

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

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 Deputy Chief Riel, District Secretary Michelle Rosen, East Valley Fire District Personnel, and audience members.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Gendron noted that there was no need for an executive session. With that change, the agenda stood as 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 and continued the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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

Commissioner McNulty requested clarification from D.C. Riel regarding his statement that the district's agility test standards had been in existence for at least 25 years as he felt that they were put into place during Chief Orman's tenure in 1996. D.C. Riel amended his statement to reflect that he felt the standards had been in place for 15 years or greater.

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2009 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

**EDIT LIST APPROVAL**

**a. Batch #263227, \$19,993.16 – approve or deny**

Commissioner McNulty commented that the \$390 difference between Station 41 and 40 natural gas expense needed to be looked into and suggested an energy audit. D.C. Riel noted that he will double check the thermostat settings and will contact Cascade Natural Gas for an audit. Commissioner Riel made a motion to accept Batch Edit List #263227 in the amount of \$19,993.16. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

**b. Batch #264052, \$1,009.02 – approve or deny**

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to accept Batch Edit List #264052 in the amount of \$1,009.02. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

**c. Cash Voucher \$30.00 – approve or deny**

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the cash voucher for \$30.00. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

District Secretary Rosen did not have anything to report at this time.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There being no correspondence, Chairman Gendron continued the meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **a. Adoption of training policy revisions**

After having made the revisions that were noted in the January 26 Regular Meeting, Commissioner McNulty made a motion to accept the training policy as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor. A copy would be attached to the minutes as part of the record.

### **b. Physical agility test – information review**

Chairman Gendron explained that the board had previously discussed the possibility of modifying the physical agility test standards in an effort to attract recruits to the district and noted that after reading how the personnel of the district felt regarding the possibility of those modifications, he was not in favor of pursuing the matter. Commissioner Riel was in agreement. Chairman Gendron requested ideas and suggestions from district personnel with regard to attracting and keeping recruits.

Commissioner McNulty expressed his concern that D.C. Riel contacted the members regarding this issue when the Board had only requested that other districts be contacted for information regarding their agility standards.

Audience member Daryl Sybouts commented that the membership appreciated the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas with regard to this issue and felt that a modification of the agility test could compromise safety.

Commissioner McNulty felt that in order to maintain those safety expectations, personnel should be required to submit to a physical exam and perform the agility test on an annual basis. There was additional discussion regarding this issue and it was suggested that this matter could be researched in the future by the new chief.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Decision/Action Request 2009-02 Purchase of one (1) support pick-up**

Chairman Gendron noted that this item was included in the 2008 budget, had been carried over to 2009 and was on the apparatus replacement schedule, but questioned what specific usage it would receive. D.C. Riel noted that the truck was primarily used for washing hose, snow plowing, and transporting fuel. There was discussion regarding the need for a 2009 truck versus an older model with limited miles and still under warranty. Commissioner McNulty voiced his concern that the current truck was in such ill repair when the district has a mechanic on staff. It was concluded that D.C. Riel will solicit the local dealerships for a comparable truck.

### **b. Decision/Action Request 2009-03 Revision to SOG's minimum staffing of apparatus**

There was discussion regarding the suggested revisions. It was determined that 'No more than one new first aid qualified member' would be stricken. It was agreed that the following would be added: 'Responding with a minimum of one EMT-B, first responder, EMT trainee, or advanced first aid with defibrillation'. D.C. Riel clarified for Commissioner McNulty the statement '...officer on the engine has the authority for judgment of his crew on who responds to mutual aid calls...' and explained that for example, during a sleeper shift, it allows the officer latitude to take a probationary firefighter on a call if that individual is the only if the extra individual available, or to have that individual to stay at the station for stand-by. D. C. Riel then referred to the following section in the document: '...the call may not turn out as dispatched. If the minimum staffing is not met, contact the duty officer. The duty officer will then contact dispatch if a second tone out is needed...' and suggested that additional wording be added to the effect that "...the duty officer will have the authority to deviate from guidelines as needed and make the decision for the response...". The Board wanted to ensure that the membership knew that the latitude provided to the officer did not mean that he could pick and choose his crew. After further discussion, the Board decided to remove the statement that made reference to the officer deciding who responds to a mutual aid call.

D.C. Riel will make the changes to the document as discussed and bring it back to the Board at the next Regular Meeting.

### **c. Future banquet invites**

District Secretary Rosen directed the Board's attention to the list of individuals who were recently invited to the banquet and noted that individuals had been inadvertently missed despite having forwarding the list to the Board for their review and input.

Commissioner Riel noted that there has not been a 'rule of thumb' in determining who should be invited and initiated discussion regarding this matter. Commissioner McNulty noted that he was under the impression that individuals needed to have retired from department, be on the department, be a commissioner, or a commissioner's spouse.

After deliberation, Commissioner Riel made a motion that the criteria to be used in determining banquet invitees be the following: any previous member of the department who has paid into the volunteer pension relief for a total of 15 years and who left the department in good graces. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

### **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Chairman Gendron questioned if all members of the Board would be attending the conference in Chelan in May. Commissioner Riel questioned if all members of the Board would be attending the conference in Pasco on February 28. District Secretary Rosen noted that Commissioner Riel was registered for the seminar in Pasco. Chairman Gendron noted that he was unable to attend the Pasco conference and Commissioner McNulty noted that he would follow up with District Secretary Rosen. Chairman Gendron and Commissioner McNulty added that they would be attending the fire authority meeting in West Valley on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Chairman Gendron noted that Department Activity Reports would be at the next Regular Meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements at this time.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION RCW 42.30.140 (g)**

#### **a. Personnel matters of the district**

Chairman Gendron noted that it was previously determined that an executive session was not necessary.

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

D.C. Riel informed the Board that he is currently researching an air supply system at Hanford that might be available for the district to purchase. He explained that the van housing unit has 11,000 miles and the compressor has 350 hours of usage time and has three 6,000 PSI bottles.

D.C. Riel also informed the Board that he is waiting for the final paperwork from Qwest and that there will be a \$40 fee to cancel AT&T, but that it would be made up in the first billing cycle from Qwest.

D.C. Riel noted that they are receiving phone calls on the Expedition, but have not had any solid offers and added that the Kittitas County Chief might be interested. Commissioner Riel confirmed that it is being sold with the command center.

### **SIGNING OF DISTRICT DOCUMENTS**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Commissioner Riel entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion and the meeting was so adjourned at 7:52 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