

## **Commissioners' Meeting**

October 9, 2012

Chairman Sutich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Commissioners Casebolt, Entze and Jarmon, Chief Burgess, A/Chiefs Watson & Nixon, B/Chief Pearson, D/Chiefs Shoemaker & Waters, L. Abbott, Vol. D/Chief Petersen, Local 3390 Representatives, Shift Personnel, K. Kreitzer, Crescent Valley residents Jim and Katrina Showlund, Ron Warden and Brian Durham; Raft Island residents Bob McCoy, Gene Barkin, Tom Straum and Mark Metsker; Mike Ireland from Washington Water and Wade Perrow

Commissioner Stephens had an excused absence.

Our flag salute was led by Scott Casebolt.

No communications were received.

Commissioners Jarmon and Casebolt moved and seconded approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2012 meeting as mailed. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Commissioners Entze and Casebolt moved and seconded a motion to approve Blanket Vouchers 122332 - 122415 in the amount of \$200,290.09 and Payroll Vouchers 122416 - 122532 in the amount of \$1,082,026.42 for a total consideration of \$1,282,316.51. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Chief Burgess updated the Board on the following:

- L. Abbott informed the Board that the State Auditor's have completed their audit that encompasses the Federal Single Audit only. The Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report has been received from the Washington State Auditor's Office. Copies of the report were provided to the Board for their review. She reported there were no findings noted and informed the Board another Federal Single Audit will be done next year when they review the final closing costs from the ARRA Federal Grant to remodel Stations 53 and 57.

No Standing Committee Reports were introduced.

## **Old Business**

Chairman Sutich addressed the Board regarding Resolution 2012-12 A-2285 Emergency Access Policy which was provided to the Board for their review. Copies of A-2285 Emergency Access Policy were provided to meeting attendees for their review. This policy in Draft form has been previously reviewed and discussed at the last two regularly scheduled Board meetings. Prevention Division Chief Waters provided a background on why this policy has come about. Core of the policy is due to the need to insure that the private existing bridges and roadways are safe for our firefighters and apparatus. The policy was provided to our agency from the Pierce County Fire Marshal's office which was gleaned from several other agencies in multiple counties in Washington State. Chief Burgess informed the Board that this policy was reviewed by legal counsel who expressed concern as to the liability exposure to the fire department.

Chairman Sutich then extended Open Public comment on this issue.

Katrina Showlund of Crescent Valley addressed the Board; she expanded on the policy being poorly written as it gives no parameters as to the level of bridge required. D/Chief Waters addressed her concerns. Her additional concern was the apparatus weight. He continued to address her concerns. Commissioner Entze tried to explain the policy and its need to be adopted. Mr. Jim Showlund later asked if there is a grant process that would assist homeowners in bringing these bridges up to State and County standards. Chief Burgess provided as much information as he could on this subject.

Ron Warden of Crescent Valley Drive addressed the Board; he inquired as to if he would be required to upgrade his bridge to meet new standards or only to meet the posted weight requirements as marked. D/Chief Waters and Chief Burgess addressed his concerns. Later in the meeting he expanded on the difficulty in getting permits from the County.

Wade Perrow addressed the Board and provided a handout for their review. He requested as to where he could see a copy of the policy in question, suggesting that it be on our website. He also questioned the number of private bridges as well as how these bridges are ranked. D/Chief Waters and A/Chief Watson addressed some of his concerns.

Brian Durham of Crescent Valley Drive addressed the Board; his concerns were that his bridge has been replaced to the more recent county standards so he needed to know if there is a list of approved bridges currently being utilized by fire department personnel. D/Chief Waters informed him that currently this is a judgment call on the part of the apparatus driver as no regulatory notice has been made available to the fire department. He inquired as to what level of engineering was required. D/Chief Waters informed him that it had to be a structural engineer.

Gene Barkin of Raft Island addressed the Board; he inquired as to if the bridge being built for Raft Island will have some assurance that in five years or longer the fire

department apparatus will comply with their new bridge. He also requested a feasibility study be done to determine the financial impact to home owners. He also addressed fire hydrant requirement variances that would accommodate Raft Island.

Chairman Sutich recommended that the Board table Resolution 2012-12 as presented until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on October 22, 2012. Commissioners Sutich and Casebolt moved and seconded a motion to table Resolution 2012-12 A-2285 Emergency Access Policy as requested. With no further discussion, the motion carried by majority roll call vote with one **NO** vote.

**New Business**

There was no New Business to introduce.

**Good of the Order**

Chairman Sutich announced the signing of documents.

**Special Interests/Upcoming Events**

The Pierce County Fire Commissioners October meeting will not be held due to the Washington Fire Commissioners Association Annual Conference on October 25th – 27th at the Yakima Convention Center.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners Entze and Casebolt moved and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. No further business was introduced and the motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held October 22, 2012 at 3:00 PM.

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Attest: District Secretary

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Chairman Commissioner

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