



Clark County Fire District 6

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MINUTES

Clark County Fire District 6 Commissioners
Workshop and Regular Meeting
Station 61, 7:00 p.m.
April 18, 2017

Members present: Chairman Bloemke, Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Lothspeich.

The Workshop was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Commissioner Bloemke.

WORKSHOP TOPICS:

- Volunteer Program Update - Continued.

Assistant Chief Newberry continued discussion of the Volunteer program. He reviewed the handout from the April 4th workshop.

- Goal 1: Staff Station 151 40% of the time. In 2016, it was staffed 24% of the time.
- Goal 2: 24 hours of service from each member, each month. We are unsatisfactory on this and have an inability to track the data.
- Goal 3: Attend 75% of drills. Overall, 64% achieved this. We will provide increased opportunities to meet this goal. Some volunteers cannot attend Monday drills.
- Goal 4: Callback response has not been a huge success.

Commissioner Collins asked if the goals are realistic. Chief Newberry discussed this with each goal.

Goal 1. Chief Newberry asked if the 40% staffing is even necessary. All calls receive a response from duty crews in addition to any redundant response from Station 151. A benefit is a BLS response from Station 151 can be quicker. It is up to the Board to determine if it is necessary. We are trying to get the numbers up.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated he had asked volunteers to be present at this workshop to provide feedback and would like their opinion of the goals. We spend a lot on the Volunteer program and 16.2% staffing last month is not good.

Asst. Chief Newberry stated there are numerous outlets for the volunteers to express their ideas and opinions about the program. He did not want to put them on the spot.

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Commissioner Lothspeich stated at times it feels like we give them goals that are not achievable.

Regarding the 40% staffing goal, Chandler Webb stated that during the week, there is a lack of drivers. Monday and Friday typically have someone. The staffing could be increased by an increase in drivers.

Chief Newberry stated this is a typical problem for years. A quick way to get drivers is to get them qualified for Rescue 61. There are fewer requirements and can get qualified relatively quickly.

Volunteer Coordinator Merrill Thompson stated the driving issue will likely fix itself over time. We are on it.

Chief Newberry stated drivers for the engine is a different story. They take personnel who are interested and guide them through the process to become a driver/operator.

Volunteer Michael Reamer stated volunteers have to be very self-driven and seek the training rather than it being offered.

Commissioner Bloemke asked how many driver trainers we have. Chief Newberry responded all officers are trainers. John Withers was also one, but he just resigned. We rely primarily on the officers.

Firefighter Bill Dunlap stated the senior volunteers are not held to the same standard as the rest of the volunteers. If they were, would it not fix some of the issues?

Chief Newberry responded that is a complex answer. Those personnel were grandfathered when the requirement was put in place.

Commissioner Lothspeich asked if we received any deficiency points [from WSRB] for volunteers. Chief Newberry responded we gain for having volunteers, but we lose for not achieving their required training levels.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated some departments are removing the SCBAs from their apparatus and are performing only exterior firefighting because they cannot achieve the required training.

Commissioner Bloemke asked if there are alternatives to training drivers outside of Monday night, or is that the Saturday drill. Chief Newberry stated that training takes place primarily on Saturday.

Volunteer Ben Hulsey stated on Monday and Friday nights, the engine is full. Chief Newberry added these people are excited about being a firefighter. Those nights when Lieutenant LaFavor joins them, it fills up.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated in thinking outside the box, if we had off-duty career people there a few times a week to drive would it make a difference. Chief Newberry

responded by asking if placing a career person at Station 151 is worth the cost for the benefit? Only the Board can answer that. Station 63 is busy and getting busier. Do you want to add personnel at Station 63 or at Station 151?

Goal 2. Volunteers are to provide 24 hours of service to the District per person per month. Chief Newberry stated we provide volunteers several things:

- A place to “park” their EMT certification.
- They get to ride out with duty crews.
- They get to be at Station 151 virtually on their own.

We ask for 24 hours each month in return. That can be any service – 151 coverage, drills, riding out, etc. We give them this expectation up front at their interview, but life happens. We have an average of 1.4 years of longevity per volunteer.

A volunteer present stated a small group of volunteers pull most of the shifts, carrying most of the load.

Goal 3. Attend a minimum of 75% of drills. Commissioner Lothspeich stated the issue is with EMS only volunteers. If we decide to do background, medical and psych for volunteers and expend an additional \$33,000 each year and they can't make 75% of drills, that's a problem.

Commissioner Collins stated the EMS only was an idea to get more people involved at a lower skill set and less cost. If that needs revisiting, that's why we are here.

Asst. Chief Newberry stated we have had success with the EMS only program. It's a good way to look at someone before committing to the firefighter side.

