

JCFPD #4 COMMISSIONERS MEETING

APRIL 14, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Garrison at 7:00 pm. Those present were Commissioner Meril Smith, Chief Bob Herbst, Secretary Peggy Ware, Ben Snyder, Angie Snyder, John Dowd, Dalila Dowd, Sandy Bardon, Elaine Jernberg, Anne Pittman, Mike Sims, Mike Hyde, Wayne Schlaefli, Jim Watson, Sue Bond, Tracy Petrasek, Shawn Moos, Joanie Hendricks, Eric Hendricks, Jasper Hendricks, Uerla Coone, and John Lucky.

Chief Herbst asked to add two items to the agenda under new business: Proposal for non-transport EMS fees, and Proposal for family insurance fee.

Commissioner Garrison announced that Commissioner McEdwards was excused, and would not be in attendance at the meeting due to personal reasons.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009 regular meeting as mailed. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The March 31, 2009 Financial Report was presented to the Commissioners by Secretary Peggy Ware.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the March 31, 2009 Financial Report. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vouchers of \$16,237.80 were presented to the Commissioners. Transfer of funds will be \$16,237.80 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to pay the vouchers in the amount of \$16,237.80, and to transfer \$16,237.80 from the Investment Account into the Cash Account.

Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the April 3, 2009 payroll in the amount of \$9,274.02. Commissioner Garrison 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 Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst reported that Mason County #17 Fire Chief Dave Moore had invited Chief Herbst to speak at a dinner at the Lilliwaup Community Club. Dele Gunnerson was the

Master of Ceremonies at the dinner. Chief Herbst read a “Thank You” from Mr. Gunnerson.

Tami Porkorney from Jefferson County Environmental Health thanked the Brinnon Fire Department for the training burn that they had in the Lazy C. Jefferson County Environmental Health had a structure next to the Dosewallips River in the Lazy C that they wanted removed, so the Fire Department was able to use the structure for live fire training. Ms. Porkorney presented Chief Herbst a framed picture of Fire Department members with the burning structure with a “Thank You” printed at the bottom.

There was no Volunteer Ambulance & Firefighters Association President Report.

The August 2009 EMS Levy @ \$0.50/\$1,000 Resolution adoption has been tabled until May.

Chief Herbst presented a preliminary report on the Fire Districts’ 2009 Washington State Audit. Assistant Audit Manager, Amy Khile, was here in Brinnon last week for the Fire Districts’ three year audit covering 2005 through 2007. The audit covers legislative, administrative, and financial aspects of the Fire District. In the last 21 years, the Fire District has received 7 clean audits with no findings or management letters. Ms. Khile had estimated an audit cost of approximately \$4,500.00, but upon completion has estimated the actual cost of the audit to be approximately half that amount. Ms. Khile attributed this savings to the accurate and efficient record keeping at Fire District #4. Chief Herbst expressed credit and appreciation to Secretary Peggy Ware.

Volunteer Firefighter Lieutenant Pat Lundemo has been released by his doctors to return to active duty as a volunteer firefighter.

Commissioner Meril Smith made a motion to approve Lieutenant Pat Lundemo’s return to active duty as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Brinnon Fire Department.

Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Herbst read a recommendation to accept Danny VanZandt as a 45 day conditional member of the Brinnon Fire Department.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept Danny VanZandt as a 45 day conditional member of the Brinnon Fire Department. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst reported that Mike Sims had submitted a list of 6 questions from the EMS Levy Advisory Group. Initially, Chief Herbst was asked what we would do with the money if the levy passed. Commissioner Garrison asked Chief Herbst to make up a possible sample budget. Over the weekend, Chief Herbst made up a possible sample

budget for the Advisory Group. Chief Herbst explained that this sample budget prompted the list of 6 questions.

Chief Herbst read each individual question and answer.

Chief Herbst explained that there have been some concerns regarding EMS Council documents and agreements. Chief Wilkerson has asked the EMS Council to set aside \$800.00 to retain Attorney Brian Snure to review the EMS Council enabling documents and agreements and to make specific recommendations for restructuring. Mr. Snure has sent a letter to the 5 Jefferson County Fire District's and the EMS Council regarding the fact that he in fact is currently or has previously represented all of the 5 Fire Districts in some way. In his letter, Mr. Snure is requesting that all the entities involved sign off on the letter to acknowledge understanding of the issues discussed in the letter and giving consent to his representation of the EMS Council regarding this issue.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to table this issue until the May regular meeting. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst read Resolution 2009-5 Authorizing payment of monthly payroll prior to commissioner approval.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-5 authorizing payment of monthly payroll prior to commissioner approval. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Chief Herbst read Resolution 2009-6 Authorizing decrease in balance of Advance Travel Expense Revolving Fund.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt Resolution 2009-6 authorizing a decrease in the balance of Advance Travel Expense Revolving Fund. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The Washington Fire Administrative Support Conference is May 4 – 6 in Silverdale.

Secretary Ware has received a registration grant and is requesting commissioner approval to attend the conference.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve Peggy Ware's attendance at the 2009 Washington Fire Administrative Support Conference in Silverdale. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Secretary Ware announced that there will be a retirement party for Lieutenant Jim Wadkins on Friday, April 17 in Port Townsend. There is a poster with details on the bulletin board.

