

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 24, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

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

Attendance:

Present: Commissioner Gerald W. Gustafson, Commissioner Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner Robert E. Skaggs, Fire Chief Reggie Romines, Assistant Chief Ryan Baskett, Public Prevention Education Officer Merdian-Drake, District Secretary Kathy Hale and Attorney for the District Joseph Quinn.

Absent: Deputy Chief Gary Franz, Assistant Chief Tony Judd and Assistant Chief Oscar Espinosa had excused absences.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 10, 2008, were approved as presented. Commissioner Pierson abstained from voting as he was not present at the March 10, 2008 meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter from Volunteer Fire Fighter Kevin McGlaufflin asking for a one-year leave of absence to attend paramedic school

Chief Romines recommended moving the discussion of Station No. 21-0 to the top of the Agenda. The Board concurred.

Station No. 21-0. Chief Romines asked John Hildenbrand of Robinson, Noble & Saltbush to explain the test results of the ground water testing. Mr. Hildenbrand explained that monitoring wells had been dug on the property, three shallow (26 to 30 feet) and five deep (55 to 60 feet). Samples had been taken of the ground water last week, with the test results showing some amounts of gasoline and benzene in three of the wells – the wells closest to where the old residential well was found. There was a re-sampling done over the weekend with the test results showing the same levels.

Mr. Hildenbrand reported he has been in close contact with the Pierce County Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Ecology to lay out a plan of testing the surrounding wells. All parties have concurred that before they can determine what plan should be implemented more information needs to be gathered in the form of sampling the surrounding neighbors' wells to see if any of the contamination has moved that far. He also stated the sampling detects at ratios of 1 gallon of fuel per 1 billion gallons of water.

Attorney Quinn recommended that the sampling be done, as laid out by Mr. Hildenbrand, to first see what we're dealing with and then take whatever steps are needed to aggressively resolve the situation. The Board concurred with Mr. Quinn's recommendation and asked Mr. Hildenbrand to coordinate with Assistant Chief Baskett in notifying the neighbors and asking for permission to test their water as soon as possible. The Board also stated that they want to be very pro-active in resolving this situation.

Commissioner Gustafson moved that the District contact the owners of the neighboring wells of Station No. 21-0, as identified, to advise them of possible contamination of the ground water and to ask permission to test their water. Commissioner Pierson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIALS:

Vouchers #03070 through #03185 in the amount of \$338,697.74 and Account Transfers in the amount of \$342,824.64 for a total of \$681,522.38 of which \$483,000.48 was for Payroll and \$198,521.90 was for Payables were presented.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$681,522.38 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines asked for approval to be on vacation from March 27th to April 1st. The Board granted his request.

Graham Engine One. Assistant Chief Baskett reported Graham Engine One is still being repaired, but we should have it back in the next few weeks. He recommended not using it in the upcoming Daffodil Parade, if it is back in time, as there is still an engine break-in period it needs to go through.

Architect Support. Assistant Chief Baskett informed the Board he has been in contact with BCRA Architects about doing some preliminary drawings of Station No. 5. At this point, BCRA would be on an hourly rate while it is being determined what the County wants as far as septic and civil designs. Chief Romines reminded the Board that there is money in the 2008 budget for the preliminary architect work.

Commissioner Pierson moved to go forward with BCRA developing preliminary drawings for Station No. 5. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Carlson Lawsuit. Chief Romines reported the trial is set to begin April 14th, and may last up to three weeks. Our attorney will be working with those personnel involved over the next few weeks. There will be a mediation hearing, which is mandatory, but our attorneys do not expect to resolve the matter. Chief Romines also stated that he would like to have a large show of support by our personnel in the courtroom each day. Please wear your Class A uniforms.

Firewise Communities Program. Commissioner Pierson stated he had been asked by the Pierce County Fire Commissioners' Association body as President of the Association

to write a letter to County Executive John Ladenburg in support of the County adopting safer urban interface standards, which is the Firewise Communities Program.

Training Report

Chief Romines presented the Training Report in the absence of Assistant Chief Espinosa. The Board reviewed the report.

NEW BUSINESS

Accident Report. Chief Romines reviewed the updated Accident Report, pointing out that the line asking for the person's social security number had been taken off and lines had been added for the employee's ID number, shift and station assignment.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Skaggs inquired about the status of the two medic units that had been in for repairs. Assistant Chief Baskettt replied they were still at the shop being repaired, and that all repairs will be covered under warranty. Commissioner Pierson reported that he and Deputy Chief Franz will be at Elk Plains Elementary on Friday handing out medals to all the children that completed the 1000 Minute Reading Program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Robert E. Skaggs, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary