



Board of Commissioner Regular Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Grant County Fire Protection District No. 8 was held at Fire Station 81, 510 E Government Road, Mattawa, WA on November 8, 2016 and was called to order by Commission Chair Debra Crain at 1600 hours. The meeting was recorded.

The Pledge of Allegiance was spoken.

Commissioners present: Debra Crain, Russell Brixey, Paul Parker, Scott Nesbit, and Richard Kummer. A quorum was established.

Others present: Fire Chief Dave Patterson, District Secretary Barbara Davis, Captain Darryl Hudson, Mayor Scott Hyndman, and Katherine Kenison.

Members of the public were recognized, welcomed, and invited to comment. No comments at this time.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving New Business up to after the Consent Agenda. **Motion: Parker, Second: Nesbit. Motion approved unanimously.**

The Consent Agenda with Vouchers, Payroll, and Transactions was reviewed. Review and Approve Vouchers, Payroll, and Transactions: Vouchers were audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expenses reimbursed claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, having been recorded on a listing that had been made available to the Board. Davis pointed out the payroll voucher for the volunteer stipends and asked the Board if there were any questions. There were none. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion: Brixey, Second: Kummer. Motion approved unanimously.** The documents were signed by the Board members.

New Business:

1. City of Mattawa Annexation Proposal - City attorney Katherine Kenison proposed annexing the City into the District similar to the annexation of Soap Lake into District 7. She stated that the City Council is very interested in annexation. Commissioner Nesbit asked about the benefits. Kenison stated that the City would no longer need a contract for fire and EMS services and the District would collect the tax levies. She also stated that the City contract rate has historically been the same as the levy rate, but the new contract rates are higher and not connected to the levy. There was discussion on call volume and levy rates amongst area entities. There was more discussion on the annexation of Soap Lake and the justification for it. There was more discussion on call volume. Police Chief Joe Harris joined the meeting at 1633. Mayor Hyndman expressed concern that the City could not afford the new rates on the proposed contract. Kenison stated that, legally, the City has no obligation to provide fire and EMS services. There was discussion about the ambulance services and number of non-transport calls that burden the system. Chair Commissioner Crain thanked Mayor Hyndman and City personnel for bringing their concerns and proposal to the Board and stated that they had given the Board a lot to think about. All City personnel departed the meeting. Commissioner Crain asked Chief Patterson his opinion of annexation. He stated he was opposed because if the City were annexed, the City would have an interest in all District assets for the term of the annexation. This means that if the City were to opt out of the annexation in the future, they would be entitled to District assets at the time of termination and could build their own fire department with our assets. He also stated that he plans to increase levies in the next several years to match the proposed City rates. There was a great deal of discussion regarding annexation and the proposed City Agreement. Commissioner Crain called on all commissioners and asked their opinion on annexation. All commissioners were opposed to the idea. Commissioner Crain directed Chief Patterson to let the City know that the Board declined annexation and instructed Chief to negotiate a different rate schedule with the City.

There was no additional New Business.

Commissioner Kummer proposed tabling discussion on the Discipline Policy until December. All agreed.

Chief's Report: Chief Patterson reviewed his written report.

Call Volume - Chief reported call volume continues to increase. There were 2 fire calls and 36 EMS calls last month with a total of nearly 429 calls year to date.

1. Property Search - Chief reported that he was scheduled to attend the School Board meeting tonight to discuss the option of buying 5 acres of the 20 acre lot on the corner of Boundary and Road 24 SW.
2. Half-Track - Chief stated that the half-track would be moved to Station 82 this winter.
3. Volunteer Drive / Open House - Chief stated that staff has discussed the idea of a volunteer drive and open house. Offerings would be public education, food, games for children, etc. Target time is first quarter 2017.
4. Tires for 899 - 899 blew out a tire on a call and all tires were replaced by the Pasco Tire Factory. The new tires are a good quality and should last about 35,000 miles.

Chief had nothing further to add. Commissioner Parker asked about the value and cost of the 5 acres the school is looking at. Chief said he didn't know the details at this time. There were no further questions.

Business Manager/District Secretary's Report: Secretary Davis reviewed her written report.

1. Financial reports were reviewed. Davis stated that while reconciling the funds, she noticed that the County did not split payroll between the funds. In 2017, the payroll reporting sheet will allocate expenses to the appropriate BARS account. At the end of 2016, Accounting will make one adjusting entry to correct the totals for 2016. There were other no questions or comments.
2. Blood Drive - The next drive is scheduled for Tuesday, 11/29/16, from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Davis had nothing further to add and there were no questions.

Volunteer Association: No report.

Committee Reports: No report.

Unfinished Business:

1. 2017 Budget - Davis discussed the minor changes in the Budget. A public hearing and special meeting to approve the 2017 budget was set for Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 1600 hours.

Additional Business:

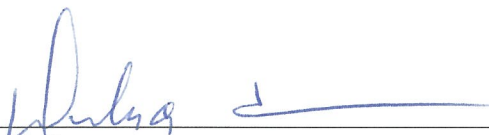
1. Commissioner Brixey asked about Captain Roth's progress with the EMT testing. Chief stated that he had until 11/15/16 to complete the requirements and he was working with Wendy Moudy to complete what was needed. Chief plans on bringing the matter to Tony Miller's and Dr. Acosta's attention if needed.
2. Report of WFCA Conference - Commissioner Kummer gave a detailed report of the presentations he attended. He offered material to anyone interested in handouts. Chief gave a report on the round table discussion he attended on Thursday. He said all departments are having the same recruitment and retention issues.


Commissioner Crain asked the Board if they had issues for Executive Session. There were no issues.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Reminder of Public Hearing and Special Meeting this Thursday, 11/10/16 at 1600.
- Next meeting 12/13/16 at 1600.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1827 hours.


Chairman


District Secretary