

**Vashon Island Fire & Rescue**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Penny Farcy Training Center**  
April 4, 2006

Commissioner Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Welcoming Remarks

All who wished stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes

Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve the minutes for March 21 and 28, 2006 as amended. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Nielsen, Hoffmann, Turner and Sommers. Commissioner Jennings abstained. The motion passed.

Additions to agenda

Sommers added under new business potential statement for the Board to review. The Commissioners agreed to remove Jolene Lamb's complaint, strategic plan, meeting minutes and police officer at meetings from the agenda.

Volunteer Representative Comments

Amelia Watson of the Firefighters Association had no comment.

Paid Staff Representative Comments

Daron Buxton representing the paid staff had no comment.

Approval of Vouchers

Commissioner Turner moved to approve the vouchers listed 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 April 4, 2006 the Board does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above and including payroll expenses of \$159,400.68.

Vouchers 300143 – 300161 for the amount of \$5,714.14

Vouchers 300162 – 300176 for the amount of \$22,177.86

Vouchers 400000 – 400015 for the amount of \$15,775.77

## Public Comments on Non-agenda Items

Charles Krimmert was sorry that the agenda had been changed. He said that many of these people may have come to hear those agenda items.

Commissioner Sommers asked if anybody had come to hear the discussion on any of the agenda items that were dropped. No one spoke up.

Commissioner Jennings clarified the agenda item on Jolene Lamb's complaint.

Tim Sullivan, a former Commissioner, expressed his profound dissatisfaction and disappointment with the Board particularly Commissioners Hoffmann and Turner. He said that since they have come on board they have made dumb decisions with respect to turning down a grant and turning down an opportunity to locate a new fire station. Now I have read in the paper that the Fire Chief is on leave. I suspect that I speak for the majority of the Community when I say that they would like to see Commissioners' heads roll.

Patti Kirk, a volunteer and EMT for 30 years, read a statement directed at Commissioners Turner, Hoffmann and Sommers stating that she was embarrassed by the actions taken by them as Commissioners. Their lack of communication with other Commissioners, with the members of Vashon Island Fire and Rescue, and the Vashon Community. I would like you to explain your skills at communicating Jim Wilson's absence. When asked who was in charge you said Chief Wilson. A week later you said the Chief was off for a couple of days. The Commissioners have lived up to their label of dysfunctional. I would like each Commissioner to respond.

Commissioner Turner said that when he left that meeting Chief Wilson was in charge.

Commissioner Hoffmann stated that in the Chief's absence Assistant Chief Fowler was in charge.

Commissioner Jennings said that when dealing with an issue like this even though he disagrees, there has to be some subtleties. Commissioner Jennings agreed that there could be better communication.

Carl Sells, an eleven year resident, recognizes that the Commissioners are volunteers and represent him. He wanted to thank the Commissioners for the hard job that they are taking on. He realizes that there was going to be a lot of conflict but thought that they were doing a good job of trying to resolve the issues that have come up in the Fire District over the last five years.

Amelia Watson, island volunteer, read a statement addressed to Commissioner Turner. She said that Commissioner Turner was quoted by the Beachcomber that he don't terminate he trained. How has the process of terminating the Chief over the last two weeks met his goals?

Mike Kirk do you have a timeline or plan to hire someone that involves staff and/or community in the hiring process.

Commissioner Sommers stated that there were two issues here one are the plans to hire an interim chief and the other are plans for someone permanent that will involve the community, volunteers and staff. This will be discussed more in executive session tonight.

Commissioner Jennings said yes he would like to involve the volunteers and staff during the hiring

process.

Commissioner Nielsen stated that he would like to include firefighters both paid and volunteers, and members of the community during the hiring process.

Charlie Backus said he needed some background and asked when Chief Wilson's last evaluation was.

Commissioner Jennings stated that Chief Wilson's last evaluation was in September 2004.

Charlie Backus asked what the results were of that evaluation.

Commissioners Jennings responded that the evaluation was largely positive. Commissioner Jennings said that his biggest complaint was that Chief Wilson was too nice and did not show sufficient leadership when discipline was needed.

