

Commissioners' Meeting

February 27, 2012

Chairman Sutich called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present were: Commissioners Casebolt (via teleconference), Entze, Stephens and Jarmon, Chief Burgess, A/Chiefs Watson, Miller & Nixon, B/Chief Pearson, Eric Waters, L. Abbott, J. Brenner, Local 3390 Representatives, Shift Personnel, J. Quinn, K. Kreitzer, E. Wilson

Our flag salute was led by Tom Sutich.

No communications were received.

Commissioners Jarmon and Stephens moved and seconded approval of the minutes from the February 13, 2012 meeting as mailed. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Commissioners Entze and Stephens moved and seconded a motion to approve Blanket Vouchers 120394 - 120458 in the amount of \$84,117.37 and Blanket Vouchers 120459 - 120461 in the amount of \$769.99 for a total consideration of \$84,887.36. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Assistant Chief Watson updated the Board on the following:

- Provided the Board with an update on the Station 53 remodel project. Two more inspections need to be completed before the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. There are still some Punchlist items outstanding but we will be close to finalizing this project soon. The office furniture is scheduled to be delivered Wednesday of this week and we will move Residents in when all is completed. An Open House and Dedication is being scheduled, date to be announced when finalized.
- The Station 57 remodel project continues with a completion date of May 1st or sooner.

Assistant Chief Nixon updated the Board on the following:

- The District is developing a new Resident program. Lt. Voigt is heading up this program with development and training of ten (10) new volunteers to be assigned to the Volunteer Stations by the first of April. Thank you to Lt. Voigt for the great job he has done putting this program together.

- Various department personnel will be attending the Command Training Center in Olympia over the next three Friday's for computer training scenarios. FireComm will have a dispatcher present for this training as well. Chief Burgess stated this training is a great opportunity for our personnel to participate in such a high level of scenarios.

No Standing Committee Reports were introduced.

Old Business

L. Abbott introduced Resolution 2012-03 Establishment of Purchasing Policies to be adopted by the Board. The document in draft form was previously provided to the Board for review and is now finalized. The District believes that efficiency and effectiveness with regard to district finances would be enhanced by establishing policies governing contracting, purchasing, hiring and disbursing of funds; and whereas, RCW 42.24.180 requires that such policies be in place prior to approving a resolution authorizing voucher approvals and processing of vouchers to disburse funds, and pay claims, in advance of Board action to approve such claims. L. Abbott recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2012-03 as presented. Commissioners Stephens and Entze moved and seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-03 as requested. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

L. Abbott introduced Resolution 2012-04 Warrant Payment Authorization to be adopted by the Board. The document in draft form was previously provided to the Board for review and is now finalized. RCW 42.24.180 authorizes the legislative body of local governments to authorize issue of warrants in payment of claims, after the designated officer has signed the warrants or checks; and the Board of Fire Commissioners has determined that it would be in the best interest of the District and its citizens, and it would promote effectiveness and efficiency in the administration of the accounts payables and payroll of the District to implement this enabling statute at Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One effective March, 2012; and the County of Pierce office of Budget and Finance processes Voucher Approvals submitted by Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One and produces a Warrant in the amount of the Voucher Approval at the District's request. L. Abbott recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2012-04 as presented. Commissioners Entze and Jarmon moved and seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-04 as requested. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

New Business

Commissioner Sutich addressed the Board regarding the proposed EMS Levy. He expanded on the decision to change from the February 13, 2012 Board meeting where he instructed the Administrative Team to prepare two (2) resolutions; one for a "10 Year" EMS Levy duration and one for a "Permanent" EMS Levy duration. He stated he will open the discussion regarding these two issues. He then made a teleconference call to Commissioner Casebolt, which he was unavailable to answer. Chairman Sutich then called a ten minute recess which was cancelled as Commissioner Casebolt called right

back. Commissioner Casebolt was then included in the EMS Levy discussions via the teleconference phone.

Chairman Sutich introduced Eric Wilson who provided a brief overview of the work completed to this date regarding the possibility of the EMS Levy. He expanded on the process and results from the past EMS Levy Survey's noting a strong response from citizens to preserve the emergency response time and maintain the current level of EMS services being provided.

Eric Waters introduced himself speaking on behalf of Local 3390 as their legislative liaison regarding this measure. The Local has been involved with Chief Burgess and Mr. Wilson regarding a "Permanent" EMS Levy versus a "10 Year" EMS Levy. Local 3390 as the funding mechanism for this levy campaign want to strongly recommend the "Permanent" tenure so that funding from their organization is not tapped over and over again to support another EMS Levy in the future. If the Board elects to authorize a "Permanent" measure then the Local 3390 members will be committed to a full-on campaign to help to insure its passage. The Local feels the EMS Levy is a critical part of the Districts financial infrastructure and should not be subject to the cyclical nature of term funding. The Local acknowledges that this campaign is critical and they have a responsibility to support it.

