

1 SPECIAL MEETING - PUBLIC HEARING  
2 **2008 BUDGET**  
3 Penny Farcy Training Train Center  
4 November 13, 2007  
5

6 Commissioner Turner called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Commissioners present  
7 were Turner, Hoffmann, Sommers, Nielsen, and Jennings.  
8

9 Welcoming Remarks

10  
11 All who wished stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.  
12

13 Commissioner Turner asked the Board how they wanted to conduct the budget hearing.  
14 Commissioner Sommers said that people will have opinions on the Chief's hiring process  
15 as well as the budget. Commissioner Nielsen asked if there should be time limits on the  
16 two topics. Commissioner Turner said that he will start timing people if their comments  
17 get too lengthy.  
18

19 Chief Hiring Process  
20

21 Commissioner Turner said we already have a hiring template that was used in the last  
22 hiring process for the Fire Chief position. He asked if the District wanted to add disaster  
23 preparedness in the announcement for the Fire Chief. He also asked Assistant Chief Kirk  
24 if he wanted to be acting Fire Chief. Assistant Chief Kirk responded that as he said when  
25 he was hired as Assistant Chief his commitment was limited but was willing to help out  
26 in any way he could. Commissioner Turner volunteered to be on a committee to hire the  
27 next Fire Chief.  
28

29 Commissioner Jennings asked if there should be a contract between the District and  
30 Interim Fire Chief. Commissioner Turner suggested having up to a six-month contract  
31 with the Interim Fire Chief.  
32

33 Commissioner Turner, Commissioner Nielsen and the District Secretary Maridee  
34 BonaDea volunteered to be on the hiring committee.  
35

36 Commissioner Jennings suggested working something out with Mike Kirk for the acting  
37 Fire Chief position and bringing it before the board at the next meeting.  
38

39 Commissioner Sommers said that the Fire Chief's job description has many typos and  
40 would like to edit it to correct the typos. She would also like to revise the Fire Chief's  
41 job description with some philosophical changes and present it at the next meeting.  
42

43 Commissioner Sommers suggested having a Commissioner and another employee go to  
44 the applicant's community to do some background checks.  
45

1 Commissioner Turner asked the Board's permission to get the recruiting committee to  
2 start the process.

3  
4 Commissioner Sommers asked for public comments.

5  
6 Joel Wade, a private citizen, said that there is a process for changing SOG's that needs to  
7 be followed.

8  
9 Battalion Chief Coll said because she works with both Chiefs and wanted to know if  
10 Assistant Chief Kirk would full fill both roles.

11  
12 Elaine Kearney, a private citizen, was concerned and wondered why there was so much  
13 eye rolling.

14  
15 Alice Larson said that hiring a Fire Chief was an important decision. The District had a  
16 Fire Chief for 30 years now we have had several in the last nine years. She suggested  
17 that maybe the district should hire a professional recruiter. Alice Larson said she believed  
18 Chief Yamane had made some headway on equity for all members.

19  
20 Armen Yousoufian, a member of the public, asked what Commissioner Sommers handed  
21 out to Alice Larson. Commissioner Sommers answered that she handed out a Fire  
22 Chief's job description that she had edited.

23  
24 May Gerstle, speaking as an individual, agrees that this is an important decision and  
25 finding someone the caliber of Chief Yamane will not be easy. She said that using a head  
26 hunter would not be a waste of money. The District should not rush into this.

27  
28 Commissioner Jennings said that the District just went through the hiring process that  
29 included many people and we should not throw that process out.

30  
31 Commissioner Jennings said that hiring a head hunter may not be a bad idea.

32  
33 Rick Frye, a private citizen, said he would like the District to put forth a major effort to  
34 hire a Fire Chief who is supportive of volunteers.

35  
36 Commissioner Nielsen asked for some ideas for revising the SOG and suggested putting  
37 them into the ad for the job so we don't have to wait to approve the revised SOG to start  
38 the hiring process.

39  
40 Armen Yousoufian asked questions about Alice Larson's and May Gerstle's comments  
41 about the District having a bad reputation and asked where this came from. He expressed  
42 interest in having public input and shared concerns that the District follow the open  
43 public meetings act. He was concerned about a Commissioner's comments about working  
44 the job description out over the phone.

1 Candy McCullough, a volunteer, said the District just promoted two Volunteer Captains  
2 to Volunteer Assistant Chiefs and suggested that the District give them some roles in the  
3 Assistant Chief's job description. She also suggested that the District consider hiring an  
4 administrator rather than an operations person to bring the District together.

5  
6 Tag Gornall from VashonBePrepared said that in the future disaster preparedness should  
7 be included in the Fire Chief's job description.

### 8 9 Chief's Report

10  
11 Candy McCullough, a member of the Communications Committee, gave a report on what  
12 the committee has been doing. The committee discovered from a survey of District  
13 volunteers that the digital paging system does not work well for many of them.  
14 Volunteers wanted an audible communication system for the pagers. Because of this  
15 survey the Committee has looked at scanners and other possibilities to get audio paging  
16 to the volunteers. The Committee is also recommending having a back-up system for the  
17 800MHz radio system in case of emergency and disaster incidents when the 800MHz  
18 system goes down.

