

## JCFPD #4 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

June 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Garrison at 7:00 pm. Those present were Commissioners Ken McEdwards and Meril Smith, Chief Bob Herbst, Secretary Peggy Ware, Clair Pittman, Jacque Hartley, Don Coleman, Debbie Kronk, Bud Schindler, George Sickel, and Larry Hartley.

Ken made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2005 regular meeting as mailed. Meril seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The May 31, 2005 Financial Report was presented to the Commissioners by Secretary Peggy Ware. There were no questions.

Meril made a motion to accept the May 31, 2005 Financial Report. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vouchers of \$32,937.50 were presented to the Commissioners. The transferal of funds will be \$13,600.00 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account to meet current expenses.

Ken made a motion to approve payment of the vouchers and the transferal of funds. Meril seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The May 5, 2005 Payroll was increased by \$4.40 for a total payroll amount of \$6,444.31. In May, Peggy received incorrect benefit dollar totals from the county.

Ken made a motion to approve the June 5, 2005 payroll. Meril seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Chief's Report/Ambulance Report was presented by Chief Bob Herbst. The Chief's mileage reimbursement for his use of private vehicle was included in the report. Peggy said that the mileage reimbursement would be slightly higher because the reimbursement rate was actually .405 per mile. Peggy will make the adjustment.

At 7:08 pm, Joann Bussa arrived.

Meril made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Ken seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Peggy stated that the fire commissioners had received a letter from Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge notifying all the fire districts that effective no later than January 1, 2006 the county will no longer handle the fire district payroll.

Chief Herbst said that the issue was discussed at the Chief's meeting, and that the Chief's plan to approach the Auditor's Office requesting justification for this decision.

Chief Herbst reported that the East Jefferson Fire Chief's have issues with the proposed DNR Agreement. There are a number of questionable items in the agreement and the Chiefs do not intend to sign the agreement until the items have been addressed. The Fire Chief's will be meeting about the agreement in July.

Bud Schindler asked what some of the problems in the agreement are.

Chief Herbst stated what some of the problem points in the DNR agreement are.

At 7:15 pm, Laurie Wolford, Kirk Lakenes, and Andy Mackie arrived.

Jacque Hartley said that there was a wildfire incident last year.

Chief Herbst said that if we are the first on scene at a wildfire that is DNR sole jurisdiction, we turn the incident over to DNR once they arrive. If DNR requests the assistance of our Volunteer Firefighters they can receive pay from DNR at the DNR hourly rate.

Chief Herbst stated that Al Scalf said that the County Commissioners had given him the task of creating a county wide burn policy. After the policy is implemented the Fire Districts would issue burn permits.

At 7:18 pm, Dick Coone arrived.

Chief Herbst said that the Fire District does not have jurisdiction over burning in the State and National Parks. There are still questions and decisions regarding the burn ban issue. Currently, we can recoup costs of fighting a wildfire on personal property.

Larry Hartley said that a year ago we had jurisdiction over the State Park.

Chief Herbst said that he had talked to State Park Ranger Doug Hinton. Mr. Hinton is open to a total burn ban at an extreme fire danger level. Mr. Hinton is willing to work with the Fire District.

George Sickel said that he found out from Jacque Hartley that the website is up. Don Coleman did a very good job.

Commissioner Garrison thanked Don Coleman.

George Sickel asked about having a fire drill at the Community Center.

Chief Herbst told Mr. Sickel to come in to his office to discuss a fire drill at the Community Center.

George Sickel asked questions regarding a volunteer firefighter that was approved by the commissioners for membership at the last commissioners meeting, and then was arrested the next day. He asked questions about the background investigation.

Chief Herbst addressed the issue by giving a report of what transpired from the time that he received an application for membership from Dan Mitcheltree to the time that Mr. Mitcheltree's membership was terminated. Chief Herbst said that we had conducted a Washington State Patrol background investigation, and that no warrants or information about a currently suspended license were on the report.

Mr. Sickel said that he had contacted the Sheriff's office and that Mr. Mitcheltree was arrested for an outstanding warrant. He claimed that he had a copy of the outstanding warrant. He wanted to know how this could happen.

Discussion followed.

Debbie Kronk said that the information should have been in the State Patrol background investigation.

Commissioner Garrison said that we would have to see how this could be prevented in the future. We will check with the State Patrol.

Don Coleman said that he saw a lot of red flags regarding Mr. Mitcheltree.

Dick Coone asked what disqualifies an application from membership—felony or misdemeanor.

Chief Herbst responded that a felony would disqualify an applicant, but that it would depend upon the circumstances of the misdemeanor. Chief Herbst said that overseeing the application process is ultimately the Chief's responsibility.

