

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT No 3

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OCTOBER 7, 1965

Regular meeting of the Commissioners called to order by Mr. Henny who is acting as chairman in the absence of Mr. Capp who is away, at 7.10 PM at the public meeting room of the Whidbey Telephone Company at Bayview.

Commissioners present: David C. Henny  
Joseph H. Long

Minutes of the last meeting on September 2 read, and approved, with a correction as follows: In the paragraph which reads that Hunter is instructed to invite the Battalion chiefs from the various stations, one each month, on a rotating basis, should have read, 'that these Battalion chiefs be required to attend the commissioner meetings!

Bills from the firms and individuals named and listed on the reverse side this sheet were read, and Mr. Long makes motion, seconded by Mr. Henny that the bills be allowed and vouchers for same be approved and signed.

County treasurer report is on hand and shows a balance of \$ 2494.55 on hand as of September 30 with warrants in the amount of \$ 78.60 outstanding.

There are present a group of men representing the Freeland Merchants Association. Mr. Willard Yeakel  
Mr. Norman Howe  
Dr. Ellingson  
Mr. Tom Keller  
Mr. Gil Lieser

Mr. Henny now inquires if these gentlemen have some problems they would like to bring up and discuss at this time, also suggesting that one of them probably be acting as chairman for the group. Mr. Yeakel stating that he was this years president of the merchants association would act as spokesman for the group.

He stated that since his former appearance at the fire commissioners meeting in April, the Freeland Merchants Association had not been meeting until now.

He said that at that meeting he had said that thier association might be able to furnish the material to finish the outside of the station, but now, they were unable to do so.

He said he had talked with Hank Davis a contractor, and they had made a visual inspection of the building. Mr. Davis figures that it will require 920 sq. feet additional flexboard to what the district already has, to complete the outside of the upper story of the building at Freeland. Price quoted on this additional board is \$222.00 per M for a total of \$ 204.24 plus tax. Mr. Yeakel states that they would deliver the board free to the site, as the price quoted is a Seattle price. Some nails and spacer strips will also be needed, added to above.

Mr. Yeakel indicates that Mr. Davis will install the flexboard on the building at no charge to the district.

After much discussion the commissioners are asked to make a decision as to whether the district would pay for the material.

Mr. Long now makes motion, seconded by Mr. Henny that the district would pay for the material needed on the understanding that it would be installed at no charge to the district, carried.

This matter being now disposed of the group is asked if there are more topics to explore.

Several of the group say they have either observed, or have heard that the fire department at Freeland, is at a low ebb, and were wondering if they could be of any help along this line.

Hunter admitted that the facts were as presented quite closely, as to the department morale at Freeland.

Mr Howe said that at one time the department there had been the best in the district he thought. Since, interest had dropped. Later in the discussion, Hunter said that of the original fireman group there had depleted because of several withdrawing for health reasons, some moving away etc.

Of this original group Chuck Rosemeyer was the only left.

Dr. Ellingson said he would be interested in joining the department. Said he had some fire training while in the navy, but no supervisory experience.

The matter of alarm warning sirens was brought up, with the majority saying they could not hear the present siren. This is true, Hunter explaining that the sirens used at present were only intended to be used as street warnings at intersections etc and not as general alarm sirens, admitting they were entirely inadequate.

He was asked as to cost of a larger siren. Reply was that it would be approximately \$ 650.00 for 5 horse not including installation. Two horse sirens were discussed briefly, of which the district has three, one at Bush Point, one at Maxwellton, and one at Clinton. Hunter stated that he would not even consider another 2 horse siren again as they also were inadequate for the job, and would cost \$ about \$ 275.00 plus installation.

Mr. Henny explained the present alarm receiving procedure in the district. Going through the telephone operator then to fire alarm dispatch headquarters.

Mr. Lieser said that a Clinton business man had suggested an idea to him relative to location of stations and trucks. The idea being to have one central station at, say Midvale or Bayview, with several, or all of the trucks being located there. Also possibly having a couple of paid men there, at least one at all times, to roll the truck or trucks immediately on receipt of an alarm. The thought being that this might be better than having a number of stations, as at present.

The chief mentioned in connection with this that he answered probably 75% of all alarms and that in nine out of ten times the local truck arrived at the scene ahead of him. Also the chief mentioned that trucks located this way would not give benefit of insurance rate reductions in the Clinton Maxwellton, Clinton or Freeland areas, as at present. This is agreed.

Discussion was also focused on the Alexander fire at Freeland in June, during which the house was entirely burned.

Mr. Yeakel asked the chief why water was not taken from the bay to use on that fire. The chief replied that it was not possible. The rated trucks only carry twenty feet of hard suction hose each, which is not sufficient to reach the water to draft.



MEMO - Fire District meeting notes. (October 7, 1965)

W. R. Yeakel, Sr., President, Freeland Merchants' Association (representing the Association); and a delegation consisting of  
Dr. Ellingson  
Norman Howe  
Tom Keller  
Gil Leiser

The following pertains only to the later part of the meeting.

DCH requested comments from each individual member of the delegation. Mr. Yeakel said that he feels, and has been lead to believe by various people in the Freeland community, that morale in the Fire Department is at a low ebb and he wondered what could be done. He asked the Chief to take this in the right spirit but said that he felt that a substantial amount of the problem was that the Chief "talks too much", and this has caused complaints about hearing the same thing over and over again at great length. The Chief acknowledged that he was aware of some criticism to that effect he said that he took Mr. Yeakel's comments constructively. Mr. Yeakel also said there were younger, new members of the community who should be brought into the Department and mentioned the two Bevers men and Mr. Grobschmitt.

Dr. Ellingson expressed quite an interest in the Fire Department and its problems, and commented that a box would not raise his morale (this referred to Plectrons which were discussed earlier). The Doctor said that a good drill program (no pun intended) would raise the morale a great deal by having the men satisfied through knowing the equipment and knowing how to use it. DCH questioned Dr. Ellingson about whether he would be willing to join the Department and the response was in the affirmative.

Norman Howe said that his comments ~~were~~ were based more or less on hearsay but that he understood the meetings were boring and that there wasn't enough training. He also raised certain questions about the possibility of Harry Caldwell being in a position of authority. The Chief related that Mr. Caldwell had been in charge but that he blew up over an incident with another member of the Department and resigned. He rejoined later but the Chief feels he has "too hot" a temper to serve as Battalion Chief at this time.

Tom Keller related a story about a small community in which there was a Department with extremely good morale and response to alarms and mentioned that this Department probably had bi-weekly meetings and was able to maintain real enthusiasm.

Gil Leiser said that there was very definitely need for esprit de corps. He commented that he and Ace Comstock had collaborated on the article in the Whidbey Record pertaining to the unfortunate loss of the Alexander house in Freeland. Mr. Leiser

