

Commissioners' Meeting

April 9, 2012

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

Present were: Commissioners Casebolt, Entze, Stephens and Jarmon, Chief Burgess, A/Chiefs Watson & Nixon, B/Chief Kauppila, D/Chiefs Lyon & Waters, L. Abbott, J. Brenner, Vol. D/Chief Petersen, Local 3390 Representatives, Shift Personnel, K. Kreitzer

Our flag salute was led by Scott Casebolt.

L. Abbott expanded on a letter received via fax on April 4, 2012 from Mr. Charles Woodke III requesting information on the financial health of the Fire District. L. Abbott read a copy of the letter outlining the documents that were provided to Mr. Woodke on behalf of the Board and Chief Burgess. A copy of the letter sent to Mr. Woodke was provided to the Board for their review. She then informed the Board if further review of the letter's attachments is needed by any of the Board members, they can be obtained from L. Abbott's office. Chief Burgess informed the Board on a phone call he had with Mr. Woodke the day before whereby he had made a verbal request which was followed by a formal request to obtain the documents he was requesting.

Commissioners Casebolt and Jarmon moved and seconded approval of the minutes from the March 26, 2012 meeting as mailed. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Commissioners Entze and Casebolt moved and seconded a motion to approve Blanket Vouchers 120655 - 120851 in the amount of \$508,576.62 and Payroll Vouchers 120852 - 120957 in the amount of \$1,031,237.02 for a total consideration of \$1,539,813.64. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Chief Burgess updated the Board on the following:

- Chief Burgess reported on the 9/11 Memorial Garden being built on District property. He expanded on a Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the District and the Gig Harbor Firefighters Association (GHFFA). The GHFFA is a non-profit organization that is funded by donations and is separate from the District that is funded by tax dollars. The Local 3390 Union is a labor organization funded by dues from the members within the fire service that serves Gig Harbor. These understandings are necessary to clearly separate the funds spent on the 9/11 Memorial project. Any legal documentation must be authorized by the District but with this MOU the 9/11 Memorial Project will be funded solely by the Gig

Harbor Firefighters Association. District Attorney Joe Quinn drafted a Memo of Understanding that was signed by the President of the Association and the Fire Chief. This will insure that no District tax dollars will be used to fund this project. Joe Quinn has also been involved in the development of the contract between the District and BOE Architects Inc. which will begin the design phase of the 9/11 Memorial Garden. Chief Burgess will sign the contract with BOE Architects on behalf of the District authorizing the design phase of this project to begin.

Assistant Chief Watson updated the Board on the following:

- Informed the Board on the selection process just completed for the design of the 9/11 Memorial Garden by BOE Architects. The first phase has been negotiated and will be paid for by the current donations received by the GHFFA.

Vol. D/Chief Petersen presented the Board with the Volunteer Division Report:

He provided the status of the Volunteer Unit as of April 2012. Currently there are 37 volunteer members; these include firefighters, medical responders and two chaplains. The District has recruited and is currently training ten (10) new residents. Each of these residents has a mentor assigned to them to oversee and aid them while they go through their training process. He expanded on the "Firefighter Response System" that Chief Nixon is enabling the volunteers to use. This system will aid the Battalion Chiefs with personnel availability to respond apparatus on calls. He further commented on the general feeling of the volunteer unit membership and that it is "good". The "from home" responders numbers are dwindling. The "new resident" numbers are growing and will reach a defined number of 16 by the end of the 2012 year. As slots open up within the resident program they will be filled with new trainees. Without a program to bring on new "from home" responders attrition will eventually remove all "from home" responders. Chief Nixon recognizes this issue and how it will affect the Operations Division. Chief Lyon is aware of the increased training demands put on the remaining volunteers. The volunteer program with Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One is highly respected and he is thankful to be a part of this program.

Standing Committee Reports:

No standing committee reports.

John Johnson and Karl Kreitzer then asked the Board for an opportunity to report on the current status of the EMS "YES" committee work. They reported that several more articles/editorials are being sent to be published in the Peninsula Gateway and the Tacoma News Tribune. Post cards are still being mailed to citizens encouraging them to vote followed up by a phone call. Sign waving continues at various intersections around the district. Some open discussion continued regarding the results of the campaign..

Old Business

Chief Burgess addressed the Board regarding the PenMet Parks contract for Fire Protections Services. This issue was previously discussed at the May 23, 2011 Board meeting as a result of three park properties transferring from Pierce County to PenMet Parks. Discussions have continued between the District and Terry Lee, Executive Director of PenMet Parks in developing a contract of services for fire protection of their properties. Contract will be presented at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on April 23, 2012.

Chairman Sutich opened discussion between the Board members regarding holding a planning workshop/strategy meeting after the EMS Levy Ballot Election on April 17, 2012 to discuss the financial direction of the District for the upcoming year. No firm date was established.

New Business

There was no New Business to introduce.

There was no public comment.

Good of the Order

Chairman Sutich announced the signing of documents.

Assistant Chief Nixon reported on the 9/11 Race to Remember 5K run held at Sehmel Homestead Park on March 31st. Gig Harbor High School senior Kyra Langhelm put together this event to raise funds for the 9/11 Memorial as her senior project. Event was very well attended. Anticipate \$2,000 + raised which will go towards the 9/11 Memorial. He thanked Josh Bissenas and Chief Watson for all of their work with this event.

Chief Burgess reported on the Station 53 Dedication & Open House held last Friday, April 6th. He complemented A/Chief Watson and Lt. Waters on a job well done putting this event together. It was well attended and he received positive feedback from attendees.

Special Interests/Upcoming Events

Washington's Fallen Firefighters' Memorial Service honoring those lost in 2011 will take place at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at the Washington State Capitol Rotunda in Olympia.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioners Casebolt and Entze moved and seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. No further business was

introduced and the motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held April 23, 2012 at 3:00 PM.

Attest: District Secretary

Chairman Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner