

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
January 22, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Pierson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance:**

Present: Commissioner Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Chief Reggie Romines, Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Tony Judd, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake, and District Secretary Olivia Werner.

Absent: Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett and Administrative Assistant Kathy Hale had excused absences.

Chairman Pierson led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the audience. In the audience were Mike Patterson and Charles Leitch, attorneys representing the District in the Carlson lawsuit.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2007, were approved as written.**

Commissioner Skaggs requested that the Board suspend the agenda to have Michele Greco, the new Administrative Secretary for the District, introduced to the Board. Chief Romines introduced Michele. Welcome to our family!!

Commissioner Pierson announced that the Board is going into Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i) to meet with counsel regarding enforcement actions, litigation/potential litigation when public knowledge might have adverse result. The meeting is scheduled to last for twenty (20) minutes. **Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:05 pm, to last for twenty (20) minutes, extended for fifteen (15) minutes at 7:25 pm, extended for ten (10) minutes at 7:40 pm. Executive Session ended at 7:50 pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:52 pm.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

The District received a request from the Pierce County Auditor's Office requesting the use of 21-4's meeting room as a Polling Place. There was discussion on the impact to the training schedule and the staff time required to open and close the building. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to allow the Pierce County Auditor's Office to use Station 21-4's meeting room as a polling place. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion for discussion.** D/C Franz asked what the level of traffic would be on election days. Commissioner Skaggs answered approximately 300 people during the thirteen hours the polls are open. **Commissioner Pierson called for the vote. The Motion carried unanimously.** Chief Romines directed staff to prepare a letter to the Auditor requesting the dates they will need the room.

**FINANCIALS:**

Vouchers #01017 through #01103, #01104 through #01110 in the amount of \$322,155.84 (General Fund), and payroll for \$380,717.23 for total payables and payroll of \$702,873.07 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept payables and payroll in the amount of \$702,873.07 after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**Chief's Report.**

Chief Romines asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Dee Bamford.

Chief Romines commented that he spoke to Dale Bamford and that he appears to be doing as well as can be expected. The "Celebration of Life" for Dee will be held on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm, at the Tacoma Sportsman Club. Staff is asked to wear their Class A's or if on duty, Class B's. Commissioner Skaggs asked that staff let Dale know that the State Association of Firefighters held a "moment of silence" for Dee at their last meeting. Dee will be missed by many.

Chief Romines reminded the Board that he will be on vacation 1/29-2/2.

The graduation of Graham's eight new volunteer firefighters and the nine firefighters from neighboring fire districts was a great success. Station 21-4 was packed with family and friends. Chief Romines thanked A/C Judd, B/C Espinosa, A/S Hickok and the career staff that trained at the recruit academy for the excellent job done by all.

Chief Romines reminded the Board that Legislative Day will occur on 3/5/07. Staff will arrange meetings with our legislatures.

Two additional upcoming events are; The IAFF Annual Dinner on 2/24/07 at the Liberty Theatre, and the District's 2006 Annual Awards Banquet on 3/17/07 at the Tacoma Sportsman Club.

Station No. 21-0 Remediation. A/A Hale is absent due to illness and will have an update report at the next meeting. Commissioner Gustafson has provided documents from the original investigation. Staff will research the data and look for any bills or further documentation in District Archives.

2007 Medical Programs. There is nothing new to report. The bargaining unit is scheduled to meet with their legal counsel regarding Article No. 21. Chief Romines stated that attached to his report is a copy of the letter the Board instructed him to prepare for the Firefighter's Bargaining Unit.

Carlson Lawsuit. The judge granted the request by the plaintiff to delay the trial. This will be discussed in Executive Session with District Counsel, Mike Patterson and Charles Leitch.

Regional Hazardous Materials Inter-local. Commissioner Skaggs reported that there is a possibility that District No. 22 will not participate in the inter-local agreement. Commissioner Skaggs added that this issue was discussed at the WFCOA Executive Board Meeting. Chief Romines will follow-up and report back to the Board.

