates Set for IV Tech Class—No Cost to ECFR Students  
Courage to Stay Safe Presentation & NFA's Incident Safety Officer Class Scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
Preparing to Present FEMA All Hazards PIO class for Region—End of March  
CERT Class Operating with 25 Students—Completing Medical Sessions, Then Tabletop Exercise and Final  
Recruiting New Emergency Support Team Members from that Group  
Drills: Exposure Control—Asbestos, Skills Assessment, Volunteer Association Business Meeting  
Skamania County Fire District #4 Has A New Fire Chief—Dave Querry  
Offering Us Their 1979 Fire Engine For Cost of Repairing Pump Plumbing

Commissioner Berg asked who the medical professional is that will be doing the exercise equipment orientation. Chief Koehler advised that it is Dr. Michael Dornbusch.

Assistant Chief Jacobs was returning from an incident. The Board reviewed his written report.

Assistant Chief Thornberry was on vacation. No report was submitted.

Finance/HR Manager Tammy Dinius reviewed her written report.

Commissioner Hooper complimented Tammy on the In-house Newsletter. Other Board Members agreed.

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

Jeff Walton, the Volunteer Association's Liaison—Alternate reported that the Volunteers will be hosting/participating in four public events during FY2010: Poker Night, Spaghetti Feed, Bingo and the Vintage Motocross Race.

### **SAFETY REPORT:**

Assistant Chief Jacobs discussed two posters that will be placed in ECFR stations. One, discussing diesel exhaust, will be displayed to remind Members to open bay doors or run the exhaust fans while operating diesel apparatus. It is especially important that diesel fumes be purged from the truck bays before Members use the new exercise equipment. The other poster seeks safety suggestions from Members—which are desired more by the Safety Committee than the recent series of Safety Slogans.

The Safety Committee is starting to see more “Near Miss” reports coming in—which indicates a more pro-active approach to Safety than having Members waiting for accidents to occur.

### **CITIZEN LIAISON REPORT:**

Martha Martin reviewed her written report. She advised that the Port is moving its meetings to 5:00 PM on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays—to allow more people access to their meetings (occurs after normal work hours) and permits Port Commissioners and the Public to attend ECFR Meetings—those same nights—it they desire to do so.

### **MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS:**

There were no miscellaneous reports.

### **FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS:**

Shared Services with Camas Fire & Rescue. Chief Koehler provided an overview of meeting minutes from Assistant Chief Thornberry's meeting with the three Camas Battalion Chiefs. In that meeting, the Camas BCs say they can deliver on Chief Leon's promises—but doing so would cost the City of Camas more Overtime. Chairman Larson advised that he has asked Camas Mayor Paul Dennis if Chief Leon's offer has been sanctioned by the Mayor and Council—and, if the City has funds to support the extra Overtime Costs. The Mayor has not replied.

Camas Fire Fighter's Union President Kevin Bergstrom advised that Chief Leon's proposal is doable—but would require, at the very least, moving some money around within the various line items of the CFD budget. However, Bergstrom—who cannot speak for the City—reminded the Board that such decisions must be approved by the Mayor and Council. Bergstrom feels that the Mayor would support such changes—but, probably, wants to hear a commitment (to maintain the Staffing Agreement) from ECFR before taking official action. Commissioner Larson stated that both he and Commissioner Rasmussen will try to meet with Mayor Dennis in the very near future.

There was further discussion about AC Thornberry's cover letter—where Thornberry suggests that the Fire District look at ‘the bigger picture’ before making a final decision. Solving the Staffing issue is only one piece of the puzzle. Thornberry suggests that both sides should either agree to a Functional Consolidation or a Fire Authority—to obtain a more comprehensive solution to the various operational issues that we face—or go our separate ways. Most Commissioners voiced agreement with such an approach.

Adopt Policy: Health & Wellness Incentives. Chief Koehler presented the Board with the language for the Health & Wellness Incentive Program—approved at the last Regular Board Meeting—in the standard Policy Template. Language was added—as required by the State Auditor—for Control and Security of incentive materials. There was some discussion about how the list of incentives and the control & security information should be displayed within the document. Staff will make requested changes in the Official Copy of the policy.

**MOTION (by Clancy): To adopt Policy 10.2.2—Health & Wellness Incentive Policy. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.**

Bear Prairie Satellite Station. Commissioner Larson advised that there was nothing new to report.

Public Newsletter. Chief Koehler advised that the FY2010 Budget provided funding for two Public Newsletters. Work should begin, now, on the ‘Spring’ edition. The Chief sought permission to publish and mail the first newsletter of FY2010.

**MOTION (by Larson): To develop, publish and mail the first semi-annual Public Newsletter of 2010. SECONDED (by Hooper). Passed Unanimously.**

Joint Meeting with Fire District #3. Commissioner Larson noted that he had approached FD #3’s Chief Wrightson, during the last WFCFA Annual Conference, to see if their Agency would be interested in meeting to discuss issues common to both Districts. Chief Wrightson and one of his Commissioners expressed interest in doing so. Recent correspondence between Chief Koehler and Chief Wrightson found April to be a good month to hold such a meeting.

It was felt that having a separate meeting (joint gathering) outside the Regular Board Meetings was preferable. Commissioner Berg offered Vancouver Station 10 as a possible ‘central’ location to meet. April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM was determined to be a good date/time for ECFR’s Board. Chief Koehler will contact District #3 to determine their availability.

Update on HB 2825: Move Board for Volunteer FF & Reserve Officers to DRS. Chief Koehler advised that—after correct information was provided—most of the opposition being voiced to moving the BVFF&ROs into DRS has subsided. Koehler reminded the Board that a Motion had been made to write a letter of opposition to this House Bill. Koehler asked if such a letter was still desired. The consensus of the Board was to NOT write a letter of opposition.

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 7:42 PM. There were no items of business to discuss. The Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM. The Minutes of the Local Board for VFF&ROs Meeting are filed separately.

## **ROUND TABLE**

SW Washington Fire Commissioners, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, NWRTC  
CERT Tabletop Exercise. February 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, Station 91  
CERT Final Testing, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, Station 91  
Courage to Stay Safe Presentation, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM to 12 PM, Station 91  
NFA’s Incident Safety Officer Class, March 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, Station 91

Commission Larson noted that the Courage to Stay Safe program had been previewed at the last WFCA Annual Conference—and it was “awesome”.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner Larson called for an Executive Session, at 7:44 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 15 minutes.

**MEETING RECONVENES:**

The Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 7:59 PM.

There was no other business to be conducted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

# **EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE**

by

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Larson, Chairman

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Jack Hooper, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Berg, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Clancy, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Victor Rasmussen, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

**DISTRICT SEAL:**

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Scott Koehler, District Secretary