

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 4  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 9, 2009**

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

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gendron noted that 'Unfinished Business' would be moved up on the agenda prior to 'New Business'. Commissioner Riel requested that 'Commissioners Report' be added. Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the agenda with the aforementioned changes. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion and the agenda was so approved.

**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.**

Chairman Gendron noted that no one had signed up to speak.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**a. October 26, 2009 Regular Meeting – approve or deny**

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor and the minutes were so approved.

**EDIT LIST APPROVAL**

**a. Batch #275852, \$3,957.37 – approve or deny**

**b. Cash Vouchers, \$30.00 & \$75.00 – approve or deny**

Commissioner Riel made a motion to accept batch 275852 in the amount of \$3,957.37 and the cash vouchers in the amounts of \$30 and \$75. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion and the edit list and cash vouchers were so approved.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

District Secretary Rosen reported that due to the number of items on the current agenda the Department Activity Reports were scheduled for the next meeting. Commissioner Riel requested information regarding account balances at the next meeting.

**REVIEW & FINALIZE 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Chairman Gendron confirmed that the Board had ample opportunity to review the proposed budget. Commissioner Riel verified with District Secretary Rosen that the revenue amounts were correct. She reported that they were correct and that she and Chief Spencer had a conference call with the county Assessor's office regarding the matter.

**Recess Regular Meeting**

**Opening of Public Hearing**

At 7:04 p.m., Chairman Gendron recessed the regular meeting and opened the public hearing pertaining to the 2010 budget.

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

Audience member Kyle Jacobs requested justification for the hiring of new firefighters. Chairman Gendron replied that Chief Spencer was currently developing a strategic plan that would determine the feasibility of new hires and that the budget needed to be prepared for that possibility. Commissioner Riel added that the strategic plan was essentially developed by stakeholders. Mr. Jacobs questioned who those individuals were. Chief Spencer responded that he had a preliminary list, but did not feel comfortable releasing names of individuals as they had not been contacted yet. Mr. Jacobs also questioned the purpose of promoting to a fire marshal position. Chief Spencer indicated that he felt that there needed to be a realignment of the needs of the district with the skills of the staff. He noted that he felt the district was not too heavy on pre-fire planning and needed work on pre-fire prevention and explained that the fire marshal position could be developed to include inspections, pre-fires, and the potential of limited code enforcement. Commissioner Riel added that the two new hire positions were included in the 2009 budget, but the Board had decided to delay the matter due to the lack of a strategic plan from the former chief. There was discussion regarding the positions being filled in-house or being opened to the entire fire service. Mr. Jacobs questioned the possibility of one of the positions being a paramedic due to the high frequency of EMS calls in the district. Chairman Gendron reiterated that all of these matters would be discussed when the time arises.

Chairman Gendron confirmed that there were no additional questions regarding the proposed Fire budget and closed the public hearing regarding the Fire budget at 7:10 p.m.

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

At 7:10 p.m. Chairman Gendron opened the public hearing regarding the proposed 2010 EMS budget.

Commissioner Riel commented that he was impressed with the budget process this year. Chairman Gendron noted that the district is projected to be coming in substantially under budget in 2009 and they were actually going to purchase items such as large diameter hose and turnout equipment in 2009 that were originally scheduled to be purchased in 2010.

Commissioner Riel explained that salaries are estimated at a worst case scenario and built into the budget until contract negotiations are complete.

Chairman Gendron confirmed that there were no additional questions regarding the proposed EMS budget,

### **Close of Public Hearing**

### **Reconvene Regular Meeting**

At 7:15 p.m. Chairman Gendron closed the public hearing regarding the proposed 2010 budgets and reconvened the regular meeting.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There being none, the meeting continued.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS**

- a. **#2009-04, levying the 2010 ad valor property taxes and excess levy taxes – approve or deny**

Commissioner Riel read into record Resolution 2009-04 and made a motion to adopt said resolution. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

- b. **#2009-05, increase Yakima County Fire District 4 2009 property tax levy above the "limit factor" up to 101 percent – approve or deny**

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-05.

Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor. Commissioner Riel explained that in order for the district to request above the 100% limit factor, it must provide a reason why it is necessary and stated that in order to be in compliance with the revised safety standards for firefighters and due to rising costs of goods and services, the Board deemed it necessary to pass the aforementioned resolution.

### **B. Adopt 2010 Fire Budget – approve or deny**

Commissioner Riel made a motion to adopt the proposed 2010 Fire budget as submitted. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus adopting the 2010 Fire budget.

### **C. Adopt 2010 EMS Budget – approve or deny**

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to adopt the proposed 2010 EMS Budget as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus adopting the 2010 EMS budget.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Riel reported that there was a Yakima County Fire Commissioners dinner meeting scheduled for November 19.

Commissioner Riel reported that he would be attending a State Education Committee Meeting in Olympia over the weekend to discuss the seminar topics for the Chelan conference. Chairman Gendron requested that recruitment and retention be a potential topic.

Commissioner Riel also reported that a meeting was scheduled at Snipes Mountain Brewery on November 23 from 9:30–12:00 at which Senator Honeyford and Representative Taylor would be present to discuss fire suppression efforts of the Dry Creek fire and legislative issues.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There being no announcements, Chairman Gendron continued the meeting.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Gendron noted that there was no need for an executive session.

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

Chairman Gendron reported that he attended the audit meeting with the State Auditor, Chief Spencer, and District Secretary Rosen and noted that the Auditors were reviewing various transactions and such from the previous three years. He added that a report would be issued in December and that he would also be attending an exit interview at that time. Chief Spencer noted that the auditor had completed his field work; that there had been four recommendations made in 2006 and has since been reduced to three. Chief Spencer commended District Secretary Rosen and Deputy Chief Riel for their efficiency in providing the auditor the information he requested.

District Secretary Rosen reported that she has been working with the Association on her own time to organize a potato feed on December 18 to raise funds for Jacob Doshier who had been in the hospital for an extended period of time and does not have insurance. She noted that 500 potatoes have been donated, and District 5, DNR and District 12 had made monetary contributions.

Commissioner McNulty questioned the Chief regarding page 32/33 of the spec sheet for the new tender; specifically, the electric quick dump. Chief Spencer replied that he had requested the electric valves as a matter of safety and dump time. Commissioner McNulty indicated that he had been under the impression that the new tender was going to be as similar as possible to the tender at Station 42. Chief Spencer responded that the electric capability could be added to that apparatus for approximately \$400. In addition, Commissioner McNulty questioned the safety vision rear camera system as described on page 37 of the spec sheet. Chief Spencer responded that this was also his request as a matter of safety due to the fact that tenders are allowed to respond with only one person. Commissioner McNulty expressed his concern that this could be a teaching issue.

Chief Spencer reported that due to some family medical issues, he would be returning to Michigan November 21 through November 29, thus missing the next regular meeting.

Chief Spencer also thanked the staff and the Board for the rewarding and educational budget planning experience.

**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 7:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Chair of the Board

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District Secretary

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Vice-Chair of the Board

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Commissioner