

**Vashon Island Fire & Rescue**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Penny Farcy Training Center**  
July 18, 2006

Commissioner Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Commissioners present were Sommers Jennings, Nielsen, Hoffmann, and Turner.

Welcoming Remarks

All who wished stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the minutes for June 20, 2006 as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Amendments to Agenda

Commissioner Sommers removed Review of Agenda Items, and Mission Statement; she added Budget Process, and Police officer at meetings.

Commissioner Jennings added establishing a structure for the District's Chaplain program, reinstating a weekly Chief's Report and condensing the minutes.

Volunteer Representative Comments

Charles Krimmert thanked Commissioner Hoffmann for attending the Association meeting.

Paid Staff Representative Comments

Cari Coll stated that there was no comment.

Public Comments on Non-agenda Items

Hilary Emmer said that Chief Wilson was found guilty by the Public Disclosure Commissioner (PDC) and fined \$500. According to the PDC he spent more than \$5,000 of the District's money. She believes that the Board should start procedures to get the money back.

Commissioner Jennings stated that in Chief Wilson's separation agreement the District agreed to waive any claims against Jim Wilson. This would be a question for legal counsel.

Jolene Lamb stated that when the first two paramedics were sent to school they were obligated to work for the District for three years. Jim Whitney did not work for Vashon Island and Rescue for three years after his paramedic training and should be asked to reimburse the District for his training.

Rick Frye agreed with Hilary Emmer and also encouraged the Board to try to recover the \$5,000 spent by

Jim Wilson. That was indicative of how the old Board and management conducted business, said Rick Frye. Jim Wilson in the Beachcomber article claimed he received legal counsel that the newsletter in questions was within the law. Rick Frye asked the Board to look into that advice. Rick Frye wanted to support Keith Yamane for the permanent Fire Chief position.

Commissioner Nielsen informed Mr. Frye that his two minutes were up.

### Approval of Vouchers

Commissioner Hoffmann moved to approve the vouchers below. Commissioner Turner 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, June 20, 2006, the Board does approve for payment those vouchers included below. Including payroll expenses of \$ 152,232.01.

Vouchers 600123 – 600140 for the amount of \$23,846.21  
Vouchers 700000 – 700026 for the amount of \$29,165.80  
Vouchers 700027 – 700053 for the amount of \$46,375.98  
Vouchers 700054 – 700082 for the amount of \$123,797.30  
Vouchers 700083 – 700130 for the amount of \$5,170.00

### Chief's Report

Chief Yamane reported that volunteers Rick Brown and Charles Krimmert put there names in for open officer positions. Charles Krimmer withdrew. Rick Brown was promoted to Lieutenant at Station 56 and Captain Robert Larsen will temporarily go to Station 55 temporarily because at present there are no officers at that station.

The Recruit Academy graduation will be on July 22, 2006 at 10 AM in the bay at Station 55.

Chief Yamane thanked Mike and Patty Kirk for all their work at Strawberry Festival. Their long hours helped make it a success.

We received a letter from King County Zone 3 Training Officers commending Chief Kirk for his hard work and participation in the Zone 3 joint drills. Also there was a thank-you note from Leone Chesledon for the help she received from Captain Larsen who went out to her house to verify her property address.

Assistant Chief Fowler reported that there were 121 alarms for June, 2006. Out of the 121 calls 59 were EMS and 8 of those were trauma, two were motor vehicle accidents, leaving 48 that were medical only. We had just one fire call. We are moving into the dry season with the possibility of wildfires both here on Vashon and in Eastern Washington. IEC had nine transports and Airlift NW had none.

A burn ban will take effect Thursday, July 20, 2006 morning.

## Finance Report

Matt Sullivan the Finance Director gave a mid year budget report. Included in the Commissioner Packet were two reports from mid-year 2005 and mid-year 2006 for comparison. Mr. Sullivan reported that if you subtract the Ladder Truck expenses, expenses were on target for mid-year 2006.

