

Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing – 2006 Budget
October 18, 2005

Commissioner Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

All who wished stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

The District Secretary took roll call; Commissioners present were Jennings, Nielsen, Nicholson, and Carleton.

Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the consent agenda as follows;

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer required by RCW 41.38.080 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 October 18, 2005 the Board does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above.

Vouchers – 100000 – 100004 for the amount of \$943.41

Vouchers – 100005 – 100020 for the amount of \$45,754.05

Vouchers – 100021 – 100067 for the amount of \$3,572.35

Meeting Agenda

Excused Absences – Commissioner Rice

Commissioner Nicholson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioners voting in favor were Carleton, Nicholson, Nielsen, and Jennings, no one opposed.

Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the minutes for October 4, 2005 as presented. Commissioner Carleton seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Carleton, Nicholson, Nielsen, and Jennings, no one opposed.

Old Business

2006 Budget/Public Hearing:

Commissioner Nielsen asked the public to limit their comments to three minutes and talk about specific line items with suggestions for improvement.

The Finance Director, Matt Sullivan, gave a brief presentation on changes made to the 2006 budget since the last Commissioners' meeting.

Gayle Sommers – Gayle will write a letter to the Commissioners on a dispatch issue from last Sunday. She thanked Matt for talking with her on the budget. First issue she wants to raise are the salary increases in 2005 they went up more than the rate of inflation and in 2006 they are budgeted to go up higher than the rate of inflation again. Second, Gayle feels strongly about purchasing the Medical Oxygen Generating System/Fill Station and this should remain in the budget. This is a disaster preparedness and emergency issue. Third the firefighter salaries for 2006 include a ninth firefighter; there was no discussion with the public whether or not this is something that makes sense. Fourth; Valley Communication's expense line of \$39,000 went up about twice the amount of inflation. I don't understand why this keeps going up when the quality of service was not what was promised from the beginning of outsourcing Dispatch. The last is the shift paramedics with \$208,000 for 2005 goes up to \$700,000 in 2006. I understand some of this comes from a grant. What happens after the grant? I have issues with this. There is talk about doing a levy lift. Instead of adding more money and more staff, figure out how to make due with the current staffing level and additional trained volunteers.

Leslie Frye – Asked about the Dell Server replacement. She had questions on how the budget was presented in the report and felt it could be presented better. In the Capital Improvement portion specifically the Stairmaster Stepmill looks like a one time expense. Last year a treadmill was budgeted then taken out and then put back in. The District may want to incorporate an exercise equipment budget line. The salary item lines are confusing too. You can't tell what is happening from year to year. It could be made closer to reality. Along these lines the administration salary expenses are confusing; the proposed budget for 2006 is actually the 2005 salary numbers. This could be made to reflect reality and less confusing. It's my understanding that the exercise equipment is for firefighters and their families and may not be the best use of taxes.

Alice Larson – If Fire Chief would like to use his time to look up my tax records I do pay my taxes. Commissioner Nielsen asked her to sit down. She sat down.

Jenny Berdice asked what PPE wildland and wildland equipment is?

Armen Yousoufian – I have been in investment business. On page one your budget is increasing from 3.1 million to 3.8 million and that increase is in EMS funds. Where is this revenue coming from?

Chief Wilson answered the question on the increase of EMS funds. The funds are coming from a County-wide King County levy that was voted on for Advanced Life Support services.

Rex Stratton – We are seeing erosion again in the levy rate from 1.06 down to .99 so the actual levy rate is decreasing even though the money is staying the same. Unless we lift the lid we are actually decreasing taxes.

Jolene Lamb – What month does the EMS budget for King County have to be submitted for 2006. Chief Wilson answered September. So the budget for 2006 has already been submitted. Jolene stated that those numbers are estimated based on 2005 actuals. I am not in favor of the Chief's proposed salary on the issue that he looked up my taxes on tax payer time.

Commissioner Nicholson responded to the increases to salaries in relation to the CPI and other components taken into consideration when setting salaries.