Goal 4. Response to emergency callback. Chief Newberry said if a volunteer response is going to happen, it will come from Station 151. There is very little response from the other stations. We live in a very different world now. We have evolved from an all-volunteer department to primarily career.

Volunteer Brady Beddo stated the discrepancy between Station 151 and the other stations is Darren LaFavor. He knows he can send out a text and he will get personnel to staff the engine.

As the discussion had gone on for some time, Chief Newberry suggested this subject be continued to the next workshop.

Commissioner Bloemke stated he needs to discuss the costs listed in the document provided. It seems unfair to include the \$151,000 cost of Station 151 in the cost. We would have that cost with or without volunteers.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated the lease on the facility is up in two and one-half years. We can decide then if it is still viable.

Commissioner Bloemke stated he sells it to the Clark County Fire & Rescue administration as an extra engine in service.

Commissioner Collins stated if we had to pay the entire Station 151 cost, it would increase by what CCFR contributes.

Commissioner Lothspeich stated he wanted to discuss the proposed costs of background, medical and psychological one more time at a future session. Commissioner Bloemke stated he wants to have a lot of discussion on the increased costs proposed.

- Commissioner Clothing.

Commissioner Collins wanted to know where we sit. Currently it is replace as needed. He said sometimes the Board is all wearing different shirts but it does not matter to him. What he is currently wearing, he was issued one and purchased the other which is okay.

Commissioner Bloemke thought it was an annual thing. He will have to check the minutes. He asked if the Board wanted to stick with the “anniversary” logo or go with the one used on admin shirts.

Chief Green asked if the Board wants the name and position on it. Commissioner Lothspeich stated he does not. Commissioner Collins wants one of each. If at a conference, yes with the title; around here, no.

Commissioner Collins stated his coat has the anniversary logo on it. If there is an updated style, he would like to see it.

The Chair closed the workshop at 8:08 p.m. and stated they would take a five-minute recess.

The Regular Meeting called to order by Commissioner Bloemke at 8:14 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant Chief Taylor.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:

Chief Green added under New Business to consider selling the house on the old Spacemaster property.

Commissioner Lothspeich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to approve the April 4, 2017 workshop and regular meeting minutes and have them posted for public view and on the District’s website. The motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Safety Committee:

Assistant Chief Taylor provided a verbal Health and Safety report to the Board.

The Committee last met on April 14, 2017. There were five Level 2 exposures discussed. Appropriate procedures were followed on all. One injury report was discussed – a small laceration which occurred when assisting a patient with their oxygen tubing.

The District has selected Adventist to conduct the hearing tests. Those may be three to four months out on scheduling.

Safety policies are still under review.

Discussed the appeal of the Labor & Industries fine for facial hair.

The union discussed the continuing issue with the wireless headsets on the newer engines.

The Committee discussed critical incidents and what procedure to follow to ensure our personnel are okay.

The volunteers had an issue with Engine 151 and the old-style lighting which is difficult to see. They are requesting an update to the lighting.

- Parade Committee: The Parade of Bands is May 20th.

- Risk Management Group:

Commissioner Collins stated they had a meeting and the minutes were recorded by the CCFR Fire Chief. It was business as usual. The next meeting is July 5, 2017.

- Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board:

The bid process is underway for the roof replacement project. They anticipate receiving quotes by May 4th.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Commissioner Lothspeich made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Second by Commissioner Collins. The motion passed unanimously.

1. April Payroll Report:

Fire Fund 6212		EMS Fund 6242	
Salaries/Out of Class	\$357,388	Salaries/Out of Class	\$178,971
Volunteer Reimburs.	\$7,869		
Vacation Buy Back	\$19,632	Vacation Buy Back	\$0
O.T./FLSA	\$46,228	O.T./FLSA	\$10,273

Deferred Comp.	<u>\$9,500</u>	Deferred Comp.	<u>\$4,000</u>
Total	\$440,617	Total	\$193,244
(\$633,861)			

Benefits:

Retirement	\$33,278
FICA/Medicare	\$17,691
Medical/Dental Ins.	\$94,079
Long Term Dis. Ins.	\$1,069
Deferred Comp	\$13,500

2. Financial Report: (4/10/2017 balance)

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>Invested</u>
Fire 6212	\$256,270	\$5,184,838
EMS 6242	\$203,763	\$2,430,281
Reserve Fund 625	\$0	\$100,183
Capital Reserve 6258	\$0	\$1,200,375

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board went to Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. citing RCW 42.30.110 to discuss litigation with legal counsel via telephone. The Chair stated they anticipate returning at 8:35 p.m. After one extension to 9:00 p.m., the Board returned from Executive Session at 8:59 p.m.

Commissioner Bloemke called the meeting back to order. He stated the Board had discussed litigation with legal counsel and had taken no action.

Commissioner Bloemke made the following statement, directed at Assistant Chief Maurer.