19  
20 Commissioner Sommers thanked Candy and the Communications Committee for all their  
21 work.

### 22 23 Budget Presentation

24  
25 Chief Yamane presented some changes that were made to the final draft for the 2008  
26 Budget. One was line item 5226049, which was changed from scanner purchase to  
27 Communications upgrades-scanners/pagers.

28  
29 Joel Wade talked about the change in scanner systems and said that the change may not  
30 happen in 2008. He asked if the District was informed on the changes that are being  
31 planned in the future for the 800Mz system. Joel Wade also asked about charging for  
32 Basic Life Support (BLS) transports.

33  
34 Commissioner Turner said that he is clearly in favor of resolution 04-271 which allows  
35 the District to charge for off island BLS transports. In 2007 this would have generated  
36 about than \$183,000 worth in revenue. If the District collected this money the District  
37 could go out and buy a house and create a resident program and improve the EMS  
38 program.

39  
40 Armen Yousoufian asked if this was a standard fee that other fire districts charge and, if  
41 so, why doesn't the district collect for BLS transports and reduce the tax levy on the  
42 property taxes? "I hope that someone is looking at the big picture because I get the sense  
43 that that is not happening." He also asked what the position of the board was on raising  
44 the property taxes in excess of 1% retroactively since the Supreme Court decision  
45 declaring I-747 unconstitutional allows for that.

46

1 Commissioner Jennings said he did not intend to raise taxes and Commissioner Nielsen  
2 also said he did not intend to raise taxes.

3  
4 Assistant Chief Kirk said that the District has to charge what it actually costs for BLS  
5 transports and that fuel alone was \$125.00.

6  
7 Chief Yamane said that King County EMS does not want Fire Districts in King County to  
8 charge for BLS transports.

9  
10 Alice Larson said that the Commissioners passed the resolution mandating that the  
11 District charge for BLS transports three years ago and if you as Commissioners required  
12 the Fire Chief to implement that resolution and the Fire Chief didn't implement the  
13 resolution, then the Commissioners had an obligation to deal with the Fire Chief to make  
14 sure that the resolution was implemented. She also said that the Commissioners did not  
15 talk about this issue until the private ambulance went out of business.

16  
17 May Gerstle asked why CERT and the community newsletter item amounts were cut and  
18 why was the Disaster Preparedness Public Information & Supplies were cut too. Chief  
19 Yamane responded that VashonBePrepared ws budgeted at the amount they requested.

20  
21 Leslie Frye said that the budget was going up and she was concerned that the public was  
22 paying more and not getting the response that they needed. She also said that dispatch  
23 seemed like a basic problem for the district.

24  
25 Joel Wade asked about overtime that went up 20% from last year and handed out a  
26 national salary survey from a fire service magazine.

27  
28 Alice Larson asked why there was no additional money being put into reserve.

29  
30 Alice Larsen suggested that the District take the budgeted line item for the finance  
31 manager and create a new position as a volunteer coordinator instead.

32  
33 Armen Yousoufian asked about the reserve calculations on pages 12 and 13 of the budget  
34 spread sheet.

35  
36 Commissioner Turner moved to direct the administration to take action and implement  
37 resolution 04-271 for BLS transport on January 1, 2008. Commissioner Hoffmann  
38 seconded the motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Nielsen, Jennings, Hoffmann  
39 and Turner. Commissioner Sommers voted no.

40  
41 The Commissioners added \$100,000 for BLS transports to the 2008 Budgeted revenue.  
42 Chief Yamane said that an expense line for billing services needed to be added in  
43 Administration as well.

44  
45 Commissioner Sommers moved that we approve resolution 07-289 with a 0% increase  
46 over previous years. Commissioner Hoffmann seconded the motion. Commissioner

1 Jennings wanted to have the 1% increase but he realizes that the \$20,000 increase would  
2 not put money in reserve. Commissioner Sommers said in support of the 0% that voters  
3 overwhelmingly just passed an ALS levy, with the levy increasing from 24.5 cents per  
4 thousand to 30 cents per thousand, and would like to recommend a zero based budget  
5 process for 2009.

6  
7 Commissioner Nielsen said that he supports the 0% increase but that this budget was not  
8 putting any money in reserve. He supports putting the additional BLS transport revenue  
9 into reserve.

10  
11 Commissioner Hoffmann said that he was unhappy with some of the expenditures.

12  
13 Commissioner Turner called the question on the levy rate for 2008 with 0% increase as  
14 moved. Commissioner Sommers, Hoffmann, Nielsen and Turner voted yes.

15 Commissioner Jennings voted no.

16  
17 Commissioner Jennings moved to approve the budget with the amendments adding a  
18 revenue line item for BLS transport as a revenue item and a line item for BLS transport  
19 billing services under administrative expenses. Commissioner Nielsen seconded the  
20 motion. Commissioners voting in favor were Sommers, Turner, Nielsen and Jennings.  
21 Commissioner Hoffmann abstained.

22  
23 Commissioner Sommers moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jennings seconded the  
24 motion. All Commissioners voted in favor. The meeting ended at 10:25 PM.

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26 Maridee BonaDea  
27 District Secretary  
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