George Sickel gave Chief Herbst a packet of information regarding Mr. Sickel's investigation of Mr. Mitcheltree's arrest.

Laurie Wolford asked to speak. Laurie said that she has been told by many different people that Fire District #4's three commissioners have said that she was not hired because of her background investigation. Laurie gave the commissioners a background investigation that she ran on herself with the state of Michigan. Also, she displayed and referenced an original Washington State Patrol background investigation report that she said Jim Wadkins had given her. Laurie asked if there were any findings in her Washington State Patrol check.

Peggy said no.

Laurie said that she has numerous people that will sign affidavits stating that the commissioners have been saying she wasn't hired because of her background investigation. She said that the commissioners have said that she can no longer work in this county. Laurie said that she is very hurt. The commissioners are voted in by the community, and they are not being professional.

Jacque Hartley said that she had a discussion with Meril on the day of Jim Wadkins farewell party wherein Meril said that Laurie was not hired because of her background, and that Janeel Eddie was a witness.

Laurie Wolford submitted her letter of resignation from the Brinnon Volunteer Fire Department dated June 14, 2005.

Commissioner Garrison said that he had hoped that Laurie would come down to trainings and be an active member of the department.

Laurie said that she had tried to contact the chief about being an active volunteer. She said that she had left numerous messages, but that Chief Herbst had never returned her calls.

Chief Herbst apologized for not returning Laurie's calls, but said that he had not received her telephone messages.

Commissioner Garrison asked Laurie if she still wanted to go through with her resignation.

Laurie responded with a yes because Monday she is moving back to Michigan.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept Laurie Wolford's resignation effective June 14, 2005. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed. Commissioner Garrison thanked Laurie Wolford for all of the time and effort that she put in to the Brinnon Fire Department.

George Sickel asked what Chief Herbst's housing status is.

Commissioner McEdwards responded that he knows that the Chief has made an offer on a house, and that he has been approved for a loan.

Chief Herbst said that his original plan of renting a house didn't pan out because he couldn't find anything big enough. The Chief has made an offer on a house. The offer has been accepted. Currently it is in the hands of the appraisers. The scheduled closing date is July 25, 2005.

Jacque Hartley asked questions regarding Chief Herbst responding to emergency calls in his private vehicle with lights and sirens. Is he insured?

Chief Herbst responded that his vehicle has been inspected by the State Patrol, and he is good to go. His primary insurance is his private vehicle insurance. The Fire District insurance is secondary.

Jacque Hartley asked questions about the equipment at Station #43, and current ISO ratings.

Chief Herbst responded that Station #43 currently has an ISO rating of 9. If two more volunteers are assigned to Station #43 it will be rated at an 8.

Vehicles were discussed.

Chief Herbst said that many of the driveways in our Fire District are very narrow and hard to navigate with big vehicles. Engine 43 and the Brush Truck are the only fire vehicles that can make it down Pulali Point. Currently the chief is working on a proposal to purchase some new equipment. The Chief does not think that our call volume can justify purchasing a new ambulance at this time. Les Schwab says that there is nothing wrong with Aid 42. The Chief is investigating the problems with Aid 42 to see if there is any way to correct the problems.

George Sickel said that EMS is the Districts' priority.

Fire is important too. There was considerable discussion regarding ISO ratings.

Commissioner Garrison explained how we attained an ISO rating of 8 for most of the Fire District. The rating is based on many different factors.

George Sickel started to talk.

Commissioner Garrison told Mr. Sickel that he needed to be quiet and not interrupt.

After finishing what he had to say, Commissioner Garrison called on George Sickel.

George Sickel said that the volunteers, not the commissioners, have the knowledge to make recommendations regarding vehicles. Mr. Sickel said that the Chief and volunteers should work together to come up with recommendations and that the community would be happy with their recommendations.

Chief Herbst said that he is researching quick attack vehicles that could get down the narrow roads. The vehicles would have a 250 gallon per minute fire flow. Also, the

Chief would like to convert to automatic transmissions so everyone is able to drive the vehicles.

George Sickel said that there are bridges to mend. Chief Herbst needs to work better with the volunteers.

At 8:25 pm, Commissioners Garrison, McEdwards, and Smith, and Chief Herbst retired into executive session to evaluate the performance of an employee. The meeting will reconvene at 8:55 pm.

The audience left.

At 8:55 pm, Commissioner Garrison came out to say that the executive session would be extended until 9:10 pm.

At 9:10 pm, the executive session ended.  
Ron recalled the meeting to order at 9:11 pm.

Ken made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meril seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ware  
District Secretary