Commissioner Nielsen asked when the Ladder Truck was going to be going into service. Assistant Chief Fowler responded about one month.

Mr. Sullivan reported that the District will be receiving a new medic unit this week.

Commissioner Turner was concerned about the paramedic overtime. Assistant Chief Fowler stated that in August two paramedics will be out of school and on shift. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that although Paramedic Overtime is at 201% of the budget, Shift Paramedics are only at 40.81%, which is 9% under budget.

Jolene Lamb asked where the expense for the per diem paramedics go? District Secretary BonaDea answered that these expenses go under Shift Paramedics.

Rick Frye said that the public was told that the District's share of the ladder truck was quoted as \$41,000 and now that figure is over \$200,000. District Secretary BonaDea responded that the expense figure does not reflect the grant revenue, only the expenses. When all the expenses are paid a final report will be presented.

## Old Business

### Training Officer Search

Chief Yamane reported that Chief Kirk has been working on a Training Officer job description. When the job description is done the hiring timeline and testing process will be planned. Commissioner Turner asked if Chief Yamane has decided to hire from within or go outside the District.

Commissioner Jennings responded that both District employees and people from outside the District should have the opportunity to apply.

Jolene Lamb stated that if the folks on the inside are qualified they can apply and test just like people from outside the District. She recalled that in the past District members have gotten extra points in the testing process for being a member of the District.

### Executive Search Firm

Finance Director Matt Sullivan had collected five proposals from search firms for the Fire Chief position.

Commissioner Jennings asked what the cost would be for a search firm.

Mr. Sullivan stated that search firms will tailor the project to do what ever the Board wants and the cost will reflect those services requested. The price ranges from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

Commissioner Jennings asked what a full service search would cover. Matt Sullivan responded that the search firm would come out for community meetings, national search, statewide search, all the recruiting and screening. One search firm guarantees that the person would be in the position for two years.

Bobby Lewis asked if the search firm was for hunting for a new Chief. He asked if the Board and employees were satisfied with Chief Yamane.

Commissioner Nielsen said that the Board hired Keith Yamane as Interim Chief and he encourages Chief Yamane to apply for the job when the application process opens. The Board made a commitment to go through an open public process to hire the next Chief and Commissioner Nielsen said he was committed to that process.

Bobby Lewis asked why the District was spending money to search for someone if we, the community and the District, were satisfied with Chief Yamane.

Commissioner Hoffmann said that he was in a dilemma. The Commissioners made a commitment to conduct an open public search for the next Chief but he feels Chief Yamane is the right person for the job. He believes that it is not fiscally responsible to spend a lot of money on the hiring process.

Commissioner Sommers said when the Board hired Chief Yamane as the interim Chief the process was quick, it did not involve the public or staff in that process. Commissioner Sommers would like to see an open process that involves people, both members of the public, and staff. If there is a majority on the Board, a majority of staff and a majority of the community that want to hire Chief Yamane on a permanent basis than she is supports that. She feels the District owes it to the community to go through the steps of an open process to hire the next Fire Chief.

Commissioner Turner said that there is a petition with 102 names requesting that the District hire Keith Yamane as Fire Chief. The average cost to hire a search firm would be \$22,000. We made a commitment to have an open process I would like to go ahead to do the open public process. I am opposed to spending money for a search firm.

Commissioner Sommers suggested that the District do a search without using a search firm.

George Eustice said that we have a known commodity, no matter what kind of search you do, you come up with an unknown. Mr. Eustice has heard that the Volunteers and the public like Chief Yamane.

Commissioner Jennings thought that Chief Yamane would welcome the public process. The District has been racked with criticism for not following process. It would be good for the District to go through a public process and come out a healthier organization. In fairness to Keith Yamane and the community we need to go through that process.

Jolene Lamb stated that the Board promised an open public process in hiring the next Chief. How does using a search firm to find a Chief satisfy that promise?

Assistant Chief Mike Kirk shared how the School district has over the years developed a process to hire a Superintendent and we can learn from their process.

