

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 8, 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, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake, District Secretary Olivia Werner and Administrative Assistant Kathy Hale.
Members of staff and citizens.

Absent: None

Chairman Pierson led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed the audience.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting of December 21, 2006, were approved as written.

The minutes of the Special board Meeting of December 28, 2006 were approved as written.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A thank you letter from a citizen transported by staff.

FINANCIALS:

Vouchers #01002, #01007, #01030 (Construction Fund, 2006) in the amount of \$16,972.77, and #01003 through #01006, #01008 through #01029, #01031 through #01058 in the amount of \$75,468.96 (General Fund, 2006), and #01005 through #01016 (General Fund, 2007) in the amount of \$9,106.92 for a total payables of \$101,548.65 were presented for approval. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept payables in the amount of \$101,548.65 after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report.

Chief Romines reminded the Board that the Volunteer Recruit Academy Graduation is on 1/11/07, 7:00pm at Station 21-4.

Four Graham firefighter recruits will begin the Lakewood Career Academy on 1/8/07. They are Firefighters Brian Budd, Thad Richardson, Tyler Romines and Jason Brown.

Chief Romines asked Board permission to take vacation from 1/29 – 2/2. The Board agreed. Aloha!!!

Station No. 21-0 Remediation. A/A Hale reported that she spoke to John Hildenbrand, representative from Robinson, Noble, Saltbush Inc., Groundwater & Environmental Scientists. He is familiar with our case and recommended taking a different approach to resolve our problem. He suggested that a machine be brought on site to obtain bore samples and determine if the problem is the soil. The cost to do this will not exceed \$30,000. Both PSI and Robinson, Noble, Saltbush have plans that comply with the Department of Ecology's requirements, however, John stated it is his company's philosophy to approach a problem step by step. A/A Hale commented that for the record, the reference in the report to "hand tool" is another word for "shovel."

Commissioner Gustafson voiced his displeasure in this whole matter. Commissioner Skaggs agreed and stated that "this is throwing good money after bad. Unfortunately we're stuck." He asked that staff makes sure that the County is involved and approves our process all the way to completion.

Commissioner Gustafson asked Chief Romines if our records had been searched for documentation on the original project. Chief Romines answered that A/A Hale has reviewed all records we have. The documentation appears to end in 1998, at the time of leadership change in the District. The last document we found is a letter from the Executive Director, John Burgess, requesting that the District be allowed to discontinue providing annual test reports. There was further discussion on how to proceed. Commissioner Gustafson asked that he be given time to review the documents he has at his home. Chief Romines pointed out that in order to avoid having to continue with this process, we need to provide documentation that the Department of Ecology and the Department of Health gave final approval to the District for its cleanup of the site.

There was continued discussion on the issue and whether staff should enter into a contract with Robinson, Noble and Saltbush Inc. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to give Chief Romines permission to enter into a contract with Robinson, Noble and Saltbush Inc. if Commissioner Gustafson cannot find any documents that prove we had the final approval form the appropriate agencies on Station 21-0 cleanup. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Carlson Lawsuit. Chief Romines informed the Board that the Plaintiff's lawyer is appearing before the judge to ask for a continuance. We will know Friday, January 12th if it is granted.

Mike Patterson, District Counsel, has offered to attend the January 22nd Board Meeting to meet with the Board and give them an update on this case. The Board asked that he attend.

Check Endorsement. Chief Romines explained to the Board that attached to his report is an e-mail for A/A Hale asking him to endorse an insurance settlement check made payable to the District, the hospital's collection agency, two doctors and Mrs. Walsh's husband (our patient). Attorney Joe Quinn gave the opinion that this can be done to enable Mrs. Walsh to pay their medical bills. The check will be deposited by the hospital's collection agency, which will pay the medical bills. Any residual funds will then be issued to the patient.

Legislative Day. Chief Romines polled the Commissioners if they were attending the 2007 Legislative Session in Olympia. All commissioners plan to attend.

Northwest Leadership and FDIC Conferences. Chief Romines asked if any Board Member was planning on attending either or both conferences. Commissioner Pierson and Commissioner Skaggs plan on attending both conferences. Commissioner Gustafson will attend the Northwest Leadership Conference and not FDIC.

PPEO Report. PPEO Meridian-Drake referenced her monthly report. She added that she had received a letter from Kapowsin Elementary School thanking the District for their participation in the Holiday Giving Tree.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 654, to Surplus the Onan Genset Generator was read into the record by D/S Werner. **Commissioner Gustafson moved to surplus the Onan Genset Generator. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Romines distributed a report, requested by the Board, which shows data on District Incident Calls. Commissioner Skaggs asked if injuries and/or fire death related calls are tracked. A/C Judd replied this information can be provided on a different report. Commissioner Pierson asked A/C Judd if the average response time begins with our tone out. A/C Judd answered that it is tracked from the time of the alarm to the 1st Unit on scene.

Chief Romines handed out a draft of an Interlocal Agreement-Hazardous Materials for Board review. The final agreement will be brought to the Board for approval at the meeting on January 22nd. Chief Romines pointed out that on page two, under funding, there are six Districts that would like to participate in the agreement. They will be factored into the formula that determines their portion owed for the equipment purchase fund. At the end of four years the cost of the equipment will be evenly distributed and paid for by each District. District Counsel, Joe Quinn informed us that as the lead District, a nominal fee can be charged for administrative functions.

GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Romines requested an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140, plan or adopt strategy/positions for collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings with no business to be conducted afterward. The session should last for 5 minutes. **Commissioner Pierson announced an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140, to plan or adopt strategy/positions for collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings with business to be conducted afterward.** Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:40 p.m., to last for 5 minutes. Executive Session was extended at 7:45 p.m. for 10 minutes and extended at 7:55 p.m. for 10 minutes. Executive Session was announced as ending at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

Olivia H. Werner, District Secretary