Lahar Preparedness. Commissioner Pierson reported that he has not been able to reach Mr. Hamilton. He has requested a copy of the Lahar Plan from Pierce County.

Computer Support. Chief Romines explained the request from District No. 17 to enter into an Inter-local Agreement with District No. 21 to contract support by Lyle Stahnke. The attached e-mail from D/C Franz outlines the conditions that are being proposed. Commissioner Pierson asked if District No. 17 was going to pay for Lyle's services. Chief Romines replied, "Absolutely." There was further discussion on the scope of support. At this time it is planned that up to two-hours per week is the target number. The Board agreed that this would be acceptable.

Paramedic Preceptor Agreement. The Board agreed to sign the Preceptor Agreement with Central Washington University as recommended by A/C Judd and approved by District Counsel Joe Quinn. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to enter into the Preceptor Agreement with Central Washington University. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Representative Jim McCune. Chief Romines was asked by Commissioner Pierson to send information to Representative McCune on the use of Deca Retardant. Apparently the retardant has been banned in Europe and the Washington Legislature is being pushed to do the same thing. The WFCFA does not support this as it believes a ban may cause more fire deaths. Commissioner Skaggs commented that he thinks the retardant will be banned.

New Medic Unit. Chief Romines stated that on-duty crews are working to get the new medic unit in-service. Commissioner Skaggs asked if the old medic unit that was surplus is still here. D/C Franz replied yes. Commissioner Skaggs stated that there is a new fire department in Eastern Washington that could use any equipment donated to them. Commissioner Skaggs suggested that Roger Ferris at WFCFA be contacted for more information.

Silver Creek Retirement Community. Chief Romines stated that Patrick Dooley, manager of Silver Creek Retirement Community, asked if the District would consider waiving the individual \$15.00 CPR Class charge for his out of District employees. His employees are required to have their CPR certification as part of their job. Since they work for an employer that resides in the District, would that be a reason to waive the fee? Chief Romines would like the Board to consider his request. After discussion, the Board agreed that this was a reasonable request. **Commissioner Gustafson moved to amend the current policy on CPR Classes to add that the fee will be waived if the participant is a citizen of the District or works for a business within the District. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Training Report. A/C Judd reported that the next academy is scheduled to begin on February 13, 2007. There will be twenty (20) participants from five (5) different agencies. The majority of the candidates will be from Graham.

The four (4) career firefighters at Lakewood Academy are reported as doing very well and meeting expectations.

Chief Judd contacted Pierce College to inquire if they would offer a Fire Officer Development Program. This was well received by them and the Pierce County Fire Chiefs.

Northwest Leadership Conference. Commissioner Skaggs asked who will be attending this year's conference. Chief Romines answered; himself, Commissioner Skaggs, A/C Baskett, B/C Clawson, A/A Hale. Commissioner Pierson and Commissioner Gustafson will notify staff if they plan to attend.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Pierson stated that the Pierce County Fire Commissioners Meeting will be held at U.P. Station 3-2, not their headquarters station.

Commissioner Pierson requested that staff contact Paula Dillard to conduct a workshop for the Board, to bring them up to date with her training of District personnel. Chief Romines said he would arrange a meeting sometime in February.

Commissioner Skaggs reminded staff that GF&R is hosting the May meeting of the Pierce County Fire Commissioners.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT**

Commissioner Skaggs commented that the reimbursement for participating in an All Risk State Mobilization has been 100%, however, this now goes through the Department of Emergency Management, after the Governor has declared a State Emergency, and only 75% of expenses are reimbursed. This will hinder department participation if they have to contribute 25% of their budget to assist in emergencies. Currently \$6.2 Million has been designated from the state for repairs.

WFCA strongly supports the 6-Year Lid Lift.

WFCA supports a re-training program for firefighters hurt while on duty.

Commissioner Pierson congratulated Steve Richards for his excellent preparation of personnel evaluations. It was obvious that he put time and effort into each evaluation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Conducted earlier in the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**

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Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

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Olivia H. Werner, District Secretary