At this time, I was made aware I made some comments to Chief Green which were inappropriate. I apologize for any effect this had on your work environment and if it affected you in any negative way. I hope you'll forgive me.

Assistant Chief Maurer stated:

Can I respond to that? It has been a rough month for me and my family. The evaluation of our personnel, from commissioner to a newly hired firefighter, based on anything other than merit cannot be tolerated. The practice of assessing our personnel's capabilities based on gender or any other factor has to stop tonight. That is the only way to promote an atmosphere of excellence at Fire District 6 moving forward.

Commissioner Bloemke responded by saying:

I agree with everything you said. I strive for those values.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- March 2017 Station 151 Response Report.

In March, the station responded to 1 of 3 fire calls and 3 of 24 EMS calls in FD6. The total FD6 response was 3 of 27 calls or 11.1%.

Jointly overall, response was made to 6 of 30 calls or 20.0%. Shift coverage was 16.1%. Total calls to date: 134, which is 38 more than last year.

- March 2017 Overtime Summary Report.

Total overtime for the month of March was \$73,707, down \$2,198 from February. Shift Replacement/Callback for March was \$36,087. Monthly average overtime is \$70,018 through the first quarter.

- March 2017 Budget Performance Report.

Anticipated expenditures through the end of March is 25.0%. Fund 6212 (FIRE) has expended 20.0% and Fund 6242 (EMS) 22.4% of the annual budget.

- US Bank VISA – Purchasing Card Report.

At Commissioner Bloemke's request, Chief Green prepared this report.

Chief Green stated Clark County Fire & Rescue contacted him about a year ago regarding our experience with the purchasing card. CCFR opted to go with the US Bank One card. They have been using the card for about five months and anticipate \$2,000 in revenue from it for 2017.

Since we began using the card (different one than CCFR) we have received a total of \$6,174.47. So far in 2017, a total of \$762.85 has been received.

Commissioner Bloemke stated he just wanted to see if CCFR had discovered some new angle.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Surplus Equipment.

Chief Green presented a list of items he is requesting the Board to declare as surplus and send to the May 24th auction through J.T. Stout. The auction company estimated we could receive between \$2,000 and \$2,500 on the rescue/ambulance and \$1,500 for the Expedition.

Commissioner Lothspeich asked for the time line for a new Ford Interceptor. Assistant Chief Maurer reported it is between 90 and 120 days.

Commissioner Lothspeich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to declare as surplus the fifteen items in the presented list. The motion passed unanimously.

- Staff Vehicle Acquisition.

Assistant Chief Maurer stated this was as discussed at the Board's last meeting recommending ordering a replacement Ford Interceptor. The new total price, including up fitting, is \$43,000.

Commissioner Lothspeich asked if the amount was budgeted. Assistant Chief Taylor responded it is budgeted.

Commissioner Lothspeich made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Collins, to order and purchase the Ford Interceptor. The motion passed unanimously.

- Bio Diesel Fuel Opt-Out Resolution.

It was reported Attorney Brian Snure is preparing a resolution for all fire districts in the state. That resolution should be completed in two to three weeks.

- Selling House on old Spacemaster Property.

Chief Green discussed one possibility of having legal counsel prepare documents to enable the District to sell the house and have a buyer remove it at no cost to the District. The Board discussed this and a minimum bid, declaring surplus, etc. The Board will decide this at a later meeting.

ROUND TABLE and GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- Commissioner Collins reported that at the Risk Management Group meeting, Clark County Fire District 3 wanted to piggy-back on the RMG small works roster. It was approved by those present.
- Commissioner Lothspeich discussed a small fire at 68th Street and Anderson Avenue. Engine 62 was standing by at a hydrant and gave local kids badges and a tour of the engine. It was appreciated by the parents.
- Commissioner Bloemke attended the Labor & Industries hearing on the District's appeal of the facial hair fine. He was pleased with Asst. Chief Maurer's presentation and learned a lot.
- Commissioner Collins stated he was away from his business office when one of his tenants collapsed. After returning, he received praise from those present.

Commissioner Lothspeich made a motion to authorize April issuance of payroll warrants, April payroll direct deposits, April deposit of Federal and FICA/Medicare withholding, authorize pre-authorization invoice transmittal and authorize the payment of current bills in the amounts of:

Fund 6212	\$542,493.28
Fund 6242	\$71,890.49

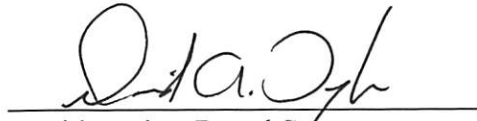
The motion was seconded by Commissioner Collins and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dean T. Bloemke", written over a horizontal line.

Dean Bloemke, Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

David Taylor, Board Secretary