Karl Kreitzer introduced himself and asked for clarification on the emphasis being done on the deficit of the full \$2.4 million budget cut. He inquired as to if the EMS survey questions implied that this levy would be enough to overcome the full deficit. Mr. Wilson responded to his question clarifying that the survey stated the EMS Levy would restore approximately half of the \$2.4 million in budget cuts. Mr. Kreitzer continued to expand on some of the comments he witnessed at an open house regarding taxes. He continued to qualify some of his concerns in running this levy. In responding to his question regarding a lid lift of a current levy, Joe Quinn expanded on the law regarding lid lift statutes. If assessed values go up, than the calculation will limit the levy to 1% per year and erode the original levy amount. Chief Burgess further expanded on the highest taxable amount level that remains in effect until the assessed values go over that amount. Mr. Wilson continued to expand on the comparisons between other districts that are currently at a levy amount of fifty cents (\$0.50) per \$1000.00 of assessed value for EMS.

Commissioner Entze spoke in regards to the difference between a "10 Year" levy and a "Permanent" levy. He expressed concerns regarding the word "Permanent" and the possibility that assessed values could be better or worse in ten (10) years. He feels the 10 years would allow the department to better evaluate the recovery of the current economy and concerns regarding the 15% referendum that comes with the "Permanent" levy. He further stated his concerns regarding covering citizen's medical insurance costs.

Joe Quinn addressed Commissioner Entze's concerns stating that both the "10 Year" and the "Permanent" ballot measures lists that the citizens fore bare the cost of the service over and above the coverage of their insurance.

Open discussion continued regarding the reasons for having the EMS Levy on the April election ballot versus August or next fall.

John Johnson introduced himself and spoke on behalf of Local 3390. He stated that they had a lengthy discussion at their last meeting regarding the length of tenure for the EMS Levy. The Local as a group voted to fully back the measure to put forth funds to work towards a "Permanent" EMS Levy. As a group of 83 members the funding results in approximately \$500 per member to campaign for the passage of the "Permanent" EMS Levy. It will take 8 - 9 years for the Local members to recover from this initial investment.

Chairman Sutich addressed the Board and asked for a vote to authorize an EMS Levy measure on the April 17, 2012 Ballot. Commissioners Entze and Stephens moved and seconded a motion for the EMS Levy measure to be placed on the April 17, 2012 Ballot. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Open discussion continued regarding the decision to go with a "Permanent" versus a "10 year" levy. Commissioner Casebolt stated that the "10 year" levy was his first choice at the last Board meeting. He has now had second thoughts and feels a "Permanent" levy would be better than the "10 Year" levy based on the Local 3390's support and commitment. He recalled Mr. Wilson's initial recommendation as based on the EMS Levy survey research was for a "Permanent" levy and Commissioner Casebolt felt his recommendation should be followed.

Commissioner Entze asked if we run a "Permanent" levy can we go back and change it if the economy changes. Joe Quinn stated the Board has the power to levy less than the full fifty cents (50¢) and the Levy's may be banked if the full amount is not needed.

Commissioners Casebolt and Stephens have announced they will vote for a "Permanent" levy rather than the "10 Year" levy and that they feel the citizens want to continue this EMS service and they both feel the permanency of the levy will be well received by PCFD#5 citizens. Joe Quinn confirmed that the City of Tacoma has a Permanent levy as well as did University Place which resulted in a Permanent levy for West Pierce Fire & Rescue.

L. Abbott introduced Resolution 2012-06 Authorization for Emergency Medical Services Levy. Copies were provided to the Board for their review. This resolution provides for the submission to the qualified electors of PCFD #5, at an election to be held within the Fire District on April 17, 2012, in conjunction with the Special Election to be held on the same date, of a proposition authorizing a Permanent Levy of a regular property tax in an amount not to exceed fifty cents (50¢) per thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of the true and assessed valuation, in addition to its regular property tax levy, as authorized in RCW 84.52.069, to be levied first in 2012, and to be collected in each year thereafter succeeding the year of the levy; said levy shall provide funds required by the Fire District for the provision of emergency medical services, including personnel cost, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies and vehicles. Chairman Sutich called for

a motion from the Board to adopt Resolution 2012-06 Permanent EMS Levy as presented. Commissioners Stephens and Casebolt moved and seconded a motion to adopt Resolution 2012-06 Permanent EMS Levy as requested. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Eric Waters thanked the Board for acknowledging the importance of the Permanent EMS Levy.

Good of the Order

Chairman Sutich announced the signing of documents.

Special Interests/Upcoming Events

Pierce County Fire Chief’s Association meeting will be held at 11:30 am on Thursday, March 1st Tacoma FD, 2124 Marshall Ave.

The Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One Annual Health & Safety Expo will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at District Headquarters from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm.

At this time Chairman Sutich announced an Executive Session, per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) that will be held for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. Commissioners Entze and Jarmon moved and seconded a motion to adjourn into an Executive Session for 20 minutes at 4:11 pm. Chairman Sutich reconvened the meeting at 4:20 pm. No announcement was made.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners Stephens and Entze moved and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 pm. No further business was introduced and the motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held March 12, 2012 at 3:00 PM.

Attest: District Secretary

Chairman Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner