

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 12, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Fire Chief Reggie Romines, Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Tony Judd, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, and District Secretary Kathy Hale.

Absent: Public Prevention Education Officer Merdian-Drake had an excused absence.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 22, 2007, were approved as presented.

The minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 24, 2007, were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you letter from a Citizen.

FINANCIALS:

Vouchers #11001 through #11087 in the amount of \$269,684.21 were presented for approval.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$269,684.21 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines reminded the Board of the Bates Recruit Academy Graduation on November 16, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

Station No. 21-0. Assistant Chief Baskett reported that work has been completed on the project. There will be a walk-through scheduled in the next few weeks with the Pierce County Health Department. Following the walk-through, John Hildenbrand of Robinson Noble will be issuing a remediation report to the Department of Ecology for their approval.

Fire Tax Levy Lid Lift. Chief Romines reported that as of today we are passing our Levy by 58.34 percent.

Initiative 747. Chief Romines stated that the Washington Supreme Court has just ruled that Initiative 747 is unconstitutional. According to Attorney Quinn, our District will not be affected this coming year due to passing our Lid Lift and EMS Levy renewal.

Commissioner Pierson voiced that media reports are saying that the Governor may call for a special two-day Legislative session to put into law another tax limitation measure.

Chief Romines offered a suggestion that the District not go out for a lid lift next year, but wait another year as there are many one-time expenditures in the budget in 2008.

Future Regular Board Meetings. Chief Romines recommended that the Regular Meeting of November 26, 2007, be cancelled due to a non-quorum with two commissioners being unavailable, and conducting a Special Meeting on November 21, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. He also recommended cancelling the December 24, 2007 Board Meeting, Christmas Eve, and conducting a Special Meeting on December 20, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. The Board concurred with his suggestions.

Special Budget Meeting. Chief Romines reminded all of the Special Board Meeting tomorrow night, November 13, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is the presentation and public discussion of the proposed 2008 budget.

HEART Act of 2007. Chief Romines stated that he is looking into the new HEART Act of 2007 to see how it will affect our volunteers. Staff will report back to the Board with their findings.

PPEO Report

In the absence of Public Prevention Officer Merdian-Drake, Chief Romines reviewed the report with the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 683, Establish a Certified Chief's Eligibility List. District Secretary Hale read Resolution No. 683, Establish a Certified Chief's Eligibility List, into the record.

Commissioner Gustafson moved the approval of Resolution No. 683, Establish a Certified Chief's Eligibility List, as presented. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Personal Services Contract. Chief Romines stated he had reviewed the proposed personal services contract that Commissioner Pierson has presented to him and found no changes that he would ask for. Chief Romines inquired as to why the contract was for three years as opposed to his customary four year term.

Following discussion, the Board stated they would have no issues with changing Chief Romines' contract to a term of four years.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve the Personal Services Contract for Chief Romines as presented and to include changing the term to four years. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Step 3 Grievance. Chief Romines reported that District Secretary Hale was presented with a Step 3 Grievance request today, which asks for a meeting with the Board. He asked that the matter be taken up in Executive Session.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Pierson announced a 30-minute Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), to evaluate the qualification of a public employee or review their performance, and under RCW 42.30.140, Collective Bargaining, with business to follow. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 7:34 p.m.

Commissioner Pierson reconvened the Regular Board Meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Commissioner Pierson asked DS Hale to draft a response to the Step 3 Grievance, meeting request, that the Board will meet with the requestor, BC Clawson, following the Regular Board Meeting on December 10, 2007.

Chief Romines presented the proposed 2008 Budget to the Board for their review. Following a brief review, the Board asked staff to bring more information to tomorrow night's meeting regarding the Mobile Data Terminals, the SCBA Heads-up Displays and Grant Writers.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary