

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 2, 2007**

Chief Warren Gay welcomed the public on behalf of Commissioners Les Riel and Dan McNulty. The meeting convened at 1900 hours at East Valley Fire Station 40. Others present were District Secretary, Michelle Rosen, East Valley Fire District Personnel, and audience members.

Chairman Les Riel called the meeting to order and conducted the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following housekeeping items were discussed:

- Chairman Riel would like a hard copy of meeting agendas in addition to e-mail notification.
- Prior to Special Meetings, the Chair needs to approve the agenda and media requests for this information need to be honored within 24 hours prior to the date of the scheduled meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC INPUT REGARDING THE SELECTION OF A COMMISSIONER TO REPLACE SEAT VACATED THROUGH RESIGNATION OF SCOTT KOKENGE

Chairman Riel reminded the audience that public input at this special meeting is not required by law, but encouraged by the Board. Comments need to be directed to the Board of Commissioners.

Bob Silligman spoke regarding the legal minimum qualifications needed for a person to fill this position, and urged the Board to consider looking for a candidate with knowledge and awareness of the fire service industry.

Jackie Walker encouraged the Board to utilize an outside consulting service in the selection process for the vacant commissioner seat.

Mr. Silligman questioned if the District had ever considered increasing the number of commissioners to five from the current three. Chairman Riel noted that at one time it had previously been discussed and that it would require a vote of the people.

RCW 52.14.015 Increase from three to five commissioners – Election.

In the event a three member board of commissioners of any fire protection district determines by resolution that it would be in the best interest of the district to increase the number of commissioners from three to five, or in the event the board is presented with a petition signed by ten percent of the registered voters resident within the district who voted in the last general municipal election calling for such an increase in the number of commissioners of the district, the board shall submit a resolution to the county legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties in which the district is located requesting that an election be held. Upon receipt of the resolution, the legislative authority or authorities of the county or counties shall call a special election to be held within the fire protection district at which election the following proposition shall be submitted to the voters substantially as follows:

Shall the board of commissioners of county fire protection district no. be increased from three members to five members?

Yes

No

If the fire protection district is located in more than a single county, this proposition shall indicate the name of the district.

If the proposition receives a majority approval at the election, the board of commissioners of the fire protection district shall be increased to five members. The two additional members shall be appointed in the same manner as provided in RCW 52.14.020.

An audience member was concerned about the possibility of tax money being wasted by using an outside consulting firm if a recommendation is made that the current commissioners cannot agree upon. Commissioner Riel reiterated from the Regular Meeting on March 26, 2007 that a local citizen group could also be utilized to fulfill the need for outside assistance.

An audience member inquired as to the length of term of the vacant position. Commissioner Riel affirmed that the person selected (or anyone who is interested) would need to file for office in June and would be running to fill a two-year unexpired term. After the completion of the two year term, the position would be on the ballot again for the full six year term. Chairman Riel noted that his position is also up for election this year.

There being no additional public input, Chairman Riel resumed the meeting.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Riel noted that this is discussion between the Board and Staff. Even though this takes place in an open public forum, the public is precluded from making comment.

Chief Gay provided the Board of Commissioners with the names of four agencies to assist in the commissioner appointment process. The Board confirmed that this is the route that will be taken in this matter. Commissioner Riel proceeded with the names of the firms: Public Safety Consultants, Boulder, CO; Q-Global Consulting Firm, Richland, WA; Gordon Graham, Research Consultants; and Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. Commissioner McNulty suggested trying to narrow down a timeframe for these services. Chief Gay informed the Board that his research only included firms that he knew were active and had previous participation in fire service. In his random sampling of firms, he found that most were hesitant to provide the cost of any services without a letter of expectation from the District. Public Safety, Gordon Graham, and ESCI have not been contacted by phone. Q-Global did submit a proposal which was presented to the Board and submitted as part of the minutes. The Board discussed the capacity in which a firm would be involved in the appointment process.

The Board recommended that a member from each of the following citizen groups participate as part of the selection committee: Yakima County Fire Commissioner's Association, Terrace Heights Improvement Association, East Valley Community Enhancement Association, East Valley School District No. 90, and the City of Moxee. An alternate member of the committee should be selected from: Morrier Ranches aka JEM, Roy Farms, Snokist Growers, Bay Zinc, Morton & Sons, or L&S Fencing. The panel will consist of 5 members plus one alternate.

The Board requested quotes from Q-Global and ESCI. Commissioner Riel will meet with Chief Gay later in the week to compile an outline of services needed from the aforementioned firms. The Board recommended participation from anyone on the Board of the Fireman's Association, namely, either Phil Nelson or Ken Eakin. Chairman Riel submitted information that he would like given to the potential candidates in reference to being an effective commissioner. He informed the audience that 3 letters of interest have been submitted to date for the vacant position.

Joe Gendron addressed the Board with his concern regarding the costs involved in utilizing an outside source and the timeframe needed for forming the citizen committee. The Board indicated that the advertisement for the position should be published by the end of next week for a period of 4-5 days and the citizen committee should be formed and a meeting called for by the beginning of the week of April 9-13. The Board is striving to have this matter settled by the end of April.

Chairman Riel made a motion that Chief Gay contact Emergency Services Consulting, Inc. and Q-Global Consulting for a quote for moderator services for two meetings to assist in selecting a candidate for the vacant commissioner seat. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With the passage of the motion, Chairman Riel adjourned the meeting at 1931 hours.

ATTEST:

Commissioner

District Secretary

Commissioner