

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3

REGULAR MEETING - BAYVIEW

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1991 - 3:00 P.M.

In attendance: Tom Saunders, Chairman
Gary Gabelein, Commissioner
Ken McClellan, Commissioner
Bruce Klassen, Chief
Paul Busch, Assistant Chief
Jim Larsen, South Whidbey Record
Mike Gallion
Albert Gabelein
Ray Gabelein, Jr.
John Gabelein
Audrey Workman
Bob McGinty
Bev Lane
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beatteay
Dick Johnson
Firefighters: Penny Busch
Doug Dowell
Scot Treggett
Steve Holibonich
Al Pedersen
Larry Long
Ron Workman
Don Workman
Rick Furman
Steve Dalbey
Jim Ogden
Jason Thompson
David Grimm
Mel Grimm
Derrick Williamson
Steve Scoles

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m by Chairman Saunders.

Chairman Saunders distributed a sheet, attached as Exhibit A1, regarding meeting procedures.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Chairman Saunders instructed the District Secretary to:

1. Mail a proposed agenda to each commissioner 10 days prior to each regular meeting;
2. To personally contact each commissioner after receiving the proposed agenda, but before the regular meeting and inquire as to whether they have revisions, corrections, additions, deletions, or other editions to the proposed agenda.

In the event the District Secretary has made every reasonable effort to contact each commissioner personally but is unable to do so due to work and/or personal schedules, it is understood that the commissioners can contact the District Secretary at the district office, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm to convey the desired agenda items prior to the meetings.

B. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the agenda as revised. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to correct the minutes of 12/12/90 to reflect the following:

1. Under "New Business", replace "legal counsel" with "Clark Snure, attorney for the Island County Fire District No.3";

Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

B. Chairman Saunders made a motion to correct the minutes of 12/12/90 to reflect the following:

1. Under "Visitors Comments", add "Battalion Chief Scot Treggett volunteered to be sure the nails would be cleaned up."

Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

C. Chairman Saunders requested that the minutes be embellished to reflect the correspondence on the Childrens Fire Safety House. Attached as Exhibit A2a and A2b is the most recent correspondence regarding the Childrens Fire Safety House.

D. Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve as written the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 3, 1991. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

IV. VISITORS COMMENTS

- A. Battalion Chief Scot Treggett read a letter to the board, attached as Exhibit B.
- B. Doug Dowell inquired regarding the times and dates set for the upcoming regular meetings.
- C. Ray Gabelein, Jr. expressed his opinion of overall support of the fire district.
- D. Dick Johnson expressed his concern regarding the fire district conflicts and suggested a second retreat as a form of resolution.

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT

All correspondence had been previously sent to each board member. There was no additional correspondence received or sent.

VI. FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT

The District Secretary provided the board with:

- A. The monthly balance sheet, attached as Exhibit C;
- B. The investment report, attached as Exhibit D;
- C. The treasurers report, attached as Exhibit E;

Chairman Saunders instructed the District Secretary to provide a comparison of investment options at the February regular meeting.

VII. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. Chief Klassen read the Chiefs Report, attached herewith as Exhibit F. Under "Tanker Update", he added that Lyle Heaton of FireHorse will advise the district at the "mid-range" status of tanker completion. Mid-February is the projected delivery date.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS REPORT

There was no Commissioners Report.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

Chairman Saunders requested that a district representative attend the WFCA sponsored meeting on 2/19/91 regarding legislation on Bill 246.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Summary Sheet Review - Chief Klassen reviewed the Summary Sheet procedure. He added that clarification will be forthcoming in the following areas:

1. Suspense date;
2. Role of ~~administrative assistant~~, *district secretary*
3. "Staff" defined as "Officers Board" at the Officers Meetings;

Chief Klassen added that the Summary Sheet process will continue to refine/define itself as time progresses.

Chief Klassen asked if the directive was to "copy the Chairman on all summary sheets and appeals". Chairman Saunders answered "Sure". *It was acknowledged as okay by the other two commissioners*

B. COLA "91" - Commissioner McClellan made a motion to award the District Secretary a 6.4% cost of living increase, effective February 1, 1991, and in July, 1991, evaluate the cost of living adjustment for the Assistant Chief and District Chief. Chairman Saunders seconded the motion; there was discussion; the motion was defeated.

There was a brief recess at 4:55 p.m. The meeting resumed at 5:05 p.m.

C. Comp Time Review - Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Comp Time Review committee, as presented at the December 12, 1990 meeting. Chairman Saunders seconded the motion; there was discussion; the motion was defeated. Chairman Saunders agreed to rediscuss the subject with Chief Klassen at a later date to reach a solution.)

D. Resolution 91-01 (Commissioner/Firefighter role) - Chairman Saunders made a motion to adopt Resolution 91-01, attached as Exhibit G as presented. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; there was discussion; the motion was defeated.

E. Resolution 91-02 (Firefighter Reimbursement) - Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to adopt Resolution 91-02, attached as Exhibit H at the direction of Clark Snure; Chairman Saunders seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Chairman Saunders made a motion to authorize firefighter reimbursement for Firefighter Gabelein for expenses incurred during the year 1990, based on the opinion of Clark Snure that such reimbursement is legal. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

F. Resolution 91-03 (FEMA Agent Designated) - Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to adopt Resolution 91-03, attached as Exhibit I, as presented. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

G. The Freeland Bon Fire Incident - Chairman Saunders requested a written report from Chief Klassen.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Line Item Review -1991 Budget - Due to the time limitation, Commissioner Saunders suggested that discussion regarding the budget will have to be postponed until a later time.

