

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

REGULAR MEETING - BAYVIEW STATION

September 15, 1999 - 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

In attendance:

Chairman Bruce Bell
Commissioner Bill Benjamin
Commissioner Mike Helland
Chief Don Smith

Guests: Jerry Beck, Lindy Benjamin, Don Elliot, Gary Gabelein,
Clancy Overturf, and Jim Towers

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M.
- II. Approval of Agenda - Commissioner Helland moved to approve the agenda as printed; motion carried.
- III. Public Input - Jim Towers requested twenty minutes of the Boards time at the end of regular business. Request granted.
- IV. Consent Agenda - All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of Island County Fire District #3'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
 1. August 12, 1999
 2. August 18, 1999
 3. September 2, 1999
 - B. Report of Correspondences
 - C. Finance Officer's Report
 - D. Monthly Vouchers -
 - Payroll - August 1-15, 1999 \$8,033.05
 - IRS Wire Transfer - \$2,526.05
 - Payroll - August 16-30, 1999 \$7,854.04
 - IRS Wire Transfers - \$2,788.99
 - Monthly Vouchers - August Vouchers - \$25,804.70
 - E. Chief's Report

Commissioner Benjamin moved to accept the Consent Agenda as printed with the exceptions of Item A.2. - September 2, 1999 Minutes and Item D. - Monthly Vouchers; motion carried.

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After reviewing September 2, 1999, Minutes Commissioner Helland moved to accept the minutes as written; motion carried.

After pulling an invoice for Walgreens/Les Schwab for \$74.15, Commissioner Benjamin moved to accept the August vouchers in the amount of \$25,730.54; motion carried.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Saratoga Station Project - Chief Smith reported the building permit was issued September 10, 1999. The project should be out to bid next week and sealed bids are to be received prior to 4:00 P.M. October 5, 1999. They will be opened in public meeting at 7:00 P.M. October 5, 1999. There will be a pre-bid conference for interested bidders 2 P.M. September 23, 1999, at the building site.

The issue of soil content has been resolved, although the District did lose the opportunity of having free soil removal.

Commissioner Benjamin verified that there is documentation in the files showing response to the three letters opposing the location of the new station. Two of the letters were received at the end of the Public Meeting and the concerns were addressed during the meeting and later in the local paper. A copy of the newspaper article will be attached to those letters. A copy of the Chief's response letter to Ms. Able is attached to her second letter.

B. Freeland Station Project - The Chief reminded the Board the architects contract is available for signature. No action taken.

C. Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau - The hydrants the Bureau requested tested all tested out better than the Bureau anticipated. The District still has a few areas where water supply is not easily available and the lack of control over the fire inspection program may jeopardize the hoped for 5 rating.

D. Langley Annexation - The final pieces for the Interlocal Agreement and the Lease Agreement are in place and it appears to be ready for signatures. The County Commissioners have approved the annexation. Now it's up to the voters in the upcoming November

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Election.

- E. State Auditor's Biennial Audit - The Chief reported to the Board that although we have not yet had our exit interview, we anticipate no findings. The Auditor gave the District suggestions on bettering the District's audit trails.
- F. Pagers - The Chief opposes the idea of replacing all the District's pagers carte blanche. He suggested replacing the non-recording pagers in the 2000 Budget. The Board expressed interest in replacing the non-recording pagers as soon as possible and directed the Chief to pursue investigation of vendors and price and have a budget increase resolution ready for approval at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Deferred Compensation Program - Table until October 1999 Regular Meeting.
- B. Strategic Plan Discussion - Item table, a date to discuss the District's Strategic Plan will be set during the special meeting at the WFCA Conference
- C. Year 2000 Preliminary Budget - The Chief reminded the Board that the 2000 Preliminary Budget will be available at the end of the month.

VII. Announcements -

- The District Secretary informed the Board that her son-in-law is dealing with terminal cancer and she may be called to Florida unexpectedly. She and the Chief are looking for ways to cover her position in case of an emergency.
- Commissioner Benjamin will be unavailable most of November and not be at the November Meeting.
- Chief Smith commended the Staff and volunteers for the last two months for sustaining an audit, the gathering of information for the rating bureau, the Saratoga Project, the Langley Annexation Project, and the Island County Fair. And during the hectic time most everyone did get a little vacation time in.
- Chairman Bell brought attention to the recent letter from David Henny, Whidbey Telephone Co., concerning the

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District's sirens. Chief Smith brought the Board current on events preceding the letter and his advice to Mr. Henny to contact T.J. Harman and the County's Disaster Council.

Chairman Bell thanked Captain Cotton for the letter to the Board. Chairman Bell acknowledged the time and effort Mike is putting into his personal training and classes. Commissioner Bell also stated his appreciation for the knowledge Mike and Paul are bringing back to the district and the betterment of District for their work.

Expressed his support in the Officers going through the Ropes Course in the near future.

Thanked Paula Schuler and Mike Cotton for their extra time, cooperation and work put into the Langley Annexation Project and the other Commissioners for their support and respect during this time.

VIII. Varia - Chairman Bell gave the meeting over to Jim Towers. Mr. Towers expressed his satisfaction in the way the District has managed its assets in the past. He also has concerns that the District may be heading towards paid firefighters prematurely and fears the move may be an irrevocable mistake. He hopes that the District will reconsider and explore volunteer programs more aggressively.

The Board reassured Mr. Towers that they agreed that the continuance of the District's volunteer program was a primary concern and encouraged Mr. Towers to participate in the upcoming strategic planning meeting.

IX. Executive session - Chairman Bell recessed the meeting into a five minutes Executive Session do discuss a personnel issue.

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X. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8:55 P.M.

Paula Schuler
District Secretary