Commissioner Nielsen said that Chief Wilson did get a raise after that evaluation.

Charlie Backus asked when Chief Wilson's next scheduled evaluation was.

Commissioner Jennings responded that Chief Wilson's next scheduled evaluation was to be September 2005. Commissioner Nielsen said that the evaluation was postponed so that the new Board could do the evaluation and it was never done. We have had members of this new Board out recruiting interim Chiefs without the rest of the Board aware of their actions.

Charlie Backus asked if there was firing without cause or if the Board was going to do an evaluation.

Commissioner Sommers said that was a personnel issue and was not for public discussion.

Candy McCullough, volunteer, wanted to respond to the process. Both of the last two promotions did not involve open recruitment nor the staff or the community. The promotions were done through the back door for both Assistant Chief Fowler and Battalion Chief Whitney. She thinks in an interim basis we need to just get a Chief. When we hire a permanent Chief we do need to follow a process.

Joe Ulatoski said that some people here have more information than the rest of us. We hear gossip and what we read in the Beachcomber.

Commissioner Sommers stated that Chief Wilson retired yesterday and said that she would be happy to talk to Joe Ulatoski individually.

Casey Westphal asked if Commissioner Sommers had met with the Officers of the District to determine the needs and status of the Districts service to the community.

Allan Wrestler asked how much it cost the taxpayers for the Chief to retire.

Tammy Dunakin, an island resident for 24 years and a former King County Paramedic, said she wanted to give thanks to the Board and to the new people on the Board that are being attacked. She has been appalled at how the District has been run for the last five years and the complete lack of support of former volunteers. She does not believe that Mr. Sullivan speaks for me or the majority of the community.

Commissioner Sommers thanked everyone for their comments.

### Operations Report

Assistant Chief Fowler addressed Candy McCullough's comment on being hired through the back door. He reported in the operations report that there had been 45 calls; 24 were EMS incidents; out of the 24 one was transport by IEC, one by Airlift NW, five by medics, two private vehicle, and six were not transported leaving nine BLS transports. Assistant Chief Fowler reported that the Norwalk Virus was going around in the community and gave the signs and symptoms to look out for.

### Reserve Presentation

Maridee BonaDea gave a presentation on Reserve Fund guidelines and management.

### Old Business

#### Engine E551

Commissioner Turner moved to remove engine E551 from Resolution 05-281 and retain engine E551 in a ready reserve status. Assistant Chief Fowler said that engine E55 is out of service and E551 is being used while it is out of service so retaining E551 would be a good idea. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion.

Commissioner Nielsen asked about the cost of keeping E551 in service condition. He went on to say we will be forgoing the \$40,000 we would get from selling E551 and will have to spend \$40,000 on equipment that we were going to get from E551 for the ladder truck. If we do not need the \$15,000 to change the exhaust system that comes to \$65,000 to keep E551.

Joel Wade asked why the District was trying to come up with a cost of something that the District already owned.

Hilary Emmer said that the purpose was to come up with what the ladder truck is costing the District.

Commissioner Jennings asked what Assistant Chief Fowler's, and Maintenance Supervisor Brett Kranjevich's recommendations were for E551.

Assistant Chief Fowler said that Brett and his recommendations were to keep E551.

All Commissioners voted in favor

### SOG 1030 – Citizen Corps Council

Commissioner Nielsen moved to approve SOG 1030 – Citizen Corp Council as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

## New Business

Commissioner Sommers presented a statement that Joe Quinn had talked about last night in executive session. Commissioner Jennings moved to accept the joint statement between the Board of Commissioners and Jim Wilson. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the motion.

All Commissioners voted in favor.

Commissioners Sommers read the statement.

## Commissioner Comments

### For the Good of the Order

Commissioner Hoffmann moved to adjourn to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (f) to receive 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. The Executive Session will 30 last minutes and a decision may be made. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

The Executive Session started at 8:38 PM.

Commissioner Sommers called the meeting back to order at 9:08 PM.

Commissioner Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

The meeting ended at 9:12 PM.

Maridee BonaDea  
District Secretary