B. Suggested Letter to Volunteers - Chairman Saunders produced a letter, attached as Exhibit J, to volunteer firefighters requesting their opinion. He directed Chief Klassen to provide 80 addressed, stamped envelopes and 80 blank stamped envelopes.

C. 1991 Regular Meeting dates - After discussion, it was agreed to leave the regular meeting dates on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

D. Tanker Financing - Chief Klassen reported on rates quoted to him from a financial lending institution for the financing of the new tankers. The board directed Chief Klassen to pursue further information.

E. Voucher Approval - Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve vouchers as presented. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

F. Authorized Attorney - Chairman Saunders made a motion to designate Commissioner Gabelein as Vice-Chairman of the board. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried.

G. Chairman Saunders made a motion to designate the chairman of the board as the only authorized agent to contact Clark Snure, the attorney for the district, or to authorize any member of the board, staff, or district to contact Clark Snure. Further, if the chairman is unavailable to contact Clark Snure or authorize any member of the board, staff, or district member, the vice chairman of the board is authorized to act on behalf of the chairman. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Chairman Saunders responded to a recent newspaper article. He said "I would like to make it really very very clear that I am speaking for me only, and anything that I say that I want to do, or whatever, it has to have board approval, and I am just giving you what I would call a

response - I'm not responding particularly to the newspaper article. I don't think it is any real surprise that we are having a lot of problems and I have had the opportunity to talk to several members on the department, and they all feel that the newspaper article was negative, and I guess maybe to their surprise I told them I thought it can be looked at as a positive, and basically that's because I see it as what I call "coming out of the closet". In other words, we now know where our problems are. We know who the people are who are involved, and I believe that we can begin to deal with those problems and those people. So I don't look at it as a negative. I think to me it possibly could have been the straw that broke the camels back, and I feel that I have been the camel for quite a long time, and I would say that the majority of the people that I talk to, I would say about 90% of the department is not in agreement with the article. I have consulted with members including the battalion chiefs, and here is the conclusion that I have drawn as far as . . . I think it came through loud and clear . . . Number One: I think the number one complaint or number one comment is that the commissioners need to stop bickering among themselves and need to start cooperating. There are some possible changes in staff that are needed, and that the statements that are being made do not represent what I would call the 90% good solid firemen in this department and that 10% of the people are creating 90% of the problem, and I am asking those members that in some way threatening to quit to just hang in there. I think you have been real patient as far as I am concerned as far as waiting for the commissioners to do something. To be honest with you, I talked with Bruce about a month ago - called him in and told him what I thought were the problems of the department and specifically identified who I thought it was, and at that time, I told him that I really did not know what to do about it, but that the reason I had come up with those conclusions was that someone had asked me to "step out of the process and look back into the department" and try to decide where have all the problems we have had come from over the last 2 to 3 years, or as long as I have been around. So I told him that I have come to a conclusion that we needed to do something, but at that point in time I had three choices. One was to act - in other words, get right in the middle of the thing, or sit down with the individual that I thought was responsible for most of the problems and ask him to step out of the process and to look in and see if his activity was for the benefit of this district, and the third was to sit back and do what I have been doing for the last six or eight months and hoping that things would kind of smooth out kind of resolve themselves. And obviously they didn't. Obviously they haven't. I thought perhaps after the retreat that things would get better. To those people that asked the commissioners to stop bickering, I have told them right straight up front I don't think that will ever happen. So we will just have to continue to run the fire department the best we can with what I say is disagreement at the commissioner's level. And I guess where I am today is that I told Bruce that I feel that it is now time to begin to deal with some of these people, and I guess I would make that a promise to the 90 percenters that represent this fire department reasonably that we will begin to deal with them, and if I don't have the support of the other two commissioners then I am worthless, but I have made my opinion known, and I guess what I am trying to say there is that I am not reacting to the newspaper article but I am responding to it, and my mind was made up and I think the Chief can confirm that, before the article ever came out."

B. Commissioner Gabelein addressed the audience regarding his participation as a firefighter with this district for the last 20 years.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

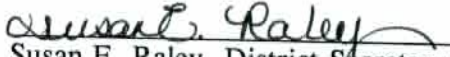
Chairman Saunders made a motion to recess to Executive Session for the purposes of discussing land acquisition and personnel. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried. The meeting was recessed at 6:45 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

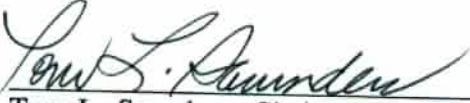
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

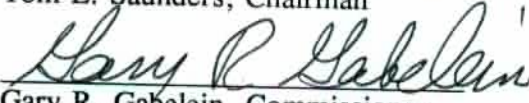
Due to there being much business remaining, a motion was made by Chairman Saunders to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, January 23, 1991, at 7:00 p.m at the Bayview Station. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried.

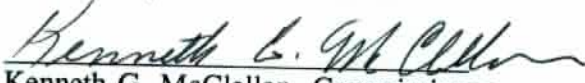
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.


Susan E. Raley, District Secretary
Island County Fire District No. 3

Approved:


Tom L. Saunders, Chairman


Gary R. Gabelein, Commissioner


Kenneth G. McClellan, Commissioner

*Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting.