

**SPOKANE VALLEY
FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

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REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

January 19, 2010

4:00 P.M.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Human Resources Director Valerie Biladeau led the Board and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman Anderson reported that four of the Commissioners were present. Commissioner Kolby Hanson has an excused absence. Chief Mike Thompson, Deputy Chief Andy Hail, Deputy Chief Larry Rider, Human Resources Director Valerie Biladeau, and Administrative Director Debbie Cox represented Administration.

PRESENTATION:

Chairman Bill Anderson adjourned the meeting to present certificates of appreciation to Rich Munson, Diana Wilhite and Dick Denenny.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Bill Anderson stated the consent agenda included:

1. Approval of Minutes: January 4, 2010
2. Approval of Vouchers #229068-229157 in the total amount of \$1,071,177.41
3. Approval of Vouchers #229158-229221 in the total amount of \$279,563.37
4. Approval of December 2009 payroll in the total amount of \$1,451,307.49

Commissioner Dawson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Nesbitt seconded. Motion carried.

IN THE NEWS:

1. Hazardous Material not Cause of Stench

A Spokesman-Review article was available for review summarizing several calls responded to by the Spokane Valley Fire Department.

2. Week in Review

A second Spokesman-Review article was presented discussing the recent promotions of Fire Marshal Terry Thompson and Fire Inspector Greg Bennett.

3. Minor Calls Keep Firefighters Busy

A final article published in the Spokesman-Review was provided regarding several recent minor calls.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank-You Note from MedStar

Chief Thompson noted that the Department received a thank you letter from MedStar complimenting the Department on their efforts at a recent incident. MedStar stated that the coordination with SVFD resulted in a positive outcome for the patient.

2. Thank-You Note from Volunteers of America – Blanket Drive

Chief Thompson said that the Department received a thank you note from Volunteers of America regarding the blanket drive for Jennifer's Auto. Assistant Fire Marshal Bill Clifford helped significantly with this effort and gathered a total of 529 blankets.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:

1. Budget

Chief Thompson said he had nothing new to report on the budget as it was covered at the January 4, 2010, Commissioner's Meeting.

2. New Admin Facility

Deputy Chief Larry Rider said in October 2008, the Commissioners approved a conceptual drawing of the elevations on the proposed new Administration Building. Last

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winter there was a significant snow event with five feet of snow causing problems with flat roofs. The Administration Building was originally designed with a portion of the roof flat. The drawings have been revised to include a pitched roof and an increased snow load. Architect Dave Lindquist presented the new drawings of the Administration Building to the Board and those in attendance.

Deputy Chief Rider said that there has been discussion regarding utilization of the basement in the new Administration Building. The plan is to use the basement at Station 1 for document storage. Chief Thompson added that Administrative Director D Cox has researched the State Archives in Cheney to store older documents off site. Deputy Chief Rider said the basement of the new Administration Building will be mostly usable space.

In the new building, the basement (with daylight windows) will house the IS Department, workout room, gun safe, and evidence room (with exterior entrance). There will be about seven unoccupied offices between the basement and second floor for future growth. The main floor will house the Prevention Offices, Commissioner's Meeting Room, public spaces and restrooms. It was noted that the Prevention Offices can be secured from the public spaces. The Administration Offices will be on the second floor with entry through the reception area. The Receptionist will provide access to the elevator. Deputy Chief Rider said the Department should have solid floor plans in the next couple of weeks. Commissioner Nesbitt inquired about security concerns at the new Administration Building and Deputy Chief Rider stated that they continue to look at security issues. Brief discussion followed. The Commissioners agreed to go ahead with the plans.

Deputy Chief Rider said the Station 10 plan review should be tomorrow. Station 10 will go to bid on February 16, 2010. A special meeting will be held on March 8, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. to open the bids and the bid will be awarded at the regular Commissioner's meeting on March 22, 2010.

3. State Legislation

Chief Thompson received information last week from the Washington Fire Commissioners Association regarding certain legislation. The Executive Director for the Washington Fire Commissioners Association talked about some of the implications and concerns of this legislation. On Friday, Chief Thompson received copies of legislation that the Washington Fire Chiefs are monitoring. Chief Thompson will be tracking those and providing periodic updates. The first is an ongoing issue developing a statewide haz-mat response system. The second issue concerns the enhanced 911 system. Spokane County was selected as one of three counties in the state of Washington to get the new

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enhanced 911 system. This is a pilot study funded through state 911 dollars and includes the use of new technology.

4. WFCA – 2010 Legislative Report

This item discussion was included in Administration Remarks #3 State Legislation.

5. Cost Per Mile Summary

Chief Thompson presented the end of the year report. It provides the Department with the cost of maintenance per mile and takes into consideration maintenance, repairs and fuel costs. The final amount is the cost per mile to operate that particular piece of equipment. If a vehicle becomes expensive to operate, it may need to be replaced. Discussion followed.

6. Strategic Initiatives Committees

Chief Thompson asked the Commissioners if they would like to participate in the Loyalty Effect Committee or the Mission Statement Committee. Commissioner Dawson and Commissioner Nesbitt will serve on the Loyalty Committee; Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Schmidt will serve on the Mission Statement Committee. Chief Thompson will provide information to the Commissioners.

7. 2009 Accomplishments

Chief Thompson gave an overview of the Department's 2009 accomplishments. He provided a copy of the breakdown by position presented at the All Officer's Meeting held earlier in the day. Several items were added to the accomplishment list at that meeting. Chief Thompson will update the list and bring it back to the Commissioners at a later date.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

1. First Reading – Fire Commissioner Board – Chair Term

Chief Thompson stated that a draft policy has been prepared for a first reading regarding limiting the number of terms for the Chairperson. He asked for any suggestions or recommendations. Commissioner Dawson stated that he is in favor of the policy but made

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a motion to amend by addition. His motion to amend by addition would add the following sentence:

"In the event of extenuating circumstances deemed valid by the board, this policy may be suspended by a majority vote of the Board of Commissioners."

Commissioner Nesbitt seconded the motion. Commissioner Dawson stated his reasoning is that the board should not be in a position where they are without options. Commissioner Schmidt said that he would like to see the resolution adopted as it is, and it could be changed later if there are special circumstances. Commissioner Dawson noted that to change the policy at a later date, the policy would again have to go through two readings. If this wording is added to the policy today the Commissioners could act immediately. Discussion followed.

Commissioners Anderson, Nesbitt, and Dawson voted "Aye" to amend by addition. Commissioner Schmidt voted "Nay." Motion carried three to one.

Commissioner Dawson moved that the policy with amendment be moved to a second reading. Commissioner Nesbitt seconded the motion. Commissioners Anderson, Nesbitt and Dawson voted "Aye." Commissioner Schmidt voted "Nay." Motion carried three to one.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ANNOUNCEMENT:

The next regular Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2010, at 4 p.m. at Station 8.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Bill Anderson
Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners

BA/mdr