

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
March 26, 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, Fire Chief Reggie Romines, Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake, District Secretary Olivia Werner, and Administrative Assistant Kathy Hale.

Absent: Assistant Chief Judd has 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 March 12, 2007, were approved as written.**

Commissioner Pierson stated that the Board is varying from the Agenda to allow John Hildenbrand from Robinson Noble Saltbush Inc. to provide a verbal report to the Board on the cleanup of Station 21-0. Mr. Hildenbrand reported that random samplings taken through bore holes in the concrete of the building and the surrounding area were taken and analyzed. While most of the site had minimal contamination, there is an area under the building that exceeds the minimum requirements by the Environmental Protection Agency. There was discussion on the best possible solution to the problem. After discussion on possible options, the general consensus is to research the cost to demolish the building or use the building for a practice burn, have the contaminated soil removed and clean soil brought in to fill the space. Before making a decision, the Board wants more information on the cost to remove the building, remove the contaminated soil and fill with new. Mr. Hildenbrand will determine the approximate costs and provide them to Chief Romines. The Board thanked Mr. Hildenbrand for his report.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A thank you letter from a citizen thanking the staff who attended to her husband.
- A letter from Glatfelter Claims Management, Inc. notifying the District that the claim submitted by Dean Thoemke has been closed.

**FINANCIALS:**

Vouchers #03126, #03141, #03147 in the amount of \$5,946.23 (Construction Fund), #03070 through #03125, #03127 through #03140, #03142 through #03146, #03148 through #03190 in the amount of \$148,504.18 (General Fund), payroll in the amount of \$427,669.01 for total payables and payroll of \$582,119.42 were presented for approval.

**Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept payables and payroll in the amount of**

**\$582,119.42 after proper auditing. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**Chief's Report.**

Chief Romines thanked the Board for attending the Bates Recruit Academy Graduation. Firefighter Jill Cunningham received the Most Improved Award. Both Firefighter Cunningham and Firefighter David Hadman received accolades for their achievements during the academy.

Deferred Compensation. Chief Romines stated that the Volunteer Pension and Relief Board will not recognize our chaplains and support services personnel as qualified members in the pension program. Legislation at the State level has been proposed to recognize non-combat personnel as qualified. We are being proactive and A/A Hale has been assigned to investigate a state deferred compensation program that might provide a level of compensation for our support services personnel and chaplains. Staff will report to the Board once the information is gathered.

Resolution No. 659. Chief Romines is recommending approval of Resolution No. 659, cancel/void stale dated warrants.

Resolution No. 660. Chief Romines is recommending approval of Resolution No. 660, the surplus of four one-hour Haz Mat SCBAs to be sold to Central Pierce Fire & Rescue for \$100 each.

Training Report. A/C Judd is not present and Chief Romines asked the Board if they have any questions regarding the Training/Safety Report. There were none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution No. 659, a Resolution to Cancel/Void Stale Dated Warrants, was read into the record by D/S Werner. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve Resolution No. 659. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Resolution No. 660, a Resolution Authorizing the Surplus of Four Haz Mat SCBAs and the sale to Central Pierce Fire & Rescue for \$100 each, was read into the record by D/S Werner. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve Resolution No. 660. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Romines informed the Board that staff will meet with the Firefighters Bargaining Unit on March 29, 2007.

Chief Romines handed out copies of a letter for Board consideration and signature, requesting the opinion of Attorney General Rob McKenna. Can a nonprofit corporation, whose members are limited to local public agencies, such as cities, town, and fire protection districts, serve as the legal "employer" for eligible LEOFF 2 and PERS employees, if the nonprofit is duly formed under RCW 39.34.030 and RCW 24.03? There have been conflicting opinions from the Department of Retirement and District counsel. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to sign the letter to the Honorable Rob McKenna. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

Chief Romines distributed a second letter for Board consideration and signature to Councilman Roger Bush regarding the installation of illumination lights on 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue East in front of our new fire station. **Commissioner Skaggs moved to sign the letter to Councilman Roger Bush. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER/PUBLIC INPUT**

A/C Baskett reported that Graham Engine One was started and driven.

Commissioner Pierson stated that he attended the awards given at Elk Plain School to students that read 1000 or more minutes. What an accomplishment for these students.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that the District Awards Banquet has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club. Chief Romines will send an e-mail to all staff and volunteers informing them of the new date.

Commissioner Pierson commented that the County Commissioners are hosting a NIMS Training course. Districts that do not participate are at risk of losing their federal funding for disaster related incidents. Our District is compliant.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.**

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Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

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Olivia H. Werner, District Secretary