

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3

REGULAR MEETING - BAYVIEW

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1991 - 10:00 A.M.

Attendance: Gary Gabelein, Commissioner
Ken McClellan, Commissioner
Bruce Klassen, Chief
Paul Busch, Assistant Chief
Keith C. Miles
Scot Treggett
Bob McGinty
Bev Lane
Penny Busch
Bob Beatteay
Ron Workman
Mark Porter, South Whidbey Record

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Gabelein called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

A flag salute was lead by Commissioner McClellan.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was revised to reflect the following:

- 1) Under "New Business", add "Assistant Chief's Request for 1990 Vacation Carryover";
- 2) Reverse the order of "Approval of Vouchers" and "Announcements";
- 3) Exchange the day "Tuesday" as written, to "Wednesday".

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Commissioner Gabelein revised the minutes of the April 9, 1991 meeting to reflect the following:

1) Under "New Business - Paragraph D" - The paragraph should read: "The District Secretary requested that the balance of her 1990 Vacation (8 days) be available for use until August 30, 1991 rather than June 30, 1991."

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 1991 as corrected; Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

2) Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept as written the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 18, 1991. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

IV. VISITORS COMMENTS

A. Ron Workman suggested that the paid staff rent a separate office because the Bayview Station is too crowded. He suggested the existing district offices could be used for storage.

Commissioner Gabelein inquired regarding the possibility of a building permit. Commissioner McClellan offered to research the status of a building moratorium in the Bayview area.

B. (Pursuant to addition requested by Commissioner Gabelein at the 6/11/91 mtg.): "Bob McGinty requested a listing of all correspondence be made available at meetings. Commissioner Gabelein made the recommendation that under the Secretary's Report in the future to list all correspondence that the secretary's received and bring it up and note it at the meeting to any question anybody has can get them answered at that time. This request was agreed to unanimously."

V. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. Correspondence Received

There was no additional correspondence received.

B. Correspondence Sent

There was no additional correspondence sent.

C. Miscellaneous

There were no miscellaneous reports.

VI. FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT

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

VII. CHIEF'S REPORT

The Chief submitted the Chief's Report, attached as Exhibit B. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to accept the Chief's Report as written. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. COMMISSIONERS REPORT

A. Commissioner Gabelein submitted the following items for discussion:

1) Regarding volunteer reimbursement, it was suggested the term "unit of service" be instituted for extended calls of firefighters/rescue squad and that the paperwork correspond to \$5.00 per call.

2) (Pursuant to revision by Commissioner Gabelein at the 6/11/91 mtg. :) "Commissioner Gabelein requested a Chief's evaluation be prepared and submitted to Chairman Saunders by June 3. This was agreed to unanimously. Commissioner McClellan also mentioned he would make some changes in the current form used since some of it doesn't apply and can be simplified in the areas that pertain to our needs."

3) Commissioner Gabelein stated he has received input from several people about a stop sign being placed at the corner of Verlane St. and Kramer Rd. Gabelein said he had discussed it with Myron Gabelein (Island County Road Department). Commissioner Gabelein made a motion to "purchase a stop sign, and contact the lumber yard and have them provide the 4X4 and the paint, and between the three groups, we can get it installed as soon as possible". Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

4) Regarding the District Secretary's job, Commissioner Gabelein requested that Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon are to be reserved for tasks or consultation relative to the Board. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to set aside Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon for the commissioners to consult with the secretary (not "District Secretary"). Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously. (Pursuant to Commissioner Gabelein's request of 6/11/91:) "No problem was mentioned by Commissioner McClellan."

5) Regarding the questionnaire sent to the volunteers from Chairman Saunders in

January of 1991, Commissioner Gabelein made a motion that "the cover letter that Tom submitted to the Board be released and become a matter of public record". There was no second; the motion died.

6) (Pursuant to revision by Commissioner Gabelein at 6/11/91 mtg:) "Regarding Paid Employees Sick Leave, Vacation and Comp Time, information submitted by the District Secretary was corrected to show the correct amount of carryover (8 days for 1990) and the amount of vacation of 10 days for 1991, or 10 days for 1991, not 18 days for 1990."

7) (Pursuant to revision by Commissioner Gabelein at 6/11/91 mtg:) " Regarding overtime begin accumulated, it was agreed by the Chief and the Secretary that the district has no overtime policy and they don't accumulate overtime. The Secretary agreed that with everyone on salary there is no overtime."

8) Regarding inactive firefighters, Commissioner Gabelein inquired regarding the status of inactive firefighters to date.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

There were no miscellaneous reports.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Goals and Objectives - Commissioner Gabelein inquired as to the status of ordering a new pumper. Chief Klassen informed the Board that the specifications are essentially done, and that the remaining question is which chassis and motor for the body/pump would be specified.

B. Cellular Phones - Commissioner Gabelein requested that by the June 11, 1991 meeting, Chief Klassen have prices, delivery date, and installation date for 2 cellular phones in this district.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Tanker Surplus - Mark Porter of the South Whidbey Record suggested the possibility of contacting the City of Langley with information regarding the surplus tankers to be available for purchase.

After discussion, it was agreed that the tankers should be declared surplus, advertised, and sealed bids would be opened at the July 9, 1991 regular meeting.

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to adopt as written Resolution No. 91-06, attached as Exhibit C, a resolution delaring the tankers surplus. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

B. 1990 Vacation Carryover Time/Assistant Chief - Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the request, attached as Exhibit D, of Assistant Chief Busch to extend his 1990 vacation carryover time until August 30, 1991, rather than June 30, 1991. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

C. Vouchers - After "Announcements" as listed below, Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve vouchers as presented. Commissioner Gabelein seconded the motion; the motion carried unanimously.

