

JCFPD #4 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

October 10, 2006

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, Jefferson County Assessor Jack Westerman, Dr. Sandra Smith-Poling, Katie Brostrom, Clair N. Pittman, Anne H. Pittman, Evelyn Cemper, Marilyn Burge, Jacque Hartley, Susan A. Fresonke, Paul Lorenzen, Rhonda Lorenzen, Stan Walter, Willa Beeman, Byron Beeman, Roger L. Cemper, Charles Springer, Tillie Springer, George Sickel, L. W. Hartley, Bud Schindler, Sherry Adcock, Pat Rodgers, Timothy B. Murray, Lai/Keith DiDomeinco, Bill Linden, Janeel Eddie, Christina Ware, Kathi Mueller, Melissa Heines, Marjorie Jo Mueller, George Mueller, Doug Hinton, Kjerstin Gould, Dick Bergeron, and Don Coleman.

Commissioner Garrison introduced Jefferson County Assessor Jack Westerman, and announced that Mr. Westerman would be explaining the Lid Lift that will be on the November 7, 2006 ballot.

Jack proceeded to explain the Lid Lift, and answer questions from the audience about Levy Lid Lifts in general, the proposed Lid Lift, and the effect on property taxes. Currently the Levy rate is approximately .94 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation. With the Lid Lift the Levy rate would raise back up to \$1.00 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation, and without the Lid Lift the Levy rate would drop to approximately .68 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

Based on the new tax assessments, the Bond rate will be dropping from .54 to .38 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation.

George Sickel asked about the flyer that said 6% increase.

Jack said that if he didn't do this for a living he would have a hard time understanding it too, and that it is closer to a 46% increase.

Commissioner Garrison thanked Jack Westerman.

Jack left the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2006 regular meeting as mailed. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The September 30, 2006 Financial Report was presented to the Commissioners by Secretary Peggy Ware.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to accept the September 30, 2006 Financial Report. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vouchers of \$13,699.96 were presented to the Commissioners. The transfer of funds will be \$8,100.00 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to approve payment of the vouchers, and the transfer of funds. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the October 5, 2006 payroll. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Chief's Report/Ambulance Report was presented by Chief Bob Herbst. Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst said that he has been in contact with Dr. Smith-Poling, Medical Program Director, in regards to a letter that Jacque Hartley submitted last month. He asked Dr. Smith-Poling if she would like to address the issue.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that EMT's are required to be certified, and it is up to the EMT's to keep up on their training. There are a number of ways for the EMT's to get the needed training. King County has an On-line program, classes are held in Chimacum and Quilcene, and there can be in-house training (Chief Herbst can conduct 1 training per every 3 months in Brinnon, or we can hire instructors to come in). Dr. Smith-Poling said she told the EMT's a year to a year-and-a-half ago that she wants the EMT's to train with the other EMS personnel in the County, so she has placed a limit on how many trainings can be conducted in Brinnon. She said she is not going to spoon feed the Brinnon EMT's. When Jim Wadkins was the Fire Chief, she did allow the Brinnon EMT's to get their training in Brinnon because Mr. Wadkins was a Paramedic. If an EMT attends the required classes over a 3 year period they do not have to retest for certification. There is quality training available, but we have to be willing to go out of district.

The second issue Dr. Smith-Poling addressed is that we don't always get our hospital of choice. In an emergency it is illegal to bypass a hospital. If it is not an emergency, possibly the patient needs to find another means of transport. Permission from a doctor or paramedic is required in order to transport a patient to a hospital other than Jefferson General Hospital or Mason General Hospital. She would hate to have someone die because the EMS crew was bypassing a hospital because the patient didn't want to go to the closest hospital. Also, if a second EMS call came in and the crew was transporting the first patient to the hospital of choice that was further away there is the possibility that the second patient's health and safety might be jeopardized.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that the third issue had to do with accusations. She needs actual facts.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that the fourth issue was that there were two groups. The pro-chief group is satisfied with the way things are going and feels that their training needs are being met. The anti-chief group is not satisfied and they are all pretty much gone. Dr. Smith-Poling said that she has talked to all but one EMT. She goes through all the run sheets, and she has not seen any problems on paper.

Sherry Adcock asked about the hospital of choice. Her doctor is at Harrison Hospital and that is where she would want to be taken. She does not want to go to Jefferson General Hospital.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that there is an ER in both the North and South. The choice is Jefferson General Hospital or Mason General Hospital, unless Airlift Northwest is appropriate.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that she would like to see us pass an EMS Levy and then when we can afford it have a paramedic stationed here in Brinnon. She would like to see it be a county wide program.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that currently Port Ludlow can choose between Jefferson General Hospital and Harrison Hospital because they are in between the two hospitals.

Dr. Smith-Poling said that she might revisit the subject of transporting a patient to the hospital of choice if Brinnon was able to guarantee full coverage of two ambulances at all times. A paramedic can make the decision to approve a BLS transport.

George Sickel asked what she meant by full coverage.

