

~~October 29, 2014~~

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The following Commissioners were in attendance: Larry Longley, Greg Oakes, Jeff Sinker, Bob Magee and David Fennell. Interim Fire Chief Scott Johnston, Assistant Fire Chief Bob Eastman and Board Secretary Sheri Lynn Stevens.

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Longley at 16:11 hours.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Comments from the public will be taken at this time.

Commissioner Longley asked if there were any comments from the public and there were none.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Voucher Approval: Commissioner Oakes asked about the spelling of Fire Chief candidate Kevin Henson's name spelling on the Vouchers. Board Secretary acknowledged the error and confirmed a follow-up would be made to confirm there was no problem in redeeming the expense check and to apologize.

Fire Chief Search – Interview Panels. Commissioner Longley asked for confirmation that the thank you letters were sent to those on the panels. Board Secretary confirmed this occurred.

Commissioner Oakes motioned to approve, Commissioner Fennell seconded, the Board consented and carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 2015 Budget – there was an extensive presentation by A.C. Bob Eastman which presented two scenarios to the Board. Two sets of figures with graphing was handed out that included replacement of two full-time fire fighters and non-replacement. Each scenario was augmented by showing income increases over time and working cash. A.C. Eastman also noted that these scenarios showed two Admin/Secretary full-time and he has removed himself from the budget with the theory that if we are not replacing fire fighters, there is no money for him to stay on.

It was requested another meeting be held on this topic and a date of November 24<sup>th</sup> was selected, site to be Station 99.

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A.C. Eastman also noted there is some massaging needed in the details in the benefits and his goal would be to have the ending fund balance \$100,000 to the good, with the strategy to not fill those fallow positions in order to build those positions back quicker by cutting now. If that is not decided then the rebuilding period will have to be pushed out a year or two. Of course, this may change if Labor is not agreeable. There is no indication that is the case but unless the Board moves to have more money at the end of the year and the reserves last longer and refunding in 2016-18 according to the forecasts.

Commissioner Sinker asked A.C. Eastman if the budget takes into consideration our pending litigation for adding a Battalion Chief. A.C. Eastman said that there was no consideration for that at this time, which may mean that somebody may have to be laid off. There was some conversation about the adopting of the budget but A.C. Eastman assured the Board if changes need to be made later that they can be done when more information is available.

A.C. Eastman asked the Board if they know of any solid numbers like the contract for the Fire Chief, to please let him know so he can get as close to actual numbers as possible and then reiterated his willingness to meet with the Board or present any number of scenarios to help problem-solve this budget.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Surplus Items for Station 97: Chief Johnston presented the items on a list presented to the Board. There was some discussion regarding the larger items like the old photo copier and the VRMs, and the motion passed to surplus these items to the incorrect fire district (was Dist#24 Darrington) but should have been Dist #22 Getchell. This confirmed with their Chief and some cost research was made to determine value. Commissioner Magee asked what a VRM was and Chief Johnston described that these items were used as booster for SnoPac and made our systems talk. FF Cory Westerman, NCRFA's radio person, explained that these worked as a wi-fi network that PUD has throughout their telephone poles. Chief Johnston noted the current system used by NCRFA is different and there is no use for them but District #22 is still using this technology.

Commissioner Oakes asked to amend the original motion on October 8<sup>th</sup> to have these items go to Getchell Fire Department instead of Darrington. There was a question if there would need to be an additional motion or second to make it official and the understanding was this should not be the case.

- Hardship Application-Lyle Edlund was approved by the Board after a review of the documents presented.

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COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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**CHIEF'S REPORT:**

- Acting Chief Johnston presented in hard copy and outlined the implications regarding the budget. There has been a great deal of activity in the area of Public Education as school has started again. Two weeks have been dedicated to this program. A report on the number of hours was spent in the schools.

Chief Johnston provided a handout for the Board to review regarding the conversations with the Camano Fire Chief. It was felt that the two sides are now at a point where the Commissioners should probably meet with their counterparts in Camano Fire & Rescue in order to see if the two groups align. Commissioners Sinker and Magee will set up a meeting as representatives of NCRFA.

There was an inquiry about the status of the Fire Chief negotiations so that the Interim Chief and A.C. Eastman can get the new chief up to speed on these matters.

There was a question from Commissioner Sinker if these items had been discussed with their group and their labor. It was Chief Johnston's understanding was that all these proposals had been reviewed with Camano's stake-holders. A handout was presented to Cory Westerman as well.

Chief Johnston isolated one topic from the list given about the sharing of Station 96 equipment by relocation to Terrys Corner/Camano location. There was extensive conversation regarding coverage, mutual aide and station resources plus personnel issues that effect both Camano and NCRFA.

Commissioner Longley asked a question about the bariatric rig and it was confirmed this is at Station 96 and that the other surrounding districts are now better informed as to the availability and having it be called out, which happened just recently. Commissioner Oakes was very concerned about the types of calls and looking at data related to response times for that station. It was determined that all of the data is available and was presented during the proposal to take on the City contract and A.C. Eastman advised the Board to be decided on their direction with Camano before asking for proposals prior to being dedicated in a path as the amount of work required should not be wasted if not a solid course of action.

- Commissioner Longley noted that there would be similar conversations with Arlington and Arlington Rural also in the near future.
- Commissioner Magee asked if there was still an engine out of service and Chief Johnston noted that it was but anticipated it to be fixed tomorrow (11-30-14).

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Letter from candidate Lyle Armstrong.

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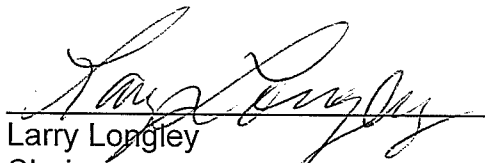
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**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Discussion to be held on performance of a public employee(s) and Fire Chief contract negotiations, commenced at 17:37 for a 30-minute session. This was extended 30 minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 18:35

**BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S MEETING:** (Board Members: Chairman and one Board Member, Secretary, Chief, and one Firefighter elected by their membership): No action was taken.

  
Larry Longley  
Chairman

  
Shelli Lynn Stevens  
Acting Board Secretary