Chief Herbst read a proposal for non-transport EMS fees. The proposal is for an EMS service fee of \$75.00 per call for non-transport.

This will be tabled until next month.

Chief Herbst read a proposal for a family insurance fee. He is still collecting information regarding this proposal.

This will be tabled until next month.

Commissioner Garrison asked for public comment.

Mike Hyde said that Jim Wadkins is retiring, but has said that he would like to stay involved in EMS and the Fire Service and would be happy to come back to Brinnon. Also, the advisory group is trying to come up with a way to get the levy passed. Mr. Hyde said that the people he talks to want to know where the money will be used—they do not want more taxes. Mr. Hyde suggested that we hold off on running the levy for another year because people just do not want to pay more money.

Wayne Schlaefli questioned the \$30,000.00 for Commissioner Stipend in the sample budget. He commented on setting aside money as matching funds for FEMA grants. Chief Herbst said that the budget that was given to the advisory group was just a possible sample budget. It is too early in the year to write a budget with any real accuracy. There are too many variables. Chief Herbst pointed out that in order to receive grants you have to be compliant with the grant requirements. FEMA grants hold the new requirement that all members of the Fire District must have NIMS training at certain levels dependent upon their position in the Fire District.

Commissioner Garrison said that even the volunteers are required to have the training and that if they are willing to get the additional training it would take months.

Jim Watson took exception to a comment by a fellow audience member. Mr. Watson said that the community recently lost the opportunity for a 1 million dollar grant because we could not meet the requirements. Our community needs to pull together and work together. The sarcasm and nit-picking needs to stop.

Commissioner Garrison said that it is very hard to get grants.

Jim Watson said that he is a grant writer, and that it is very hard to be successful in the grant process. Mr. Watson commended the EMS Advisory Group for their efforts in regard to passage of a levy. Also, he commented on the quality of the new members of the Brinnon Fire Department. He announced that audience member Jasper Hendricks has received a two year scholarship to a community college.

Mike Hyde expressed concern about the commissioner's attitude in regard to Jim Wadkins. He praised Mr. Wadkins qualification in regard to EMS services.

Mike Sims said that he had spoken with Jim Wadkins.

Commissioner Garrison said that Mr. Wadkins should come and talk to the Fire Commissioners if he is interested in a position with the Brinnon Fire Department.

Secretary Ware said that several months ago she talked to Jim Wadkins and he told her that he was going back to school to become a respiratory therapist.

Commissioner Garrison said that the advisory committee says that they have talked to a lot of people. Mr. Garrison asked the people in the room to raise their hands if they would vote yes for an EMS Levy. Basically, all the people in the room raised their hands.

Commissioner Garrison specifically asked Mr. Hyde how many people he has talked to, and how many of those people were negative as opposed to positive.

Mike Hyde said that he had talked to 6 or 8 people. Out of that number maybe 2 were yes votes.

Wayne Schlaefli said that back in October the commissioners initially decided to run a Levy Lid Lift in March at \$1.10/\$1,000, and the Levy Advisory Group got the commissioners to change to an EMS Levy cutting the amount in half.

Commissioner Garrison said that the commissioners decided to change to an EMS Levy, but the amount was not cut in half. It is the same amount of money with a one cent difference.

Chief Herbst said that the amount has not changed, but that now we are limited as to how the money is spent. It has to be spent to support EMS. He sees two questions. How much will it cost if it pass's, and how much will it cost if it does not pass? Also, what will be the reaction of the volunteers if the levy fails? Why should a volunteer want to get out of bed at 2:00 am for an emergency call if the community doesn't want to support their efforts? We have the potential to be a job training program. In this day and age, the EMS and Fire Services are expected to do more and more with fewer resources.

Currently in many areas, fire stations are being closed and employees are being laid off.

Chief Herbst said that he really did not want to write the sample budget because it is just too early in the year and there are too many variables.

Sue Bond said that maybe we are trying to give to much information. Maybe the brochure should be simpler. She is talking to people wherever she goes. She wonders about the consequences if the levy fails—will her homeowners insurance go up, will she be able to afford it, or will her homeowners insurance even be offered.

Sandy Bardon stated that we need to pass the levy, and we need to stick together as a community.

Wayne Schlaefli says that the advisory group feels that we need to keep levy talk positive.

Commissioner Garrison said that we need to set a date to work on a flyer. He asked Sue Bond to set a date for a meeting.

Sue Bond asked if the people should know about the consequences if the levy fails.

Wayne Schlaefli said to avoid questions about consequences if the levy fails.

Commissioner Garrison said that he will not lie to the public and he needs to answer their questions.

Commissioner Smith said that we should tell the public what their levy will do for them. Jim Watson said that he recently told someone that Brinnon's common denominator is independence.

Commissioner Garrison said that he needs information from the public.

Wayne Schlaefli said that things should be kept simple and positive.

Dalila Dowd suggested that contact information should be on the flyers if you have questions.

Commissioner Garrison said that he is willing to talk to anyone. The commissioner's phone numbers can be included on the flyers.

Jim Watson asked about Chief Wilson.

Chief Herbst reported on Chief Wilson's condition.

Uerla Coone expressed her appreciation for everything that the Brinnon Fire Department has done for them this past year. The Fire Department has responded to EMS calls, and helped in many other ways.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Garrison seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Ware
District Secretary