Gayle asked how the District gets their salary comparables.

Rick Wallace – Represents the Vashon Disaster Preparedness Coalition and addressed the Medical Oxygen Generating System fill station. There was a comment at another meeting that the \$22,000 to buy the filling unit would provide ten years of oxygen. Rick handed out an earthquake study fact sheet to the Commissioners. What would happen if there was a regional disaster? The Disaster Preparedness Coalition felt that the District's medical supplies would run out. There would be a need for oxygen for 45 patients with 34 to 38 home users on Vashon. In the case of a 6.7 to 7.2 earthquake there would be as many as 70 serious injuries and ten out of 70 would be dead. There will be a need for medical oxygen if there is a disaster. The Senior Care Center has oxygen. Each of the Doctor's office has a small supply that would run out, Island Lumber has oxygen but it is not set up to fill tanks. The \$22,000 Medical Oxygen Generating System would make the island self sufficient to provide oxygen.

Joe Ulatoski – Addressed disasters that have happened around the world in the last year. We have seen that we have trouble responding really quickly to the needs of disaster victims. He thanked the District for the support of Vashon Disaster Preparedness. We hope that no matter what happens with the new candidates that we will continue to get support.

Commissioner Jennings asked Joe Ulatoski how close his organization is to building a structure that can apply for funding. Joe answered that to date the Vashon Disaster Preparedness Committee has applied for 8 grants worth about \$35,000.

Alice Larson – Her comments were based on the budget handed out at the last meeting. Ms Larson had a question on the Facilities Manager II emergency overtime with a 25% (\$300.00) increase. EMS transport fee revenue source for 2005 was approved at \$38,063 and taken in total of none to date. Asked if there is a Volunteer reimbursement is up 11.3% what percentage of that is attached to EMS transports. Does this include a \$50 payment to volunteers for EMS transport or is it in the EMS budget? Fuel related to EMS transport and ferry fees are also up and are related to EMS transport cost. The Fire District is basically paying for BLS transport for everyone on the island. The Commissioners said we were running out of money and needed to charge for BLS transport. Something is not right here.

Alison Arthur Editor of The Beachcomber – Dispatch expenses for Valley Communications, what would the cost be if we still dispatched from Vashon.

Chief Wilson responded that when dispatch was outsourced the expense for labor alone was about \$250,000. According to National Standards the District would have to upgrade and costs would go up approximately as follows; salaries \$500,000; two Dispatch consoles \$400,000; and \$80,00 to \$800,000 (dependent on complexity) for a Computer Aided Dispatch software.

Leslie Frye – Why the decrease in funding for the explorer program?

Gayle Sommers – Why are we buying Ford Expeditions for medical vehicles that are gas guzzlers, why not look at buying a hybrid? Why is money going into the reserve fund at year end when we have the recommended amount in there already?

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jennings moved to adjourn to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(b) to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge

regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price and RCW 42.30110(f) to receive and evaluate complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee and pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in negotiations or proceedings while in progress. The executive session will last 90 minutes and a decision may be made. Commissioner Carleton seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Carleton, Nicholson, Nielsen and Jennings, no one opposed.

Executive Session started at 8:03 PM.

Commissioner Nielsen called the regular session back to order at 9:25 PM.

Commissioner Jennings moved to release the buyer's contingency clause from the buy-sell agreement for the real estate located at 26325 Vashon Highway SW and deposit \$10,000 earnest money in O'Neill Escrow. Commissioner Carleton seconded the motion. Commissioner Jennings stated that this is not a commitment to buy the property. The District's \$10,000 contingency will be forfeited if we don't buy the property. The District Secretary took a roll call vote; Commissioners voting in favor were Carleton, Nicholson, Nielsen and Jennings, no one opposed.

Commissioner Jennings moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Carleton seconded the motion. All Commissioners present voted in favor. The meeting ended at 9:31 PM.

Maridee BonaDea
District Secretary