



Clark County Fire District 6

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MINUTES

Clark County Fire District 6 Commissioners Meeting
Regular Meeting
Station 61, 7:30 p.m.
June 2, 2015

Members present: Chairman Lothspeich, Commissioner Bloemke, Commissioner Collins

Meeting called to order. Chairman Lothspeich led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: None

The Board seconded and unanimously passed a motion approving the May 19, 2015 regular meeting minutes and to have them posted for public view and on the website.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Safety: No report.
Parade: No activity.

CONSENT AGENDA: Because of the early date of this meeting, May call count figures are not available at the time of this meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

On March 7, 2015 the Board declared the outdated Toshiba phone system to be surplus and to be publicly offered for sale. The system was advertised on Craig's List for \$250, and to date no purchase offers have been received. The Chief received Board authorization to dispose of the entire system through the electronic recycling center.

With the District facing the fact that department expenses will continue to exceed tax revenue in 2017, the Board has directed that a lid lift proposition be placed before the electorate in the fall 2015 General Election. This will allow voters to make the decision whether to restore the District's \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation that has been previously authorized.

The need for planning to address the current and future services of the District is essential. This planning will include staffing, aging equipment and facilities, response times, training requirements, and other issues as set forth by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau.

The Chief had indicated his intention to transfer a department member to a temporary Battalion Chief position to facilitate this planning endeavor. A question was raised as to whether this action falls within the parameters of the Chief's job description. A lengthy discussion took place.

The Board members concur that the Chief has full authority to conduct day to day operations of the department. The members all concur that accelerated planning is essential.

Commissioner Bloemke felt that the transfer of a person to a temporary position with backfill being provided from the line was not provided for in the 2015 Budget, did not fall within the scope of "day to day" operations and would impact out of class and overtime costs.

He offered an alternative "B" proposal utilizing the services of a consultant, or having the Chief reassign some of his responsibilities to allow him additional time to do extensive planning.

The Chair took the position that the temporary transfer to conduct planning did fall within the Chief's job description.

Commissioner Collins felt that while the Chief's job description did provide the authority to make a transfer to a temporary position, he had some reservations about the process, that planning was urgently needed whether it be done by the Chief, a consultant or by a temporary position. The current Strategic Plan provides a starting point. He stressed that it was imperative to include future staffing, a squad at Station 63, and the need to replace Station 63.

The District had included funding for a new IT position for a full year in the 2015 Budget. The position will not be filled until July 1, 2015, leaving ½ year of this funding available for use to fund a temporary planning position for six months.

The Chair proposed a motion as a compromise.

The Chair made a motion to provide funding allowing to transfer a department person to a planning position at a Battalion Chief level on a temporary basis for six months, through November 2015. Following the fall 2015 General Election, staff is to bring a proposal back before the Board to address the matter of future planning.

Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. The motion was passed with Commissioner Lothspeich and Collins voting aye, with Commissioner Bloemke cautioning that to fund the temporary position utilizing funds budgeted for the IT position might not be deemed acceptable by the State Auditor, voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS:

Two new fire engines are being built for District 6 by the Pierce company. Three department members made an inspection trip to view the final drawings of these vehicles. The committee determined that some critical changes would be advisable and a change order was prepared to

accommodate these changes. Some of the changes increased the vehicle costs, while others resulted in cost reductions or were cost negative.

The actual change for each engine was an increase of \$7,653 per engine without tax for a total cost increase of \$16,591.70 including tax.

Staff recommends the Board authorize the Chief to sign the change order.

A motion was seconded and unanimously passed to authorize the Chief to sign the change order. The change will require some recalculation of the District's internal replacement program, and a motion was seconded and unanimously passed to authorize these recalculations.

With the rapidly approaching lid lift election facing the District, the Board had asked the Chief to solicit proposals for consultant services to assist the District to inform the community about the lid lift.

Two companies, Liz Loomis Public Affairs and Eric Wilson Company were contacted. Loomis was the sole responder.

Her proposal was a fee of \$3,750 per month for each of the six months, with additional costs – travel, etc. billed at \$195 per hour.

The total cost of her services would be between \$28,000 and \$30,500.

Having had a good working relationship with Loomis Company in the past, the Board seconded and unanimously passed a motion authorizing the Chief to enter into a contract with Liz Loomis Public Affairs for six months of consulting services at \$3,750 per month.

The State Auditor's Office has developed a 130 question survey (regarding numerous subjects) to be completed by Fire Districts. One of the issues mentioned in the survey is in regard to the role that can be played by commissioners who are off premises during Board meetings and who call in by phone. The Auditor stressed that while these members do help constitute a quorum, they do not meet the law's requirement of "actual attendance" and therefore cannot be compensated for meeting attendance. ✓

Staff recommends the Board follow the Auditor's direction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ROUND TABLE:

Commissioners Bloemke and Commissioner Collins attended the SWWFCA meeting at Lewis 2.

It was reported that the fire services statewide were successful in having most of their proposals receiving legislative support.

Of special mention was the passage of the "All Risk" measure. Local legislator Ann Rivers was instrumental in achieving these results.

Representatives of the Clark County Fire Commissioners Association were in agreement that a unified approach to the county's being made aware of the impact of the lack of public safety building inspections would be valuable. The association may convene a meeting to address the problem.

Chiefs Green and Newberry met with county building officials regarding the Fire Marshal's Office program and the effect it has had and continues to have on the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau ratings of county fire districts. The meeting was very positive and it was suggested that it wasn't the best time to approach the County Council regarding the lack of Fire Marshal inspections.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The annual Fire District 6 Open House will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015 from noon until 4 p.m.

The Board seconded and unanimously passed a motion authorizing payment of current bills in the amounts of:

Fund 6212	\$21,667.68
Fund 6242	\$3,482.22

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad Lothspeich, Chairman



Richard T. Streissguth, Board Secretary