XII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Gabelein read the following statement:

"A few months ago, Chairman Saunders stated that 90 percent of the problem in the district is from 10 percent of the members. In the past few months, several different things have been tried, but so far, the 10 percent are still doing their best to gain control of this Board, the Chief's office, and the use of the district policies and procedures to their own advantage. A retreat was held with no gain on the control of this 10 percent. Only a more determined effort has been observed by this 10 percent gain their desire of control. Members of the board, several officers, firemen, and taxpayers have talked to the Chief and identified who and what is the problem or problems that are contributing to the turmoil that exists in Fire District 3. Still no changes have been seen from anyone that has the power to deal with the problem and turn the current reverse spin this district is in and get us going forward again. I would like to see the Board stay out of the day to day operations and be assured that this district is being operated accordingly to the district policies, procedures, the chain of command as is being respected by all members and officers, and the discipline needed at any members not operating within these areas are dealt with fairly with the future of the fire district as the main objective. This Board has attempted to deal with this negative input problem in a couple ways. After several questions of an officer's actions and conduct were brought to light, the majority of the Board took action in an attempt to seek the officer's input. The questions were brought up by other officers, firemen, and taxpayers of District 3 and other fire districts. It was the intent of the Board to withhold the questions from the public until the officer involved had his chance to respond, and if he desired to keep the information confidential. As in the past, the actions of the 10 percent led to more turmoil, negative input, and individual attacks on certain members of the Board after the written questions were released to the press. At Chairman Saunder's suggestion, a letter was sent to all members of Fire District 3. All Board members agreed that this was a good idea. After the input received, it was decided by all Board members to withhold certain areas of the return letters because it dealt with personnel of both paid and volunteer members. Again, the results of these letters have somehow reached the 10 percent and the information within is now out to some of the taxpayers of

Fire District No. 3. It is fact that this turmoil first started being directed to me by way threat of recall, trumped up charges, and lies that have never been proven or supported by members of all areas of this district. This turmoil started as an in house problem has grown to be an issue from statewide. This Board is considered the governing body of the Fire District. It has complete responsibility of the survival of this district. The Chief has the authority to operate the district in accordance to district policies and procedures that are approved by the Board. He is to enforce them fairly and equally to all members of the district. Both the volunteers and all paid staff should be required to follow these and govern their actions accordingly.

"The chain of command is another area that should be followed and enforced at all levels of the Fire District. If a district policy or procedure is needed to be changed, then a person or persons desiring this must go through the proper chain of command in their desire. The Board also can be termed the legislative body of Fire District 3. If any county or state issues involving the Fire District operation are being considered, the Board has the authority to represent the District and the personnel in it. If any staff or members of the District desire to speak on these issues at county or state hearings on behalf of the district or any members of it, the Board should be aware of this and be informed of the position they will present. This again, would be following the chain of command. Earlier this year during a commissioners meeting, I brought up the attention of this district of a bill being considered in Olympia. I was rudely told by audience members that I was out of line to bring up this and had to address this through the chain of command being it had to do with me being a fireman. At this time I would like to ask Bruce and Ken if they know of anybody attending any hearings down in Olympia regarding any legislation of fire districts."

Commissioner McClellan: "Your'e asking me if I knew of anybody that went to Olympia? No, I don't know anybody."

Chief Klassen: "What is the purpose of your question, Gary?"

Commissioner Gabelein: "I would like to know - a yes or no answer - if you had any knowledge of anybody attending any state hearing."

Chief Klassen: "Is this a Hearing right here?"

Commissioner Gabelein: "This is an Open Hearing. I'm asking a question."

Chief Klassen: "This is a Hearing, right here?"

Commissioner Gabelein: "This is a regular commissioner's meeting. I'm asking you a question."

Chief Klassen: "The question to me is inappropriate, and I will research it."

Commissioner Gabelein: "Okay. Well, you won't have to." He continued "I would now like to play

a tape from a hearing on this bill. This hearing was March 25, 1991, and was a Senate Government hearing. (Tape recording of Scot Treggett stating his opinion regarding the dual role of commissioner/firefighter and compensation of same, on record as Exhibit E.)

Commissioner McClellan: "What is the purpose of that? . . . He has every right in the world to go down there . . ."

Commissioner Gabelein: "As a taxpayer, but not to represent the district or the people in it. I have been accused of not going through the chain of command in this district, Ken. He did not go through the chain of command."

Commissioner McClellan: "Well, he is under suspension".

Commissioner Gabelein: "I realize that."

Commissioner McClellan: "He has a right as a taxpayer to go down"

Commissioner Gabelein: "Anybody can go testify on their own behalf. You're right".

After further exchange between Commissioner Gabelein, McClellan, and audience members, Commissioner Gabelein continued: "After the retreat, the Chief put in his summary that the chain of command should be followed at all levels. He also stated that people spreading rumors should be dealt with and disciplined. I ask the Chief at this time to look into statements made on this tape as being accurate and supportive, or are they more rumors and misleading statements. Also I would like to ask the Chief to look into possible violation of a suspension status and bring his report back to the Fire District at the next regular meeting. I ask that everyone do their job and whatever input or action they have in the future be positive and is done with the betterment of this district in mind. Thank you for your time."

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.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.