

JCFPD #4 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2008

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, Sean Leonard, Patrick Titterness, Evelyn Cemper, Alva Schaeffer, Katie Brostrom, Anne Pittman, John Dowd, Dalila Dowd, Mike Wells, Patsy Wells, Jacque Hartley, Yolanda Smith, Lonnie Reynolds and son, Jim Watson, Sandra Bardon, George Sickel, Paul Lorenzen, Larry Hartley, Bill Linden, Nick Fields, Chris Stephens, Ron Stephens, Gene Watz, Cynthia Woodgate, Barbara Newton, Greg Smith, Don Coleman, Diane Coleman, Joanie Hendricks, Eric Hendricks, Lisa Rudick, Elaine Jernberg, Sara Myers, Tracy Petrasek, Mike Sims, Mike Hyde, Wayne Schlaefli, Mike Langenbach, Chris Nydegger, Mary Hjelvik, Sue Bond, Jim Boldt, and Kelly Beringer.

Commissioner Garrison added an executive session to the end of the agenda.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2008 regular meeting as mailed. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2008 special meeting as mailed. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The November 30, 2008 Financial Report was presented to the Commissioners by Secretary Peggy Ware.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to accept the November 30, 2008 Financial Report. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vouchers of \$16,208.90 were presented to the Commissioners. Transfer of funds will be \$16,208.90 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to pay the vouchers in the amount of \$16,208.90, and to transfer \$16,208.90 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the December 5, 2008 payroll in the amount of \$13,304.41. 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 presented an overhead showing the methods and reasons as to why individual volunteers have left the Brinnon Fire Department since his hiring in February of 2005.

The Volunteer Ambulance & Firefighters Association President Report was presented by Secretary/Treasurer Ron Stephens. Mr. Stephens read a letter from Brinnon Volunteer Firefighters Association President Sue Fresonke wherein it is stated that the volunteer firefighters of the Brinnon Fire Department feel it has become necessary to state their full support of Chief Bob Herbst.

Chief Herbst stated the election date options for levy ballot measure for 2009. The first date is February 3, and in order to run a measure on February 3 the Resolution would have to be filed by December 13. Also, if a levy lid lift passes in 2009 we will not receive any tax money until 2010. Chief Herbst recommends placing a measure on the ballot in May of 2009. A May election would allow more time to get information out to the public, and a better look at the economy. Also, the results of a special election in May would be available before the expiration of the Memorandum of Understanding attached to the Fire Chief's contract.

Commissioner McEdwards said that he is not in favor of putting a measure on the ballot in February.

Commissioner Smith said that he would rather wait until May.

Commissioner Garrison tabled the issue until next month with the May Special Election date being the target date for a regular property tax levy.

Chief Herbst stated that we have received four bids for the F-350 truck. He proceeded to open the bids giving each bid a number and stating the dollar amount bid. The bids are: #1=\$3,650.00, #2=\$1,726.00, #3=\$2,100.00, and #4=3,334.00.

Commissioner McEdwards said that he liked bid #1.

Commissioner Smith agreed.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to accept bid #1 in the amount of \$3,650.00.

Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst will contact the successful bidder tomorrow, and handle the transaction.

Chief Herbst reported that we have not received any bids for the E-350 aid car by the close of business yesterday.

Chief Herbst read a recommendation to accept Matthew A. Draper as a 45 day conditional member of the Brinnon Fire Department.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept Matthew A. Draper as a 45 day conditional member of the Brinnon Fire Department. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst asked for approval to act as the District's agent for sale of the surplus apparatus. There are currently three agencies interested in the surplus E-350. They are Whatcom County FPD #14, Pullman Fire, and Mason County FPD #4. The agencies would like to test drive the vehicle before making an offer.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to authorize Chief Herbst to act as the Fire District's agent in regard to the sale of the E-350. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary Ware read the employee insurance renewal for 2009. Coverage is with WFCA/Trusted Plans Service Corporation for 2009 offering employees the following medical plans with the Fire District paying 100% of the premium: PPO-100 Plan, PPO-300 Plan and HD-1250; the Traditional Dental with ortho; Domestic Partner Medical/Dental coverage for both same-gender and opposite-gender; and \$50,000.00 Basic Life/AD&D coverage for employees. Dependent medical and dental coverage is optional at the employee's expense.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to renew the 2009 employee insurance with WFCA/Trusted Plans Service Corporation as listed above. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary Ware reported that she has received the IRS mileage reimbursement rate that will be effective January 1, 2009. Ms. Ware recommends that the Commissioners consider adopting the IRS mileage reimbursement rate instead of revisiting the issue every time that the IRS changes the mileage reimbursement rate.

Commissioner Garrison said that he thought it was a good idea because the rates change more frequently than they used to.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to set the mileage reimbursement rate to correspond with the IRS mileage reimbursement rate changing as the IRS rate increases and decreases. Commissioner McEdwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary Ware will monitor the mileage reimbursement rate, and report increases and decreases to the Fire Commissioners.

Commissioner Garrison asked for public comment.

Don Coleman said that he would like to make a correction to why he left the fire department. Mr. Coleman said that he did not resign due to disagreements with the management. He resigned due to a policy change that made it impossible for him to meet

the training and response requirements. He took a one year leave of absence, after which time he felt he must resign.

Chief Herbst apologized, saying that he misunderstood Mr. Coleman's letter and he would change the reason.

