

JCFPD #4 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

December 12, 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, Anne Pittman, Clair Pittman, Yolanda Smith, Tom Fields, Jacque Hartley, Don Coleman, Diane Coleman, Katie Brostrom, David Jordan, and Bill McCormick. Diana and Marvin Stinson arrived at 7:08 pm.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2006 regular meeting as mailed. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

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

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

Vouchers of \$14,816.39 were presented to the Commissioners. The transfer of funds will be \$9,300.00 from the Cash Account into the Investment Account.

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

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

The Chief's Report/Ambulance Report was presented by Chief Bob Herbst.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the Chief's Report. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The only item under Old Business is the Public Records Policy, so Commissioner Garrison announced the New Business would be addressed first.

Peggy Ware announced that it is time to renew the employee insurance for next year.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to enroll in the WFCM Medical and Traditional Dental Insurance plans offered through Trusteed Plans Service Corporation for calendar year 2007. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Peggy Ware said that the County Auditor's office had sent her the IRS mileage reimbursement rates for 2007. The IRS is raising the mileage reimbursement rate from 44.5 cents per mile to 48.5 cents per mile.

Commissioner McEdwards said that he didn't see a need to raise the mileage reimbursement rate. Commissioner Smith said he was fine with 44.5 cents per mile. By consensus, at this time the mileage reimbursement rate will remain at 44.5 cents per mile.

Diana and Marvin Stinson arrived at this time.

Chief Herbst said that Policy 2801 Leave of Absence currently does not address a Military Leave of Absence. Currently, we have a volunteer firefighter that will be leaving for the military service this spring.

Chief Herbst read changes to Policy 2801 that designate different reasons for a Leave of Absence, and the procedures that will be followed regarding the different Leave of Absences.

Commissioner Garrison asked both Commissioners McEdwards and Smith if they wanted anything changed.

The Commissioners said the additions and revisions to Policy 2801 sounded good. The policy was tabled until next months meeting for its second reading and adoption.

Commissioner Garrison announced Old Business, the Public Records Policy. He turned the meeting over to Chief Herbst.

Chief Herbst told the audience that the Board of Commissioners received requests to place the Commissioner meeting minutes and the Chief's Report on the website. We have received 19 emails regarding this topic. Some of the emails are favorable to the current Fire Department, some are negative towards the Fire Department, and some are just addressing the issue of the website. Chief Herbst read all the emails that have been received by the Fire District. He started with the two initial emails.

The first one is from Don Coleman to George Sickel.

The second one is from George Sickel and was sent out to numerous addresses. It has two attachments: Don Colemans email and the October 10, 2006 Fire Commissioner Meeting minutes.

The following emails were read:

Diane and Michael Ventura Hill to Peggy Ware

Diane and Michael Ventura Hill to Chief Herbst

Pat Rodgers

Jacque Hartley

George Sickel

Val Schindler

Gloria Allingham

Mike and Judy Hyde

Bud Schindler

Katherine "Casey" Bringham to Peggy Ware

Judy Meyers to Peggy Ware

Andrea Mitchell to George Sickel to Ken McEdwrds

Gary Elmer to Peggy Ware

Carolyn McAndrew to Peggy Ware

Mary Lou Holtgeerts to George Sickel to Ken McEdwards

Candy Johnston to Peggy Ware

Don Coleman

Eric and Joanie Hendricks Family

Commissioner Garrison said that the commissioners would not respond at this time, but he asked the audience for public comment. Commissioner Garrison stated that no matter what he does certain people won't be happy.

Tom Fields said that he thought it is an excellent idea to have the minutes on the website.

Katie Brostrom said that she thinks it is a good idea. She also added that it would be nice if instead of constantly complaining about the Fire Department and Fire Chief certain people would spend their time in a positive way. She really appreciates the Brinnon Fire Department. They have been there for her on four different occasions.

David Jordan said this is the first he has heard, but there are undertones of other issues here. Things change as time goes on, and computers have their place. He asked if the issue with the website is time or money.

Commissioner Garrison responded that the commissioners are trying to see what we can afford to invest in both time and money. They need to decide what information will be on the website, and how often it will be maintained. Commissioner Garrison said that it is his opinion that the minutes would be for read only on the website. The Commissioners never said they were going to get rid of the website; it was incorrect information.

Don Coleman said that he is a volunteer firefighter on a leave of absence, but he will probably not be a volunteer for much longer. Last year, he felt he could not meet the training and participation requirements in the newly adopted policies, so he felt forced to take a leave of absence. He requested the minutes be emailed to him. He did not mean to say anything against the Fire Department. He has some issues with existing policies, and the fact that he is not able to just have the minutes emailed to him. Don said that even if he couldn't meet requirements as a firefighter, possibly he could maintain the website as a volunteer. He feels that electronic media is much more efficient.

Commissioner Garrison said that he has probably been through more change than the rest of the department. When he started with the Brinnon Fire Department we didn't even have radios. People had fire phones in their homes.

Commissioner McEdwards said that the commissioners need to follow procedures to set up a policy for the website.

Don Coleman said that he possibly made assumptions based on the responses he received to the questions he has asked.

Commissioner Garrison said that he is retiring from the Bremerton Shipyard after the first of the year. After January 2, he will be down at the Fire Station 2 or 3 days a week. The website will still be here.

Clair Pittman said that he has a lot of praise for the Brinnon Fire Department. He wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the Fire Department.

Anne Pittman extended her thank you to the Fire Department.

Commissioner Garrison thanked everyone for their comments, and for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ware
District Secretary