

**GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
July 23, 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, Assistant Chief Oscar Espinosa, District Secretary Kathy Hale and Public Prevention Education Officer Myra Merdian-Drake.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Commissioner Skaggs moved to amend the minutes to reflect that he arrived late to the meeting. **The minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 9, 2007, were approved as amended.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you letter from Explorers for tour of Station No. 4
- Voters pamphlet for the August 21, 2007 primary.

FINANCIALS:

Vouchers #07055 through #07160 in the amount of \$112,595.96 and payroll in the amount of \$429,595.33 for a total of \$661,994.72, were presented for approval.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to accept the payables in the amount of \$510,952.81 after proper auditing. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chief's Report

Chief Romines asked for approval for vacation leave from July 30, 2007, through August 10, 2007. The Board gave its approval.

Station No. 21-0. Assistant Chief Baskett reported that the bid for soils removal at the site is out and closes August 9, 2007. There is a mandatory walk-through this Thursday for all contractors wishing to bid on the project.

Commissioner Skaggs inquired if the demo and removal of the building and concrete slab was performed according to County regulation and if a permit had been obtained. Assistant Chief Baskett replied that all work had been permitted through the County and a copy is on-hand along with a certification of non-asbestos.

Station No. 21-4. Chief Romines reported that a meeting had been held with the architect, contractor and civil engineer to determine what steps need to be taken to close out the project and for the District to receive final approval from the County. He

explained that the building had been finalized – it is the storm water issues that need to be resolved. The engineer has agreed to complete the final documents and Assistant Chief Baskett will file them once received. The largest concern is the storm water overflow and whether the County will insist that an overflow retention system be installed.

Chief Romines also briefed the Board on four other issues related to the building: The architect, Scherer & Associates, has accumulated \$32,000 worth of hours over their original contract and is asking for \$4,000 of it to cover expenses; Bailey Contractor is asking for their retainage to be released; the one-year warrantee is up tomorrow on the construction of the building; the architect is asking the District to pay \$4,000 of the re-draw charges on the garage door headers, with him paying \$9,000 of the cost.

Assistant Chief Baskett expressed that Bailey had fulfilled their contract for building per specs – the final County approval has nothing to do with Bailey's performance, and therefore, he feels the retainage should be released. The Board concurred that while they are not happy with the HVAC system it is an engineering problem, not Bailey's, who installed the system per the specs. The Board also concurred that closing the building and site has taken much longer than originally anticipated and that Scherer & Associate has been diligent in every step of the process, and therefore, should at least be compensated for their expenses.

Assistant Chief Baskett stated that a final change order will be drawn up and presented to the Board for their approval.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to accept the building as constructed by Bailey Contractors and to release the retainage once the proper State approvals have been received. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Romines informed the Board that if the County insists on redoing the storm water system, there is a possibility that the gravel in the back may have to be scraped out and the area reseeded. The cost of a new system has been estimated at up to \$50,000. At this point, there is no firm indication how much liability the engineer will have, but he has agreed that he does have some. Assistant Chief Baskett assured the Board that our storm water run-off is not impacting the neighbor's property. The run-off is taking the normal course whether the building was here or not – the main problem has been the unusually high water table that has been produced in the last year with the record rainfall.

Chief Officers. Chief Romines asked for Board approval on his recommendations for attendance of the chief officers at Board meetings. The Board gave its approval.

Resolution No. 677, Authorizing a General Tax Lid Lift. Chief Romines explained that the lid lift resolution for the November election needs to be filed with the County by August 14, 2007.

Training Report. Assistant Chief Espinosa presented the training report to the Board. The Board thanked Assistant Chief Judd for the outstanding job he did in the training division and welcomed Assistant Chief Espinosa into the position. The Board also welcomed Battalion Chief Jensen into his new position in the training division.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution No. 677, Authorizing a General Tax Lid Lift, was read into the record by District Secretary Hale.

Commissioner Skaggs moved to approve Resolution No. 677, Authorizing a General Tax Lid Lift, as presented. Commissioner Gustafson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 678, Authorizing Specific Transport Accounts Be Written Off, was read into the record by District Secretary Hale.

Commissioner Gustafson moved to approve Resolution No. 678, Authorizing Specific Transport Accounts Be Written Off, as presented. Commissioner Skaggs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chief Romines pointed to an e-mail from Assistant Chief Basket wherein he reported that Graham One had been taken to Meridian Hughes because it was not running properly. Meridian Hughes reported that they had to fix several items on the engine that had not been properly done when the motor was rebuilt by the other mechanic company. Graham One is now running and ready to be picked up.

Chief Romines presented the Board with a letter he wrote to the citizens of the community explaining why the District is asking for the EMS Levy to be renewed. The letter will be posted on our web site.

Chief Romines handed out a draft Interlocal Agreement regarding the governance of Fire Comm. He explained that the main change is Fire Comm will be governed by a five-member board consisting of the five largest users rather than just Lakewood Fire Department. Annual budget approval will remain the responsibility of all member Boards.

Commissioner Pierson stated that he would like to dispel any rumors that in the previous Pierce County Commissioners' Meeting Board members accused the fire chiefs of lying to their Boards. This did not occur! The discussion focused on needing more open communication between Boards and their chiefs, and the need for Boards to get more involved with their departments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chief Romines requested an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140 for five minutes, with no business to follow.

Commissioner Pierson announced an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140, meeting to plan or adopt strategy/positions for collective bargaining for five minutes, with no business to follow. Executive Session was announced as beginning at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Verne M. Pierson, Commissioner

Kathy J. Hale, District Secretary