Commissioner Nielsen said that in the next few meetings he hopes to come up with a process. He voiced his support for Keith Yamane in applying and hopes he comes out shining in the process.

Rick Frye would like the Board to consider Keith Yamane's past here at the District and that he is a man who puts his money where his mouth is.

Cari Coll said that this is not a personality issue but a process issue and there should not be a name associated with the process.

Commissioner Turner asked if anybody here wanted to be on the committee and work with Matt Sullivan to come up with a process.

Commissioner Sommers volunteered to be on the committee and would like to consult with Rick Wallace, Mimi Walker, Mike Kirk and maybe some ex-school Board members. Commissioner Nielsen volunteered to be on the committee too.

Paul Stoddard asked that the petition be read.

Rick Frye asked to have the petition be part of the public process.

Mission Statement Commissioner Nielsen wanted the mission statement to be simple. His suggestion the following; Vashon Island Fire & Rescue serves the community to the best of its ability.

#### Police Office at Commissioner Meeting

Commissioner Sommers asked the Board if they wanted to continue having a Police officer at Commissioner meetings.

Commissioner Jennings said that some meetings called for a Police officer to attend and others didn't.

The Commissioners agreed to let the Administration make the decision on what meetings to have a Police officer present.

#### New Business

##### Amended Fire Chief Contract

Chief Yamane presented an amendment to his Interim Fire Chief contract that allows him to take some Fridays off to spend time with his family. Commissioner Jennings moved to adopt the amendment as presented. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the motion. All commissioners voted in favor.

##### Reserve Transfers

Commissioner Jennings moved to transfer \$55,500 from Unallocated reserve to the Fire-Aid Equipment reserve. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner moved to transfer \$110,000 from the Personnel Reserve Fund to the Expense Fund. Commissioner Hoffman seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Turner, Hoffmann, and

Sommers. Commissioner Nielsen and Jennings abstained.

### Review of Budget Schedule

Commissioner Sommers proposed to break down the budget and go over it cost center by cost center at several different Commissioner meetings.

Commissioner Jennings had two concerns; one was the requirement for the District to hold a public hearing meeting before approving the budget; and the other was if people are interested in going over the budget they will have to come to three meetings.

Commissioner Sommers would like to vote on the budget in pieces as well.

Commissioner Nielsen said that the line items can be amended during the process and can be finalized at the last review.

Rick Frye said that voting as you go may not be the best idea. Something voted on may change when looking at other budget items and you may want to change something later.

Finance Director Matt Sullivan will bring a proposal to the next meeting.

### District Chaplain Policy

Commissioner Jennings said that the District does not have a policy on what the Chaplain duties and expectations are and the District needs to formulate this. He also said that the duties and expectations of association members are not clear either.

Rick Frye said that the District should open up the Chaplain job to include other Chaplains.

### Weekly Chief's Report

Commissioner Jennings liked having a weekly written report from the Chief on significant incidents. This keeps the Commissioners informed between meetings.

Jolene Lamb asked if the Chief's report was a public document.

Commissioner Jennings said that in the past the Chief's reports were written as public documents.

### Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jennings shared his concerns on how long the minutes were, along with the cost and time that goes into them.

Commissioner Turner does not feel the need for detailed notes.

Commissioner Nielsen said that the concern was the time spent on the minutes. At the conference he went to recently he asked other Districts what they did and all they said that they only recorded the decisions in their minutes.

Jolene Lamb read in the paper that the Community Council meetings were being recorded by the Voice of Vashon.

Commissioner Sommers said that Dan Schueler has offered to lend us a video camera to video the Commissioner meetings.

Commissioner Nielsen moved to summarize the minutes until someone complains. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Turner, Nielsen, and Jennings. Commissioners voting no were Hoffmann and Sommers.

#### Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Sommers will be attending the King County EMS levy meeting and wanted comments to take to the meeting. Chief Yamane said that the meeting was going to be more of an informational meeting.

For the Good of the Order

Commissioner Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the motion. All Commissioners voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Maridee BonaDea  
District Secretary