Jacque Hartley said that she did not resign from the fire department due to disagreements with the management. She felt that she could no longer be an asset to the fire department, so she made the choice to resign. Ms. Harley also stated that the Fire Commissioners had received a letter from Jim Wadkins, and she wanted to know why the letter was not being read.

Commissioner Garrison said that the commissioners had just received the letter yesterday afternoon, and he wanted time to investigate the letter before it was discussed. Any discussion would take place at the next meeting.

Wayne Schlaefli stated that people want to move in a forward direction. Mr. Schlaefli said that he has talked individually with Commissioner McEdwards, Commissioner Garrison, and Chief Herbst. He commented that the Fire Commissioners are asking for more money in the proposed levy measure than they did last time. He expressed concern in regards to passage of a future levy proposal. Mr. Schlaefli along with Mike Sims, Mike Hyde, Mike Langenbach, and Diane Coleman have formed an advisory group. They are asking the Fire Commissioners to approve the formation of this group. They would like the Fire Chief to sponsor a person from the community that he would like to have on the committee. Mr. Schlaefli has met with Volunteer Firefighter Dick Bergeron, and said that Mr. Bergeron seemed receptive to the advisory group.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to accept the support of the advisory group. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Wayne Schlaefli brought up volunteer recruitment. He is pleased to see all the young new recruits. He suggests that we solicit a grant writer. If we come up with the grants, they will come up with the money for matching funds. Mr. Schlaefli advocates publicity. He suggested an article in the Brinnon Crier, and suggested that we should have a community member write articles. He feels that the communications about budget information during the past levy request was very general.

Mike Hyde asked if we could cut back on the levy request because we are asking for too much.

Commissioner Garrison asked if the advisory group would be willing to sit down and meet with Chief Herbst and himself.

Wayne Schlaefli said yes. He said that there needs to be a stronger alliance both to the North and South of our fire district. Also, the community needs a paramedic, and most of the community wants a paramedic.

Commissioner Garrison said that we do need a paramedic.

A community member stated that funding is the problem with a paramedic.

Mike Hyde says that he feels strongly about grants. Is the money from the sale of the F-350 designated? If not, he would like the commissioners to set the money aside for grant matching funds.

Wayne Schlaefli said that the DHS does not require that you have the money in hand in order to apply for grants. When the grant is awarded the fire district needs to have a plan as to where the money is going to come from.

Mike Hyde asked the Fire Chief and Commissioners to come up with a list of needs.

Jim Watson said that he is a grant writer. He appreciates the tone of the meeting tonight. He complimented Don Coleman on his statements, and Jacque Hartley as well. There are a lot of powerful people here in Brinnon. Mr. Watson has talked to the Deputy Administrator of Island County. They are currently preparing their 5 year plan. We all need to work together. Currently, Mr. Watson knows of two grant writers. They are in Port Townsend. Through the efforts of Chief Herbst, we received a very large diesel generator free.

Chief Herbst responded that he does need to place a bronze plaque on the generator stating that it was donated in memory of a friend of the donor.

Mike Hyde asked if the fire district could par back on their request.

Jim Watson stated that grant money doesn't usually get awarded to areas where there is a lot of dissension in the community.

Sandra Bardon stated that this very day she received a letter from her insurance company raising her rates because the levy failed. She would rather pay her money towards the community through a levy increase, as opposed to the insurance company due to higher insurance premiums.

Chief Herbst and Commissioner Garrison responded that Ms. Bardon call her insurance company because our ISO rating has not changed.

Bill Linden asked how many of our volunteers responded to the fire at Seamount Estates on November 23.

Chief Herbst said that there were 5 volunteers plus the fire chief. Two more volunteers were on scene for overhaul.

Jim Boldt stated that he is a Captain from Mason County FPD #17, and he has been a member of the Brinnon Fire Department for about 3 years. He lives in Mason County just across the Mason/Jefferson County line. He feels good about what he is hearing tonight. Mason #17 and Jefferson #4 assist each other and work together. With the economic downturn, there are very few volunteers around during the day. Mason #17 will respond with mutual aid whenever possible. In his position, he works with a number of different fire chiefs. Chief Herbst is a stickler for safety, and he appreciates that. Mr. Boldt has seen the young people join the department, receive training, and take a leave of absence to join the military. He thanked Brinnon Fire Department for letting him play (serve) with us.

Sue Bond asked how much money we really need. She would like us to lower the request if we possible can.

Chief Herbst said that we need a dollar amount to set the budget. He and Peggy will be creating a budget based on actual needs as opposed to a budget based on money available.

Larry Hartley said that Wayne Schlaefli and Mike Hyde have covered pretty much everything he was going to say. Mr. Hartley said that we have lost about 7 good EMT's in the last year. He does not see the need for paid EMT's. Volunteers can do the job.

Marji Mueller arrived during Larry Hartley's comments.

Commissioner Garrison thanked everyone for attending.

At 8:08 pm, Commissioners Ron Garrison, Ken McEdwards and Meril Smith, and Chief Bob Herbst retired into executive session for a personnel issue. Commissioner Garrison said that the meeting would reconvene at 8:25 pm, and that action may or may not be taken.

At 8:21 pm, the executive session ended. 14 audience members were still in attendance. At 8:25 pm, Commissioner Garrison recalled the meeting to order. Commissioner Garrison announced that no action would be taken.

Commissioner McEdwards made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ware
District Secretary