

**SPOKANE VALLEY
FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

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REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

February 16, 2010

5:30 P.M.

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bill Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Bill Anderson led the Board and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

Chairman Bill Anderson called a recess at 5:31 p.m. for the promotion ceremony of John Nelson and David Baird. Chairman Anderson called the meeting back in session at 5:44 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Chairman Bill Anderson, Commissioner Joe Dawson, and Commissioner Monte Nesbitt were present. Commissioner Ron Schmidt and Commissioner Kolby Hanson were excused. Chief Mike Thompson, Deputy Chief Larry Rider, Deputy Chief Andy Hail, Human Resources Director Valerie Biladeau, and Administrative Director Debbie Cox represented Administration.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Bill Anderson stated the consent agenda included:

1. Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2010
2. Approval of Vouchers #229364 - #229419 in the total amount of \$101,278.28
3. Approval of Vouchers #229420 - #229421 in the total amount of \$1,076.00
4. Approval of January 2010 payroll in the amount of \$1,626,843.94

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

IN THE NEWS:

1. Fire Blamed on Heat Tape in Pipe

Chief Thompson said homeowners had recently placed heat tape in their gutter drain and excess tape was bunched up at the end of the pipe ultimately catching fire. Nearby wood and shrubs also caught fire but, fortunately there was not much damage. Assistant Fire Marshal Bill Clifford was quoted in the article suggesting precautions be taken when using heat tape.

2. Dog Owners Must Handle Some Odor Problems

Chief Thompson reviewed an article regarding a dog that had been sprayed by a skunk. Although crews could do little to assist the homeowners and their dog, Assistant Fire Marshal Bill Clifford advised the use of hydrogen peroxide or tomato juice to help with the smell.

3. Council Adopts County's Plan on Homelessness

Chief Thompson presented an article reviewing a recent Millwood City Council Meeting. Millwood's City Attorney informed the council that the Cities Insurance Association of Washington (CIAW) is under investigation due to possible inappropriate financial practices. The CIAW is the public entity risk pool that provides Millwood with property and liability insurance coverage. The City of Millwood may decide to find an alternate insurance program.

Captain Jeff Bordwell gave the Millwood City Council an overview on the Risk Assessment and Standards of Coverage. Deputy Chief Hail gave a summary of the annual report on runs in the Millwood area. Chief Thompson said the Department's Fire Prevention Bureau has been working with the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau to get Millwood's rating lowered from a 4 to a 3. They should be able to get the rating lowered this spring.

Deputy Chief Hail said the Opticom system being installed in the Millwood Fire Station will control two intersections: the intersection to the north at Euclid and Argonne, and the intersection to the south at Grace and Argonne. It is a wireless system with a push button in the apparatus. The southbound traffic will be stopped at Euclid and the northbound traffic will be stopped at Grace for thirty-four seconds to allow fire trucks to gain access to Argonne Road.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Thank-You Card from the Nichols Family

Chief Thompson said the Department received a thank you card from the Nichols family. Deputy Chief Hail added a cover letter as the card thanked not only SVFD personnel but also an AMR unit and the CCC. The family was most appreciative of the

response they received on Christmas Eve even though the outcome was not positive the next morning.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:

1. WFCA Legislative Report – February 5, 2010

Chief Thompson spoke with the local auditor regarding a bill that requires the Department publish a voters pamphlet every time there is a special levy on the ballot. This bill is still in committee. Chief Thompson sent an e-mail to the local legislators stating that the Department is not in favor of this bill due to the cost that would be incurred to provide the pamphlet. Commissioner Dawson said the County Auditor estimated it would cost an additional \$25,000 for each election. Another bill would increase the number of words allowed on the ballot for a levy which would require the Department to provide some sort of financial or fiscal analysis on the impact of the levy. The bill that would give departments the ability to collect impact fees on new development is still alive, moving through the process, and stands a chance of being approved. There are about four weeks left in this legislative session.

2. Ambulance Interlocal – 2nd Amendment

Chief Thompson said the Department is still in negotiations with AMR. There may not be sufficient time to complete negotiations by the end of the extension on March 31st. At the next meeting Chief Thompson will bring a staff report providing options on extending the Department's involvement in the interlocal. Commissioner Nesbitt said the County Fire Commissioners Association is having a special meeting on February 25, 2010, to receive a presentation from the Ambulance Service Board discussing the service contract. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the City Fire Training auditorium.

3. CPR Totals for 2009

Chief Thompson reviewed a report produced by Battalion Chief Randy Olson showing the number of people trained at the CPR classes each year. In 2009, 195 people were trained in adult CPR and 12 people were trained in infant CPR. The class schedule has been revised so that multiple classes will be scheduled one Saturday per month instead of on Thursday evenings.

4. EAP Utilization Report

Administrative Director Debbie Cox presented the EAP summary provided to the Department from the EAP Program. The EAP Program is now providing five quarters of

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data instead of four. The Department's utilization rate is 21.8%, which is higher than the normal standard of about 3% to 5%. Most of the contacts were cases that were reopened. The employees accounted for 78.9% of the program users. One hundred percent of the program users said they initiated their own referral, which means that they used the program once, were satisfied with the results, then used the program again.

5. Request for Letter of Support

Chief Thompson added this item to the agenda. The City of Spokane Valley has asked the Department for a letter of support. The City is trying to obtain funding for a railroad overpass over Barker Road. There will also be some realignment of the roads. The letter is being drafted, and if the Board agrees, the letter will be forwarded to Chairman Anderson for signature. The Commissioners agreed to send the letter of support.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Station 10 Construction – Out to Bid

Chief Thompson requested permission from the Commissioners to advertise a request for bid for the construction of Station 10 on Thursday or Friday of this week. The city asked for a few minor revisions on the plans with respect to the swales. It will go out to bid this week, and the bids will be opened at a special meeting on March 8, 2010. The contract will be awarded at the regular Commissioner's Meeting on March 15, 2010.

Commissioner Dawson moved to approve the staff advertising the request for bid for the construction of Fire Station 10. Commissioner Nesbitt seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Commissioner Nesbitt thanked Fire District 9 Commissioner Strasburg for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for their patience with adjusting the meeting time to 5:30 to allow attendance of retired Battalion Chief Bill Jones' memorial service.

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ANNOUNCEMENT:

There will be a special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners on Monday, March 8, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. to open the Station 10 bids.

The next regular Board of Fire Commissioners meeting will be held on Monday, March 1, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at Station 8.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Bill Anderson
Chairman
Board of Fire Commissioners

BA/mdr