

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING / PUBLIC HEARING
November 14, 2011**

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. at East Valley Fire Station 40. Those present were Commissioners Joe Gendron, Dan McNulty, and Les Riel. Others present were Chief George Spencer, District Secretary Michelle Rosen and Deputy Chief Mike Riel.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Gendron requested that *Department Activity Reports* be added to the agenda. There being no other changes, the agenda was approved and the meeting continued.

LIMITED OPEN PUBLIC INPUT FOR ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA – Public comment for items that are on the agenda are allowed as the item comes up for discussion during the meeting. Please stand and be recognized by the Chair and limit your comments to three minutes.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a. October 24, 2011 Regular Meeting – approve or deny

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24 Regular Meeting. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was in favor and the minutes were approved.

EDIT LIST APPROVAL

a. Batch #304894, \$14,348.11 – approve or deny

b. Cash Vouchers, \$80.00 & \$197.79 – approve or deny

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to approve edit list 304894 in the amount of \$14,348.11 and the cash vouchers in the amounts of \$80.00 and \$197.79 as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion and the aforementioned edit list and cash vouchers were approved.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

District Secretary Rosen did not have any matters to report.

REVIEW AND FINALIZE 2012 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Chairman Gendron noted that the previously requested changes had been made.

Recess Regular Meeting

Chairman Gendron recessed the regular meeting at 7:04 pm and opened the public hearing.

Opening of Public Hearing

Limited Open Public Input to Commissioners (Fire Budget) 5 minutes

At 7:04 pm, Chairman Gendron opened the public hearing regarding the 2012 Fire budget for 5 minutes.

Chairman Gendron noted for the public that the Board was only requesting 100%, rather than 101% of property tax revenue in addition to new construction. Commissioner Riel added that the rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation from the previous year changed from \$1.0466 to \$1.079 and new construction equaled \$22,526. He noted that if the Board would have requested 101%, it would have been an additional \$13,843.

There was discussion with the audience regarding the line item regarding uniform rental and cleaning.

Audience member Kyle Jacobs requested a follow up from the previous budget meeting regarding the placement of MDTs in the brush trucks and tenders. Chief Spencer replied that AVLs will be installed instead of MDTs.

Audience member Ken Perrault questioned how much monies were in apparatus replacement. Commissioner Riel replied that there was \$100,000 in apparatus replacement as indicated on page 6 of the budget.

There being no additional discussion regarding the Fire budget, Chairman Gendron closed the public hearing regarding the Fire budget at 7:09 pm.

Limited Open Public Input to Commissioners (EMS Budget) 5 minutes

At 7:09 pm, Chairman Gendron opened the public hearing regarding the EMS budget for 5 minutes.

There was a question regarding the line item for salaries and it was noted that the budget reflected a combined salary expense. Commissioner Riel requested that the salary expenses not be combined in future budgets.

Kyle Jacobs questioned the amount of overtime expenses. It was noted that the projected overtime expense was for 6 hourly employees. There was discussion regarding a 2006 MOU with Local 3680 that was instituted by the former chief regarding duty and overtime pay. Commissioner Riel added that the MOU was implemented without the Board's approval.

There being no additional discussion regarding the EMS budget, Chairman Gendron closed the public hearing regarding the EMS budget at 7:21 pm.

Close of Public Hearing

At 7:21 pm, Chairman Gendron closed the public hearing regarding the proposed 2012 budget.

Reconvene Regular Meeting

Chairman Gendron reconvened the Regular Meeting at 7:21pm.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Policy pertaining to hourly / stipend pay

Chairman Gendron questioned if another meeting had been scheduled with the payroll committee that was formed to update the policy regarding hourly / stipend pay. Commissioner Riel and Chief Spencer determined that the next meeting would be held November 21 at 6:00 pm. Chairman Gendron reported that he learned at the conference that most districts have implemented an hourly rate of pay of \$9.04 for sleeper programs. Commissioner Riel reiterated that committee discussions will comply with state law and work within the parameters of the budget. There was additional discussion regarding the re-structuring of the sleeper program and the hours of career staff.

b. Air support apparatus

Chairman Gendron questioned the status of the air support apparatus. Chief Spencer replied that he did not have any new information and would contact Glendale in the morning.

