

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.3

REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

MARCH 10, 1983

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Gabelein at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Kenneth McClellan, Byron Worland, Bruce Klassen, Paul Busch, Hazel Dodsworth and Marvyn Berkeland.

Visitors present were: Gordon Simmons, Marley Eckert, Forrest Johnson, Bruce Anderson, Richard Huson, Marvyn Chase, Bill Borton, Dan Nicholson, Casey Miles, Bill Winston, Gerald Lumley and Bob Connors. (Don Foote was not present, as scheduled).

Gary Gabelein made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as written. However, at the request of Kenneth McClellan the minutes of the last meeting were read aloud by the Chairman. At the conclusion Ken McClellan requested that they be amended to include that portion of the last meeting that referred to the fact that the board wished to receive recommendations from persons in the district (especially battalion chiefs) in regard to making up a new job description for the maintenance position presently occupied by Marvyn Berkeland. Gary Gabelein then made a motion that the minutes of the last meeting (February 17, 1983) be accepted as written with the addition of the above. Kenneth McClellan seconded the motion; motion carried.

Bob Connors of Kelley's Radio Telephone, Inc. addressed the meeting indicating his interest in leasing some space on the district's tower at Cultus Bay Road. He also indicated that his company would be glad to share the cost of any enlargement of the site which may be found necessary. In response to Gary Gabelein's observation that the district might need more space at the site some time in the future, Bob Connors made the comment that it would be no problem. Connors also stated that it would be about 10 months, if the engineering were started now, before the FCC would grant them a construction permit, since Canadian approval would also be required. It was agreed that the district would contact Don Foote to see if there would be room at the site. Byron Worland made a motion to give Bob Connors the approval to start the paper work and communicate with Foote as to what the district should do. Ken McClellan seconded the motion; motion carried.

Visitors' comments: Marley Eckert asked that the Chief's letter, dated February 14, 1983, addressed to the board in regard to Marvyn Berkeland's reported negligence in connection with maintenance of district vehicles be read. Eckert also asked that the commissioners comment on that letter. After Gary Gabelein read the letter to those present, the board gave their comments.

Byron Worland stated that he considered the situation to be a serious one and that attempts were currently being made to correct it and discover why it existed in the first place.

Kenneth McClellan was of the opinion that Berkeland should be given a second chance and asked the board to consider several points: 1. Did Berkeland himself feel that the oil levels in the vehicles were not unsafe? 2. Did it create any loss of life or property with the vehicles being run at those levels? 3. Was there any mechanical failure due to crankcase levels being down? He added that one of the mechanics and a person with the Marine Highway system both felt that there was a possibility that those levels (as reported) were not unsafe.

Gary Gabelein, also commenting on the Chief's letter, said that he wished to stand behind the Chief's decision outlined in the letter. He added that after conferring with the Chief, examining the situation, and taking into consideration the view of the previous Chief (Paul Nichol) in regard to Marvyn Berkeland's work, as outlined in Nichol's letter to the district, the problems did exist and that they had been ongoing. In view of this he felt the Chief's decision should be upheld.

Marley Eckert said that because he had heard there was some doubt as to the validity of the Chief's letter to the board, he would like to hear the opinions of the commissioners as to whether its contents were accurate. All three commissioners expressed the view that the letter was accurate and truthful.

The subject of maintenance person was discussed at some length with all three commissioners and the Chief voicing various opinions as to how the position should be outlined and compensated.


It was suggested by Forrest Johnson that the Chief request/direct the stations to maintain their own vehicles for the interim beginning March 28, 1983 until suggestions on maintenance were received and acted upon by the district. It was agreed this plan would be acceptable.

Byron Worland made a motion to send Puget Power a bill for 8 hours standby time for truck and men on the Clinton fire pole fire (March 10, 1983). This in accordance with the DNR price list policy. Gary Gabelein seconded the motion; motion carried.

Kenneth McClellan made a motion to pay the vouchers as presented. Byron Worland seconded the motion; motion carried.

Gary Gabelein made a motion to hold the next regular meeting on Thursday, April 7, 1983. Byron Worland seconded the motion; motion carried.

Gary Gabelein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Byron Worland seconded the motion; motion carried.


Hazel Dodsworth
District Secretary

Bayview