Dr. Smith Poling said that full coverage meant two full EMS crews (at least one EMT and one Driver) along with two ambulances at all times.

Janeel Eddie asked if there was an age limit.

Dr. Smith-Poling said 18 years of age.

Janeel Eddie asked if there was an age limit on the other end.

Dr. Smith-Poling said no. She knows of a practicing doctor that is 90 years old.

Commissioner Garrison thanked Dr. Smith-Poling.

The membership committee has recommended Dawn E. Audette for membership in the Brinnon Fire Department as a new member contingent upon the 45 day probation. Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept Dawn E. Audette as a probationary member of the Brinnon Fire Department. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Volunteer Dick Bergeron has completed his probation period.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to approve Dick Bergeron as a full member of the Brinnon Fire Department. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Volunteer Jim Boldt has completed his probation period.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Jim Boldt as a full member of the Brinnon Fire Department. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst reported that he had been contacted by James Parker, Jefferson County PUD #1, in regards to fire hydrants. Mr. Parker is working on a Fire Control Facility Maintenance Agreement between Jefferson County Fire Protection District #4 and Jefferson County Public Utility District #1.

There is going to be an ALS/ILS annual refresher class in Port Ludlow. The class fee is \$100.00 per person, and the class is 6 days. Chief Herbst and Meril Smith would like to attend, and the chief asked if the class fees for both attendees can be paid out of the chiefs training budget line.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to pay for the ALS/ILS refresher class out of the chiefs training budget line. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Jefferson County Fire Commissioners and Secretaries Association meeting will be Thursday, October 12, 2006, at East Jefferson Fire & Rescue, at 7:00 pm.

Jacque Hartley was concerned with disaster preparedness and asked about the Fire District in regard to generators. We used to have a couple.

Chief Herbst said that the generators had been disposed of before he came. Currently he is working with George Carnine at GSA to try and locate a generator for the Fire District and one for the Community Center.

Jacque Hartley said that the Senior Organization would be getting a generator for the Community Center, and told the Fire Chief to take the Community Center off the list. Jacque Hartley asked about the policy dealing with volunteer points. She asked about the cap.

Chief Herbst said that a cap had been placed on the "points" payout because the district has to make sure there is enough money to pay the employer side of the Social Security and Medicare taxes, and to cover the fees with ADP. Chief explained that the "points" is actually to cover the vehicle expense from the volunteers' home to the station or scene. There is an RCW that addresses this issue.

Jacque Hartley said that ambulance service and OTEP skills training had already been addressed.

Jacque Hartley asked what we need the extra 80 or so thousand dollars for.

The Commissioners and Chief responded that it would enable us to get new equipment sooner. It would cover maintenance and fuel costs.

Commissioner Garrison said a new ambulance would be nice, but at last quote it is \$180,000.00 with no equipment.

Chief Herbst said that we just acquired four AED's through grants and purchase that have been placed on the ambulances and command vehicle. He would like to get AED's for all the engines.

Anne Pittman said that new gurneys would be nice, and they cost \$7,000.00 each.

Chief Herbst pointed out that the cost of vehicle fuel and propane is up. The Chief said that last year when he and Peggy were planning the budget they added \$2,000.00 to the utility budget line, and as it stands right now we will be over budget. Chief Herbst said that he would like to stay ahead of the curve.

This year we will have to prepare two preliminary budgets (one based on passage of the Lid Lift, and one without the increase of funds). The proposed budgets will be available November 1.

Chief Herbst pointed out that if every single taxpayer paid their taxes on time we would have received \$169,500.00 in 2006, but that doesn't happen.

Larry Hartley asked questions about how many people/responders we have. He also asked why we have so many vehicles. He feels that we have more vehicles than we need. Commissioner Garrison stated that one of the three ambulances is actually for sale, but that we are just using it as a backup until it is sold.

Don Coleman stated that due to new training/response requirements that were put in place close to a year ago he felt forced to request a leave of absence. It is getting close to the time when he needs to make a decision about whether to return to the department, so he sent an email to the Chief and District Secretary requesting all the minutes and chief's

reports for 2006. Don said that he received an email from the chief saying that he needed to come into the district office and fill out a request for the information. He would then be notified as to when the requested information would be available for pickup at .15 per page. He said that this information used to be available on the web site, but that it is not there anymore. Don said that he emailed the commissioners about it, but he has received no response. Why is it so hard to get it?

Pat Rodgers said that the Jefferson County Commissioners office emails the minutes out to people that request them.

Commissioner McEdwards said that he would be willing to investigate putting the minutes back on the website.

Chief Herbst and Commissioner Garrison said that making any changes to the policy will take a rewrite of the policy, first reading, and then adoption. It takes a few months. By consensus, the commissioners agreed to investigate putting the minutes on the website.

George Sickel asked how the levy money will be spent.

Bill Linden asked if we knew what the levy rate would be back in August.

The Commissioners responded with a no.

Park Ranger Doug Hinton said that they have had to request our services on many occasions, and that we have always done a very good job.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ware
District Secretary