

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Penny Farcy Training Center
March 21, 2006

Commissioner Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and announced that the Executive Session would be the first agenda item.

Welcoming Remarks

All who wished stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The District Secretary took roll call; Commissioners present were Sommers, Jennings, Nielsen, Hoffmann, and Turner.

Commissioner Jennings moved to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (f) to review and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee and RCW 42.30.110 (g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee for 30 minutes. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

The Executive Session started at 7:35 PM.

Commissioner Nielsen came back at 8:05 PM and announced that the Executive Session would last another 30 minutes.

Commissioner Sommers called the meeting to order at 8:35 PM. No decisions were made. Commissioner Jennings left due to illness.

Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve the minutes for February 21, March 4, 7 and 14, 2006 as presented. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Sommers, Nielsen, Hoffmann and Turner. No one opposed.

Commissioner Turner asked that Meeting Minutes and Strategic Plan be on next meeting agenda.

Volunteer Representative Comments

Charles Krimmert stated that the volunteers had no comment.

Paid Staff Representative Comments

Randy Tonkin had no comment.

Public Comments on Non-agenda Items

Hilary Emmer asked Chief Wilson about the 99 hours of overtime at the last meeting and he said that he would look into this. She has not heard back and would like someone to comment on the issue.

Commissioner Sommers said that the overtime was due to vacations and two paramedics in school.

Commissioner Nielsen said that 99 hours of overtime was only 4 twenty-four shifts.

Mike Kirk asked what the status of Chief Wilson was. Commissioner Sommers said that the Chief was out for a few days.

Alice Larson reminded people of an incident where she was threatened at a meeting in front of several people. The Fire Chief at the time did not take any action and the Board refused to take action. There has been a history of threats here at the Fire District.

Jolene Lamb said that as usual Chief Wilson had no regard for the SOG's. He uses District property for personal use. On his District phone voice-mail Chief Wilson he says if you are calling for personal reasons call his cell phone which is a District cell phone.

Casey Westphal asked who was currently in charge of the Department. Commissioners stated that Assistant Chief Fowler was in charge.

Crag Beles said that there was an on going investigation. Some staff are concerned about retaliation if they speak up.

Commissioner Hoffmann said there is a policy against retaliation and he will follow the policy.

Commissioner Turner said that at the Dockton meeting three people raised concerns about retaliation.

Jan Nielsen posed the question whether a threat is a warning or is a warning a threat. He stated that as far as he is concerned, a warning is a threat and that from what he sees, if you speak up you pay.

Commissioner Sommers said she was supportive of people being able to speak and be free to say anything they want.

Carl Sells said this sounds like it should be addressed in writing by Board members.

Commissioner Hoffmann believes that anybody should be able and say anything they want.

David Dodge stated that the Board should know that the District has a non retaliation policy.

Commissioner Nielsen read from the SOG book. Commissioner Nielsen moved to follow the SOG policies. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Commissioners voting no were Sommers and Hoffmann. Commissioners Turner and Nielsen voted in favor. The motion did not pass.

Jolene Lamb said that volunteers have talked to her about the Fire District retaliating against them.

Patty Kirk, a volunteer, stated that at the end of the last meeting a firefighter asked who was in charge of this District and Commissioner Turner answered Chief Wilson. Just a few moments ago it was acknowledged that Chief Fowler was in charge. Since Chief Wilson has not been around for the last week when did the power switch occur?

Commissioner Hoffmann stated that anytime Chief Wilson was not at the District Chief Fowler was in charge.

Don Munro stated that he appreciates the staff paid and volunteers who save lives. He said he would like to read the letter that will be in the Beachcomber tomorrow.

Commissioner Sommers said that he had two minutes for his public comment.

Don Munro said he brought six people here who are concerned about the Fire District. He decided that he didn't want to read the letter since it is insulting to the six of them to be treated like this and stated that this is a very upsetting event. He stated that the dysfunctionality of this organization is destructive to the organization.

Commissioner Hoffman said that we are trying to move in a positive direction.

Marilyn Omev said that the letter has been available.

Approval of Vouchers

Commissioner Turner moved to approve the vouchers below. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer required by RCW 42.24.080 and those expenses reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on the listing which has been made available to the Board. As of this date March 21, 2006 the Board does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above.

Vouchers 300036 – 300090 for the amount of \$4,800.00

Vouchers 300091 – 300118 for the amount of \$40857.95

Vouchers 300119 – 300142 for the amount of \$59,968.49

Operations Report

Chief Fowler reported that there had been 63 calls for service since the last meeting. Of those 63 calls 30 were EMS related. Two patients were air Lift NW transports, two were private vehicle transports (their own vehicle), and 6 were not transported. Four patients were transported by IEC and 16 transported by the District.

Mike Kirk asked if the District was keeping a record of patients who asked to be transported by the District.

Chief Fowler said that could be done and that there was a running log on transports already kept.

Finance Report

Finance Director Matt Sullivan reported on the January 2006 financials.

Commissioner Sommers tabled the Reserve Presentation until the next meeting.

Old Business

Complaint filed against Jolene Lamb

Chief Fowler stated that he thought the complaint filed against Jolene Lamb had been resolved.

Jolene Lamb said that there is a public document that accuses her of a crime and she would like an apology or a statement saying that she didn't do it.

Commissioner Hoffmann moved that with the new information the District will do further investigation Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Commissioner Nielsen voted no, Commissioners Sommers, Hoffmann, and Turner voted yes.

Cari Coll said that this issue was concluded, they talked about it in Executive Session and came back and decided not to do anything.

Jolene Lamb said that it is utterly ridiculous that a Commissioner would let an employee make a false accusation against her.

Volunteer David Dodge said you can't talk about discipline during a public meeting.

Letter of Understanding – IEC

Commissioner Turner said that the Letter of Understanding between IEC and the District was in the hands of IEC's attorney.

Ladder Truck

Commissioner Turner prepared a presentation about the cost of the ladder truck and the additional amount that would be needed to put the Ladder Truck into service. Commissioner Turner moved to transfer \$165,372.64, which includes \$24,922.64 for the money spent on the acquisition of land, \$40,380.00 for to license the ladder truck, and \$100,000 to outfit the ladder truck. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion.

Alice Larson said that Chief Wilson said that the ladder truck would only cost the District \$40,000.

Commissioner Nielsen said that things changed, like deciding not to sell the old truck and not use equipment from the old truck. We also changed the specs on the vehicle.

Daron Buxton said that if it were his decision he would take all the equipment off truck E551 for the Ladder Truck. We have new tenders that are equipped and are used as backup engines. See how much E551 engine has been used.

Commissioners voting in favor to transfer the funds from the Reserve Fund to the Expense Account were Sommers, Nielsen, Hoffmann and Turner. No one opposed.

Surplus Engine E551

Commissioner Turner was willing to table this to look at the issue further and this was tabled.

SOG 2021 – Vacation Accrual

Commissioner Turner moved to approve SOG 2021 as presented. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Sommers, Nielsen, Hoffmann, and Turner. No one opposed.

New Business

Commissioner Comments: none

For the Good of the Order: no announcements

Commissioner Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Sommers, Nielsen, Hoffmann, and Turner. No one opposed. The meeting ended at 9:30 PM

Maridee BonaDea
District Secretary