

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2007**

Commission Chairman Scott Kokenge called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. Those also present were Commissioners Les Riel and Dan McNulty, Chief Warren Gay, District's Attorney Brian Snure, Attorney Richard Bartheld, East Valley Fire Personnel, Citizens of the District, and District Secretary Tina Liniger.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Kokenge added Executive Session as item 17. A. There were no other changes to the Agenda.

OPEN PUBLIC INPUT: Bob Silligman 5403 Channel Drive, President of the Terrace Heights Improvement Association. Mr. Silligman stated that he was there to speak to the question he's heard and has been advised of, is dissatisfaction with the performance of the fire department. Both as an individual resident of the community and as the President of the THIA, I wanted to give my opinion and observation. I spent eight years in the volunteer emergency services unit. In those eight years, we had to deal with training issues, certification issues, equipment replacement issues, you name it, we had to deal with it. Not different than what you have to do, although we weren't paid but neither are you. But what I wanted to stress, I've seen changes happening in our fire department. The community in general gets the benefit of that. The better we are, the better the response we have, the safer we are, and lower our insurance rates and the vast cost of issues like that are important. It also says we don't have people getting injured, we don't have residences that are burning down, you're very successful at saving the foundations but we'd like to save a little bit more of the house than that. From personnel experience seeing a house fire that I believe was caused by an RV fire, behind my home last summer I think it was, and I clocked the response time and within 4.5 minutes the first engine was there, within 7 minutes there were three engines there. I counted them going down the street. I thought that was pretty good because I used to complain when you moved out here the response time was going to be worse than it used to be. First engine there, 4.5 minutes. So I want to stress two things, one is that I think we have to be sure in our community that we are dealing with current standards, current training standards, current performance standards, and current operating standards and we cannot compromise those. There is just no way a professional fire department can compromise those standards, it cannot be done. I couldn't do it in emergency services that I ran. You guys can't do it here. I depend on you as an individual, our community depends on you and if we don't meet those challenging and ever changing standards, I know they're tougher today than they were 10 years ago. I know they're tougher today probably than they were 5 years ago. I know now that you have to be certified as EMT's as well as firefighter. That's a lot of training and yet if you don't do it we don't have a professional department, with the skill sets, the responsiveness, effectiveness, that we need to protect the community. So I encourage all of you to give the support back to the fire department. I think they've done a good job. I think Chief Gay has made some changes, and I know some of those changes have not been popular but changes were necessary. Ongoing professional performance issues are always going to be there. If we don't keep getting better and better, make sure these standards are met, somebody's going to get hurt and it's going to be one of you guys because you depend on each other too much. Or it's going to be one of our residents and we don't want that to happen. For safety sake, for the certification of your department, let's keep those standards tough, let's be sure we all meet them and let's not put ourselves in harms way by doing things on an engine or performing in a way that's going to be causing somebody to be at risk. Thank you.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Commissioner Riel made a Motion to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2007 Regular Meeting and January 29, 2007 Special Meeting as submitted. Commissioner McNulty seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

VOUCHER APPROVAL: The Board approved the following vouchers for payment. **Commissioner McNulty made a Motion to approve the vouchers as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.**

Vouchers 1812-1832 \$20,826.15

CORRESPONDENCE: Chief Gay stated retired Chief Stan Hankins sent a complimentary letter to the department, said he really enjoyed the June get together and looks forward to the next one.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Action Request #2007-02, City of Moxee – Code Enforcement Agreement. Chief Gay informed all present that the City of Moxee approached the fire department to consider assuming, under contract, the Fire Code and Life Safety responsibilities for the Incorporated City of Moxee. **Commissioner Riel made a Motion to adopt Action Request #2007-02. Commissioner McNulty seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution #2007-04, increasing mileage rate, repealing Resolution #2006-01 in it's entirety. **Commissioner McNulty made a Motion to adopt Resolution #2007-04, in the matter of increasing mileage rate, repealing Resolution #2006-01 in it's entirety. Commissioner Riel seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.**

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT: Chairman Kokenge announced there would be a Yakima County Fire Commissioner's Association dinner meeting February 15th at Naches Heights.

APPEAL HEARING: Commission Chairman Kokenge stated that the Board would now conduct an appeal hearing regarding the recommended discipline for Kyle Jacobs. Attorney Richard Bartheld stated that on behalf of his client, they requested the hearing be held in executive session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Chairman Kokenge called for an Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (f) at 1910 hours and stated the meeting would reconvene in approximately 30 minutes. Executive Session was extended 45 minutes. The meeting resumed at 2034 hours.

Chairman Kokenge stated that in the matter of Chris Jones' appeal hearing. **Commissioner Kokenge made a Motion that after review of attendance records, to support the decision of Chief Gay. Commissioner McNulty seconded.** Commissioner Riel asked for discussion asking that if Mr. Jones is demoted from Lieutenant to Firefighter because of lack of response, is this considered disciplinary. Chief Gay stated no that was while in probation. Commissioner Riel went on to state that the report that was done, proved Chris Jones had no fault with the exception of lack of response and the call sheets given to us dates back to 2005 which does substantiate that Chris Jones indeed did not attend very many calls from that time on. **The Motion carried unanimously.**

Chairman Kokenge stated that in the matter of Kyle Jacob's appeal hearing. **Commissioner McNulty made a Motion that we uphold the disciplinary action as presented by the Chief – Termination. Commissioner Kokenge seconded.** Commissioner Riel asked for discussion stating that he believed there were alternate means of discipline that could be resolved. I think we were really close at one time in executive session that would be agreeable to both parties. Commissioner Kokenge stated that the Board tried to make some movement there but it did not occur. **Chairman Kokenge called for a vote. Kokenge – aye, McNulty – aye, Riel – nay. The Motion carried.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Chairman Kokenge called for an Executive Session as per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) at 2035 hours for personnel issues and stated the meeting would reconvene in approximately 15 minutes. Executive Session was extended 10 minutes. The meeting resumed at 2100 hours.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Commissioner Riel made a Motion that the Board instruct the Chief to hire a 3rd party to come work with staff for team building, hopefully someone locally that can start this week if possible because of the unavailability of Daphne Schnieder. Commissioner McNulty seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Commission Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST:

District Secretary