

**ISLAND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3**

**REGULAR MEETING - BAYVIEW**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 1991 - 7:00 P.M.**

Attendance Registered: Tom Saunders, Chairman

Gary Gabelein, Commissioner  
Ken McClellan, Commissioner  
Bruce Klassen, Chief  
Paul Busch, Assistant Chief  
Keith C. Miles  
Doug Heck  
Carl Simmons  
Penny Busch  
Bev Lane  
Steve Dalbey  
Mel Grimm  
Bob Beatteay  
Dick McClellan  
Jim Larsen  
Mike Gallion  
Dan Laughlin

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

A flag salute was lead by Commissioner McClellan.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Agenda was revised to include the following three items:

- 1) Under Approval of Minutes, add "2/14/91"
- 2) Under Old Business, add "Budget"
- 3) Under Old Business, add "Master Plan"

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the agenda; Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

The Board directed the District Secretary to permanently add "Flag Salute" to the agenda following "Call to Order".

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve as written the minutes of January 23, 1991. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

B. The minutes of 2/12/91 were corrected to reflect the following changes:

1. Under "Visitors Comments", paragraph B, add "The question was clarified later in the meeting that no items were added to the original agenda".

2. Under "Visitors Comments", paragraph H, the text should be revised to read "Commissioner Gabelein spoke to the audience saying that he would like to return as a firefighter, but if (he) misses anymore in-service training classes that (he) is required to attend to keep (his) EMT certificaqtion, (he) will lose it, and if and when (he) is to return, it would only be as a fireman."

Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve as corrected the minutes of 2/12/91. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

C. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve as written the minutes of February 14, 1991. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. VISITORS COMMENTS**

A. Bob Beatteay read a letter, attached as Exhibit A.

B. Mel Grimm expressed the importance of acknowledging the efforts and achievements of the firefighters for 1990. He inquired regarding the future date for the annual awards banquet. Chief Klassen responded by saying that due to the many issues facing the fire district at this time, several members had suggested that the banquet would be better attended at a later date. He anticipated the banquet to be held mid to late April.

C. Later in the meeting, Dick McClellan stated his concern regarding the attorney's fees to defend the district. He suggested mediation between the defendant and the district. He stated that the money being spent on legal fees would be better spent on equipment for the district.

### **V. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A. Correspondence Received

1. There was no additional correspondence received.

B. Correspondence Sent

1. There was no additional correspondence sent.

C. Miscellaneous

1. There were no miscellaneous reports.

**VI. FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- A. The monthly balance sheet, attached as Exhibit B, was submitted.

B. The investment reports for February and March, attached as Exhibit C, were submitted.

Chairman Saunders requested that the District Secretary provide at the April regular meeting, information regarding the percent of interest return on the previous monthly investments.

**VII. CHIEF'S REPORT**

The Chief submitted the Chief's Report, attached as Exhibit D.

- A. There was clarification of Ryan Fitzpatrick's status as a firefighter.

B. A discussion ensued regarding the policy for promotion of officers. Commissioner Gabelein recommended that the recent promotion of Freeland officers be postponed until the individuals have complied with the line officer requirements.

Chief Klassen responded by explaining that the promotions were authorized under "temporary appointments" by the Officer Guidelines adopted by the Board (1988), superceding the previous policy as stated in Resolution No. 80-03. Chief Klassen reiterated that the officer promotions were necessitated by the vacancy of positions in the Freeland Station due to the suspension of Battalion Chief Scot Treggett and the absence of the Lieutenant who has moved off island. He explained that the decision was based on an "emergency" situation, and that the best interests of the district and community need to be the primary consideration.

**VIII. COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

- A. Commissioner McClellan made the following statement:

"I would like to make a brief statement, which I wish I had made at last month's meeting. I have seen this last month's bill from the district's attorney, Clark Snure, and once again it is high. I would expect that next month's bill will be considerably higher. Who knows how much it will be in the months ahead. I would like to make it clear to the public that in my opinion, this attorney, as far

as I am concerned, is not representing the best interests of this fire district, and I would like to see him replaced. It has become quite obvious to me that Mr. Snure is representing only the personal interests of my two fellow commissioners, spending taxpayers money defending them. I want the public to know that I have not participated in any of the actions to harm our Chief or Secretary, or our Freeland Battalion Chief. My two fellow commissioners have not communicated with me, nor asked my opinion in the case against Scot Treggett. The actions of Mr. Saunders and Mr. Gabelein have been, in my opinion, unprofessional, unethical, and immoral. In regards to holding back information from me, I would like you to know that as of tomorrow, I am going to Olympia to the Public Disclosure Commission for help. I am going to find out what I have to do to get information. Today I have hired my own legal counsel to obtain information being denied me."

B. Commissioner Gabelein requested a copy of the Annual Report for 1989 and 1990, to be presented by Chief Klassen by the next meeting.

C. Commissioner Gabelein recommended that the Chief's job description be broadened to include EMT services so that the Chief can provide backup services when the district cannot provide prompt response time. Commissioner Gabelein based his recommendation on three incidences where response time was less than optimum. Commissioner Gabelein would be satisfied to allow the Chief to acquire the necessary certification within one year. Chairman Saunders suggested that Chief Klassen respond to the recommendation at the April regular meeting. Chief Klassen requested that Commissioner Gabelein provide documentation to support the three incidences cited.

D. Commissioner Gabelein reminded the Board of the State DNR Wild Fire conference upcoming.

E. Commissioner Gabelein reported that Fire Service Training is scheduled for shutdown on June 1, 1991, due to lack of available funding. He invited audience members to contact local legislators to express a desire to support Fire Service Training.

## **IX. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS**

There were no miscellaneous reports.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Master Plan - To be discussed at the April regular meeting.

B. Budget - Commissioner Gabelein presented a summary of the February 14, 1991 budget meeting. He expressed the Board's intent to maintain the highest possible capital balance for new equipment, etc. There was clarification between board members on some line items.

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the line item budget worksheet, attached as Exhibit E, as presented by Chief Klassen. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion

carried unanimously.

C. Chairman Saunders requested a 1991 1st Quarter report to be presented by the Chief and the April regular meeting.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recruit Applications - The Board postponed the formal approval of the recruit applications until the April regular meeting. Commissioner Saunders preferred that the physical exams be completed before Board approval was issued.

B. Mutual Aid Agreement between Agencies - Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve the Mutual Aid Agreement between Public Agencies, attached as Exhibit F, as presented. Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

C. ICSO Proposal - Carl Simmons, Battalion Chief of Clinton station, supported the proposal for the Island County Sheriff's Department to occupy a portion of office space at the Clinton station. He agreed it would be an asset to the community to have the Sheriff's Department based so conveniently close. He expressed concern, however, for proposing a reasonable alternative for the storage of Lion's Club health care equipment, now stored in the office space to be occupied by the ICSO.

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to grant office space in the Clinton station to the Island County Sheriff's Department, provided that the Sheriff's Department agrees to share utility expenses and insurance. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

D. Vouchers - Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to approve vouchers as presented. Chairman Saunders seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

## **XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:50 p.m. Chairman Saunders made a motion to recess to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and the purchase/sale of real estate. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Chairman Saunders to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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

Approved:

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Tom L. Saunders, Chairman

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Gary R. Gabelein, Commissioner

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Kenneth G. McClellan, Commissioner

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