

**YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 4
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2008**

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

There being no changes, Chairman Gendron continued the meeting.

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 Katie Carver had signed up to speak. Mrs. Carver asked as to why she has seen different apparatus from the district responding to a call with lights only, and activating the sirens only at intersections. Chairman Gendron explained that this situation could occur for a variety of reasons, some being that a citizen requested a silent response, or the apparatus was clearing an intersection. Deputy Chief Riel added that if the apparatus is approaching a scene that has not been cleared and could contain a safety hazard for the crew, the sirens would be toned down. He noted that it is taught in both EVAP and EVIP class that when using lights, sirens should be used as well. In addition, D.C. Riel noted that he will bring this issue back to the officers as an inquiry.

Chairman Gendron recognized that Jacqui Walker had signed up to speak. Mrs. Walker thanked District Secretary Rosen for the time she spent with her explaining the district's finances, investments, and expenditures. Mrs. Walker stated that her understanding was that the Board did not have to approve expenditures under \$5,000 and questioned what control the Board had over expenditures under that amount. Chairman Gendron explained that items are budgeted as line items and are accounted for on the reports generated by QuickBooks and batch lists. Commissioner Riel added that all invoices are reviewed by the Chairman prior to any payment being generated by the County. In addition, the Board also reviews the edit list prior to payment being made.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. August 25, 2008 Special Meeting – approve or deny

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on August 25, 2008 as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the minutes of the Special Meeting.

B. August 25, 2008 Regular Meeting – approve or deny

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 25, 2008. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the minutes of the Special Meeting.

EDIT LIST APPROVAL

Batch #257108, \$10,229.88 – approve or deny

Chairman Gendron verified with Deputy Chief Riel that the Extendobeds were the slide-outs for the command centers in the command units. Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve edit list #257108 in the amount of \$10,229.88. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the aforementioned edit list.

Cash Voucher \$73.50 – approve or deny

Commissioner McNulty made a motion to approve the cash voucher in the amount of \$73.50. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the aforementioned cash voucher.

Cash Voucher \$30.00 – approve or deny

Commissioner Riel made a motion to approve the cash voucher in the amount of \$30.00. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving the aforementioned cash voucher.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

District Secretary Rosen questioned if the October 17 date that was scheduled for the budget retreat was acceptable, as she had not received any response. The Board was all in agreement that Friday, October 17 was acceptable and the retreat would begin at 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Riel requested that the preliminary budget be given to the Board one week in advance.

Mrs. Walker called for a point of information and questioned where the retreat was going to be held. Commissioner Riel responded that it would be held at the district.

CORRESPONDENCE

District Secretary Rosen noted that the correspondence received was scheduled to be discussed in executive session.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution 2008-06 In the matter of appointing a district secretary/auditing/finance/investment officer for 2008, repealing Resolution 2007-11 (removing former Chief John Warren Gay and adding Commissioner Chairman, Joseph Gendron)

Commissioner Riel noted that after a lengthy discussion at the last regular meeting, he made a motion to adopt Resolution 2008-06. Commissioner McNulty seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor, thus approving Resolution 2008-06.

B. Discuss consulting group's presentations for Fire Chief's position

Chairman Gendron confirmed that all Board members had the opportunity to review all the materials from the three organizations. Commissioner Riel noted that the Board should be aware of all hidden costs and what the different guarantees cover. Chairman Gendron stated that his preference was Waters Consulting Group for the following reasons: A two year guarantee, the organization has been in business since 1983, and they have handled over 90 fire chief positions. Commissioner McNulty was concerned that with the district's pending litigation, an individual would not be interested in the position. He stated that the district was currently operating successfully without a permanent Chief and felt that the Board should be cautious and wait. Chairman Gendron expressed his concern regarding the extra responsibilities and pressure put on Deputy Chief Riel if the Board was to wait. He suggested the possibility of seeking an interim Chief. Chairman Gendron continued by stating that whether the district has a lawsuit pending or not, the Board's main focus has to be on day to day operations, and ensuring that the district continues to respond and serve the community to the best of it's ability. He commended all district personnel for their perseverance and professionalism. Commissioner Riel felt that the Board needed to move forward with the selection process and was also in favor of Waters Consulting Group. Commissioner McNulty felt that the district should wait until after the first of the new year. Chairman Gendron noted that by waiting until after the first of the year, the expense would be budgeted for, but thought that the consulting groups should be contacted to see if this would be a disadvantage. Deputy Chief Riel concurred that the district has been operating successfully without a chief thus far, and could continue if the Board deemed so. Chairman Gendron reiterated the Board's previous concern with moving forward with regard to negotiations with Local 3680 and not involving a new chief in the process. Chairman Gendron concluded the discussion by stating that he wished to table the issue until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

There being none, the meeting continued.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

There being none, the meeting continued.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT

Chairman Gendron noted that the department activity reports occurred at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There being no announcements, Chairman Gendron continued the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Personnel issues of the District RCW 42.30.110 (g)

B. Discuss Pending Litigation with District Legal Counsel RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i)

At 7:24 p.m., Chairman Gendron dismissed the Board into executive session for 30 minutes.

At 7:46 p.m., District Secretary Rosen reported that the Board was extending their executive session for an additional 15 minutes.

At 7:59 p.m., District Secretary Rosen reported that the Board was extending their executive session for an additional 10 minutes.

At 8:09 p.m. Chairman Gendron called the meeting back to order and reported that no decisions had been made.

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

Commissioner McNulty made a motion that the Board accept the resignation of Rob Goss as submitted. Commissioner Riel seconded the motion. The Board was all in favor.

Deputy Chief Riel brought to the Board’s attention the information in their packets regarding recruits and probationary firefighters. He reported that 8 new personnel were brought on during the calendar year -- 7 recruits will be processed during the next recruit class and one will be starting at probationary firefighter status.

Commissioner Riel confirmed that all Board members would be attending the conference. District Secretary Rosen questioned if any Board members would be attending the Snure seminar prior to the conference. The Board indicated that they would not, but requested that District Secretary Rosen attend and bring information back to the Board.

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 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

Chair of the Board

District Secretary

Vice-Chair of the Board

Commissioner