On a different matter, Commissioner Riel reported that discussion at the conference also included not remitting full payment prior to services being rendered.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution #2011-10, levying the 2012 ad valorem property taxes and excess levy taxes – approve or deny

Chairman Gendron read into record Resolution #2011-10, levying the 2012 ad valorem property taxes and excess levy taxes. Commissioner Riel made a motion to adopt Resolution #2011-10. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving Resolution #2011-10.

b. Adopt 2012 Fire Budget – approve or deny

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to adopt the 2012 Fire Budget as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the 2012 Fire Budget.

c. Adopt 2012 EMS Budget – approve or deny

Commissioner Riel made a motion to adopt of the 2012 EMS Budget as submitted. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the 2012 EMS Budget.

d. Report on state conference and state board meeting

Commissioner Riel provided a brief overview of the state conference and state board meeting. He noted that Roger Farris had received an excellent evaluation; legislative priorities for 2012 included a simple majority for EMS levies, support of a 7 member board, and discussion of the 086 account. Deputy Chief Riel noted that those monies had been pulled from the regions for the past two years. Commissioner Riel noted that a board dinner meeting was scheduled for January 24 in Olympia, followed by legislation day on January 25; the spring seminar series in Wenatchee was scheduled for April 21 with a board meeting proceeding on April 20; a board meeting was scheduled for July 14; and another board meeting was scheduled for October 24 in Yakima prior to the conference. Commissioner Riel also noted that the health care premium would not increase in 2012. He also reported that he had attended a labor negotiation session at the conference and forwarded the information to the board and staff and expressed his interest in hiring an outside firm for the next round of contract negotiations. Chairman Gendron noted he was open to that discussion but was concerned about costs and added that contract negotiations would begin again January 2012. Commissioner Riel continued by reporting that the bio-diesel exemption for the fire service would continue for 5 years and in conclusion, distributed information regarding the new license plate.

e. Recruitment and retention

Chairman Gendron suggested that the district contact the City of Moxee regarding placing advertising on the reader board at the city entrance and placing signs in front of each station. Commissioner Riel was in agreement regarding the reader board suggestion and also added that the district should be on facebook and stressed the importance of the district newsletter and keeping the district's website updated. Audience member Ken Perrault suggested that exit interviews be conducted to help determine what causes the retention issue.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS

Chairman Gendron confirmed that the Board had ample time to review the reports. Audience member Kyle Jacobs questioned if the activity reports were public record. Chairman Gendron and District Secretary Rosen assured him that they were.

Chief Spencer reported that he had completed his executive officer training and was considering various subject matter for his final research paper.

EXECUTIVE SESSION RCW 42.30.110(g) Personnel Matters of the District

At 7:54 pm, Chairman Gendron dismissed the Board into Executive Session per RCW 42.30.110(g) for 15 minutes.

At 8:09 pm, District Secretary announced that the executive session would be extended for an additional 10 minutes.

At 8:19 pm, District Secretary announced that the executive session would be extended for an additional 5 minutes.

At 8:24 pm, District Secretary announced that the executive session would be extended for an additional 5 minutes.

At 8:29 pm, Chairman Gendron called the meeting back to order and report that no decisions had been made.

GENERAL DISCUSSION – Limited between Board and Staff – NO PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Riel stated that there had been ongoing discussion regarding the cages on the front of the brush apparatus. He made a motion that the cages would be left on the brush trucks and would be utilized in training; thus bringing a conclusion to the matter. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was in agreement and the motion passed regarding the cages on the brush apparatus.

SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS

District Secretary Rosen presented the documents to the Board for their signature.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, Commissioner Riel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion and the meeting was so adjourned at 8:31 pm.

ATTEST:

Chair of the Board

District Secretary

Vice-Chair of the Board

Commissioner

DRAFT