

**SOUTH WHIDBEY FIRE/EMS
REGULAR MEETING
5535 Cameron Road, Freeland, Washington
June 14, 2012– 5:30 P.M.**

Minutes

In Attendance:

Chairman Kenon Simmons
Commissioner Bob Elliot
Commissioner Mike Helland
Chief Rusty Palmer

In Audience: AC Busch, DC Cotton, DVC Shields, CPT Beck, Bill Stolcis, Gary Gabelein, Vince Bond, Bob Wolters, Frank Mestemacher, Sherrye Wyatt, Erick Westphal, Ben Watanabe, Betty Freeman

- I. Call to Order – Chairman Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
- II. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Helland moved to approve the agenda; motion carried.
- III. Public Input –
 - a. Chairman Simmon recognized two firefighters for their service to the District, Don Elliot and Earl Lane who passed on this month.
 - b. Chief Palmer entered one piece of communication from Dean Enell into the record.
- IV. Consent Agenda - All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of South Whidbey Fire/EMS's Board of Commissioners for reading and study. They are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Commissioners with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Regular Meeting May 10, Special Levy Meetings May 24 and May 30, 2012
 - b. Finance Officer's Reports –
 - c. Monthly Vouchers –
 - i. Payroll Warrants – \$81,558.55
 - ii. Vendor Warrants - \$78,895.00
 - d. Chief's Report

Commissioner Helland moved to approve the consent agenda; motion carried.

- V. Unfinished Business –
 - a. Lid Lift – Continued discussion about the potential of a Lid Lift.
 - C. Chief Palmer – Thanked the public for the chance to discuss the Lid Lift over the last several months.
 - C. Chairman Simmons – Thanked the public for the questions and opportunity to discuss the Lid Lift and re-evaluate the needs of the District.
 - C. Bob Wolters – Thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to comment about the Lid Lift and cautioned them based on Prop 1. After speaking with the Commissioners in office during Prop 1 he gave three suggestions to the Commissioners as they move forward in the process.
 1. Time – take enough time to educate the public about what you are asking for.
 2. Education – explain the needs and consequences of not passing the Lid Lift.

3. Sunsetting – consider a limited timeframe for the increase, possibly 5 years.

C. Gary Gabelein – We have already failed by not asking for an increase sooner.

C. Chief Palmer – The proposed Lid Lift is actually a 6 year plan.

C. Chairman Simmons - The District didn't ask voters for a Lid Lift because the economy was good and property taxes were increasing revenues. Now it would be a disservice not to ask the voters to decide on paying more taxes for the current service level rather than just cutting services to meet the budget.

C. Commissioner Helland – We have the oldest demographic in the county, the need for emergency medical has never been greater. We need to let the voters decide if they want us to cut services to fit the current budget.

Q. Frank Mestemacher – I agree that if you don't ask, you won't know what the voters want you to do. When was the last Levy vote?

A. Chairman Simmons – 23 years ago, but the building increased revenues so the system was supported.

C. Chief Palmer – The Fire District is no different than any other business or person that got stuck in the bubble of the economy. Now that it burst the need is still high but the funds are not there to support the service that we have been providing all these years.

Q. Commissioner Helland – Bob Wolters, can you please explain the bond idea you suggested and why.

A. Bob Wolters – If the District had to defer costs for such things as maintenance then the cost will continue to rise as time goes by, rather take an Obligation Bond and pay for these costs now. Bonds are at a very low interest rate of 3-4% now, less than inflation which continues to increase costs.

C. Chairman Simmons – We will look at funding options for future needs based on revenues and the outcome of the Lid Lift.

C. Commissioner Helland – We can vote a bond in without the voters but we prefer to ask them.

C. Bob Wolters – You should ask the voters for a certain size of bond to cover the Districts needs.

C. Chairman Simmons – Thank you all for your input, if there are no other questions or comments we will move onto the next order of business.

VI. New Business –

a. Resolution 2012-10, Levy Restoration – a resolution to restore the District levy to \$0.76/\$1000.00 assessed valuation. Commissioner Helland moved to approve the resolution; motion carried.

b. Station 32 Septic Tank Replacement Agreement – bid award and approval of a service contract to replace the septic tank at Station 32. Chief Palmer announced that only one bid was received for \$5217.60 from Onsite Construction and recommended approval of the contract. Chairman Simmons moved to approve the bid contract; motion carried.

c. 1911 Pump Testing Agreement – bid award and approval of a service contract to conduct pump testing and inspection on all District pumping apparatus. Chief Palmer announced that three bids came in for the service; the winning bid was from US Fire for \$2934.90. He recommended approval of a contract with

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US Fire for the work. Commissioner Helland moved to approve the contract; motion carried.

VII. Announcements – Chief Palmer introduced the new maintenance employee, Erick Westphal.

VIII. Varia –

- a. Chief Palmer announced that the hand check payroll date will be moved to the 5th and the 20th of each month to accommodate policy which states that the time must have been worked before payroll is completed.
- b. Chief Palmer gave an update on the asbestos abatement at station 33 and 36 for costs. Affordable Environmental gave bids on the work for approximately \$52,000, with the total cost of the project estimated to be \$63,000. There is currently \$36,000 in the budget for the work on station 36; a request to move funds into the budget line will be made at the next meeting in July. The board authorized Chief Palmer to move forward with the bid process for the work to be completed.
- c. Chief Palmer announced that the boat funding from the Port Grant has been approved and is approximately twice the amount that is in the 2012 budget. AC Busch is currently getting new bids for the Fire Boat which will be presented at the next meeting in July.
- d. Chairman Simmons announced that the service for Donald Elliot will be held on June 21st at 10am. Engine 35 will be transporting his ashes to the Calvary Chapel.

IX. Executive Session – none

X. Action taken as result of Executive Session – none

XI. Adjournment – 6:08pm

Cindy Rehberg
District Secretary